

SchNEWS AND SCHQUALL BACK TO BACK - THE BEST OF UK INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE MIX

# SchQUALL







# SchNEWS

## AND

# SQUALL

**DISCLAIMER: SchQUALL; the SchNEWS/SQUALL book is for entertainment purposes only. Honest.**





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**Cover Pics:**

Front

*Anti-GM action, Watlington and June 18th, City of London* by Nick Cobbing

*Solstice at Stonehenge* by Ivan Coleman

Back

*Intercontinental Caravan and Kissing - June 18th, City of London* by Nick Cobbing

**SchNEWS** is a free, weekly information sheet printed and published by volunteers in Brighton. It is obtainable by sending first class stamps (one for each issue) or donations (in UK pounds, payable to "Justice?") to SchNEWS, c/o On The Fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX, UK. Alternatively you can get it via email - register by visiting the web site at <http://www.schnews.co.uk/> or email us your request.

**SQUALL Magazine Online** is a regularly updated alternative news and culture service freely accessible and intra-searchable at <http://www.squall.co.uk/>

**SQUALL Download** is an A5 hardcopy magazine published roughly every month and securable by subscription only. The subs rate is £7 for six issues or £12 for twelve issues (These prices include p+p). Cheques payable to "SQUALL" and addressed to SQUALL subs, P.O. Box 8959, London, N19 5HW, UK. The project is run by volunteers and is entirely non profit making so please include extra stamps or finance if possible.

**Your turn now:** please send in yer photos, cartoons and so on, from actions and events as they happen. They might go down in history, or at least in next year's annual! (Put yer name and address on 'em, and a brief blurb describing the event and anything else we should know.)





# SchQUALL

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# An Introductory Rant by Rob Newman on SchNEWS and SQUALL

From the free and blissfully anti-copyright SchNEWS and SQUALL I steal all the material I need to make big money at corporate-sponsored comedy shows and rake fat fees from prime-time television slots (once I've removed all the controversial anti-capitalist bits and that). They're grrrr-eat!!!!

The soaraway readership enjoyed today by SchNEWS totally vindicates its change of direction back in the mid-nineties. It's hard to recall now, but back then SchNEWS was a pretty ordinary magazine covering mainly interior design, fashion catwalks and celebrity chefs. Market research, however, had identified new and exciting possibilities in a growing sector called "radical, anti-capitalist, eco-consciousness."

SQUALL, meanwhile, fluked it by an incredible stroke of luck which has now, of course, passed into journalistic legend. One day their horoscope writer had her train home cancelled and wrote a scathing attack on privatised railways. That evening, as luck would have it, their travel-editor was held in a Turkish jail for inadvertently photographing the Kurdish village of Hasankeyf (as backdrop to soft-porn shots of Joanne Guest). He wired back an angry piece. Such was the positive post-bag to these two articles that SQUALL's editorial board widened its next issue's attack to the whole system of profit, whereby the earth and all its people are condemned to serve the interests of a tiny corporate elite, and what capitalism calls democracy is merely the safety valve of privilege and property, whereas grassroots, participatory anarchism is closer to the true democratic ideal. Heady stuff!

Even though some media analysts and shareholders had doubts at first, the timing of SchNEWS & SQUALL's shifts of direction could not have been better. Here's why...

In Britain, people have been absolutely deserted by the news-media who have given up on any and all notions of journalistic responsibility. The most servile intellectual class in the Western world has sold us down the mercury-polluted, phosphate run-off river. They have in their knowing, worldly-wise, sophisticated way just rolled over and swallowed.

Every single ideological orthodoxy of the "new" capitalism is presented as fact, any questioning of this perfect system is opinion. We live in a land where the Financial Editor of The Guardian can say that Wall Street saved the world from recession by taking the financial burden on itself, and not be laughed out of his job. In any functioning democracy he would have to walk barefoot through the slums of Manila, the slave-plantations of South

Carolina and the Lincolnshire barley-belt wearing a sandwich board on which his words were written. We live in a land where twice in one programme, a Radio 4 presenter calls for increased military aid for Columbia - the country Amnesty International cites as the world's number one human rights abuser (and coincidentally the recipient of one half of the total US foreign military aid budget). Where Westminster gossip passes for political coverage. Where Burson Marsteller, Satan's Little Helper and the world's biggest PR firm, can become joint partners with ITN and rely on obedient commissars not to mention it.

And why would they? Why bother, when much of what passes for news is corporate propaganda or just straight advertising anyway? The top PR firms send out Video News Releases or VNR's (packaged to look like news items) which go straight to air (and best of all we pay for it.) Hence BBC News 24 stories about the wonderful service offered by amazon.com, and the incredible Tesco price-slash lead-story. Hence the new "more thoughtful" approach to GM. (Turns out it's not giving pollution a life of its own after all.) You can play propagando bingo by matching whole

sentences from TV and broadsheet newspapers with whole sentences from corporate press releases out of Pfizer, IMF, Hyundai, WTO, or BAe.

And why would they? After all, the selection-mechanisms of the institutions they work for naturally choose only those who can really spread their butt cheeks wide for the NASDAQ money-shot. Reporting of May Day, for example, showed the spectacular class bias of our media elite. "Inevitably, some innocent passers-by were caught up in the chaos" said one TV news reporter over a shot of a protestor split up from her child by the TSG riot-cops, who wouldn't let her cross their lines to get her kid. I had seen this woman earlier when everyone was gardening, but guerilla gardeners can't be ordinary people with children, can they?

As Mark Thomas put it, the news-media have sacrificed analysis for access. And as Ken Loach said, "Humphries and Paxman set an extremely Conservative and reactionary agenda within which they can pose as radicals."

On the rare occasions the advertising / corporate press "cover" environmental, poverty and human rights stories, they do so as if they were all unrelated. SchNEWS and SQUALL's brilliant internationalism reports all struggle and injustice like it's part of one struggle against one injustice, one tyranny. Almost as if all our many different social, ecological, spiritual and personal problems have their roots in the same system. Phew!





Where the broadsheets make what's simple confusing by using show-off technical jargon, upside-down corporate bias and bluster, SQUALL and SchNEWS intelligently put needlessly obscure stuff into the clear, everyday language of someone down the pub. In fact it's uncanny how much of SchNEWS reads just like someone down the pub. Almost as if most of it was indeed written by people who've just come out the pub. One of those pubs that gets closed down and replaced with a franchise theme-pub.

Short on theory, long on facts and research, SchNEWS and SQUALL have, along with Undercurrents, Corporate Watch, Earth First! Action Update, and many more, contributed to the best-informed, sharpest resistance movement ever. WTO and IMF delegates sneered that protestors on the streets simply didn't understand what was going on. The fact is that those outside actually knew much more about what's going on than those inside - despite the best efforts of the corporate media - and that because of the worldwide, exponential growth in grassroots publications.

The single best thing about SchNEWS and SQUALL, though, is how they are absolutely indivisible from the whole grassroots protest movements they both inform and are shaped by, inspire and are inspired by. Every writer and researcher, gluepot paster and glue-sniffer at SchNEWS and SQUALL are also activists. For example, it was [NAME DELETED] who, as we know, single-handedly organised the [DATE DELETED] carnival in the city of [DELETED]. And although her face is hidden by a balaclava, that famous Seattle Police Department photo of someone [DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY DELETED] is of none other than [NAME DELETED], yes, that's right, the one who with the [DESCRIPTION DELETED] who lives at [ADDRESS DELETED] with [NAME DELETED] and [NAME DELETED] and has been building contacts with the [NAME OF ROGUE ARAB STATE AND ITS MAD DICTATOR COLONEL DELETED].

The next ten years are the most crucial in human history. The tyranny of corporate world-take-over will stop at nothing. More and more people are realising with horror that even in the face of imminent ecological collapse they are still meant to believe there is no alternative to the killing machine of global capitalism. The challenge facing grassroots organisers now is, I reckon, to build a broad, diverse, mass movement (but not a mass party). The alliance in Seattle was so broad that it became impossible for the state to ghettoize protestors as being 'NOT LIKE YOU'. They were everyone. From Raging Grannies to disaffected black youth, from construction workers to family farmers. These words of Egyptian activist and writer Nawal El Saadawi describe where we might want to go from here, with a little help from our friends at SQUALL and SchNEWS:

*"My cousin Zeinab looks old and sick, when I hold her hand I can feel horny knots and cracks caused by long years of labour with a hoe. She whispers: When I was a child I dreamed of escaping from this awful life but now I've lost hope. Now there are no jobs, and our debts keep growing. Now we eat fava beans canned in California instead of growing enough ourselves. I see her eyes questioning... Can I tell her that 443 people (men) own as much wealth as half the people of the earth? .... Can I tell her that the peoples of the world are learning how to work together and that many Seattles everywhere, in the North and South are my wish, and my hope?"*

Or to put the same thing another way, here's Frank Manckiewicz, ex Vice Prez at Hill & Knowlton PR:

*"The big corporations, our clients, are scared shitless by the environmentalists. I think they are wrong about that. I think the big companies will have to give in only at an insignificant level. Right now, the big corporations are too powerful, they're the establishment. The environmentalists will have to behave to be like the mob in the square in Rumania before they prevail."*

We have our instructions.  
**Robert Newman**







WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER CHAMPAGNE CORK POPPIN'

# SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?  
http://www.schnews.org.uk/



## FIFTH BIRTHDAY SHOCKER!

Who would have thought in those halcyon days of the Courthouse community centre, squatted to highlight the nasty Criminal Justice Act looming on the horizon, that it would come to this? A few people decide to mimic the news, reading out bits of information while getting their hair cut. Then some bright sparks decide to put the spoken word on paper "cos Brighton needs a news-sheet." Hey presto! SchNEWS is born (no we can't remember why it's called that either, or maybe never knew...) But five years on and we're still here.

Despite the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) being well established on the statute books people protesting and putting on free parties just haven't taken the hint, and have carried on regardless. As for SchNEWS, it has grown from a scrappy bit of A4 with a no advertising - no compromise policy - to well, eh, a scrappy bit of A4 with a no advertising and no compromise policy! Along the way we've branched out from just writing about the CJA with it's arrestometer, to taking on the whole damn world.

Making links with all sorts of groups in struggles ranging from striking dockworkers, to the granarchists on the live export direct action frontline, to indigenous peoples fight against multinational nasties, to anarchist pie throwers.

Going on mass to Geneva to the Peoples Global Action first conference and meeting all those inspiring people from around the world and realising that all our struggles are the same - that no issue is single. The multinationals based in the west, are the very same companies that are doing the damage to the peoples of the so-called third world.

### AND THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

SchNEWS is run on a voluntary basis. No one gets paid tho' we do manage to blag into gigs and festivals for free (to spread the word of course) and when our treasurer's not looking, raid the petty cash tin for biscuits.

Our stories originate from dodgy anarchist filth mags to the Financial Times (no, really), from conversations in the pub to the internet. We try and be as accurate as possible and chase people up to verify the stories. And since the idea of SchNEWS is not to believe the written word, but get up off your arse and go and see things for yourself, articles are often first hand accounts from our very good selves as we storm all over the country causing trouble/saving the world/having a laugh.

As for who keeps us going. Well even with free office space kindly donated by the Levellers, we still reckon to be spending around £20,000 a year on printing, stamps, telephone, computers, envelopes, stationary, e-mail accounts ... and rely on subscriptions and our readers generosity to keep us afloat.

...and finally... SchNEWS is an open collective, we are always looking for new people to get involved, so if you like reading the news the mainstream tends to ignore (or at best talks about the life-style rather than why an action is going on) take a look in the next column and see if anything grabs your fancy.

### WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER TYPICAL SCHNEWS WEEK

**Monday afternoon:** We get up to 350 emails a week, and someone has the fun job of going through all these, answering queries and deciding which ones might become stories.

**Wednesday:** Start writing and researching SchNEWS, go through all the mail, decide roughly what we are going to cover this week.

**Thursday:** More writing, except it's usually a bit more frantic cos we've got to get it all finished and checked by early evening before the pubs shut.

**Thursday evening:** Desk Top Publishing crew come in and do their stuff, someone managing to crush a tonne of information into two bits of A4.

**Friday 10 am:** Hot off the press. A bleary-eyed person prints up the SchNEWS at The Resource Centre.

**Friday mornings:** The web-masters do their thing and put it on our site (currently getting 1,200 hits a day) and send it out to all our e-mail subscribers (currently 2,600 and growing at 15 a day.)

**Friday afternoons:** The mail out crew, stuff envelopes and send it out to all our paper subscribers. (We've currently got 500 subscribers, 80 of these copy and distribute, whilst various organisations, bookshops and people get bundles to hand out. Prisoners get SchNEWS free.) While this is going on SchNEWS is being distributed to various places around Brighton (about 2,000 copies.)

**Saturday:** If people are about then SchNEWS is handed out to passers by in the North Laines.

**And there's more:** During the week the subscription database is constantly being updated, letters answered, book orders posted, journalist queries answered (unless it's any of Murdoch's papers where we tell the caller to fuck off.)

**Still interested?** Then give the office a call. We have regular training days, but if you can't wait for them, give the office a ring now. Don't let the fact that SchNEWS comes out every week lull you into a false sense of security. We constantly need more people to get involved.

We guesstimate SchNEWS reaches around 30,000 people a week. Not bad for a scrappy no-adverts no-compromise bit of A4.

\*Special SchNEWS cor-blimley-they're-practically-giving-them-away book offer:

SchNEWS Reader: none left here, so go hunt them!  
SchNEWS Round: issues 51 - 100, £5 inc. post  
SchNEWS Annual: issues 101 - 150, £5 inc. post  
SchNEWS Survival Guide: issues 151 - 200 and a whole lot more, £6 plus £1.20 for postage.  
All three posted to you for £15!

In addition to 50 issues of SchNEWS, each book contains longer articles, photos from the front line, cartoons, comedy, and a "yellow pages" list of contacts.

## 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



# SQUALL

*SQUALL Magazine began life in 1992 when a particularly virulent Criminal Justice Bill was first touted by a regime which stood diametrically opposed to diversity, new culture and civil liberties. The Bill threatened to stomp all over vital grass roots UK culture, and even the more liberal elements of our Oxbridge-dominated media proved too busy arranging the vol-au-vents to take any notice. Indeed many of these vessels of hot air thought the dinner party would go smoother if the lowlifes were quietly and swiftly removed.*

So SQUALL decided to make a stand in the place where we lived. To go one step further than simply diagnosing the dearth of integrity or genuine impartiality in British media and establish a new media forum. SQUALL..... a storm to stir the sediment.....from the Scandinavian word 'skvala' meaning to shout. In the words of The Clash.....Excuse me if we have to shout but while we were talking we saw you nodding out.....

The magazine rapidly grew into a major hardcopy broadsheet presenting investigative analysis of the issues behind direct actions and other subjects of social concern ignored by the mainstream. Factual accuracy and a non-ranting accessible style helped SQUALL reach a diverse audience.

*"If SchNEWS is yer tabloid, SQUALL is yer broadsheet".*

The SQUALL website began way back in the mists of cyber time (1995) but in 1998 it became the primary medium through which SQUALL presented material to an even wider audience. Never ye mind though all you hardcopy lovers, 'cos SQUALL produces a monthlyish A5 magazine packed with concise material just right for the bus and the bog. SQUALL Download presents some of the pick of the latest web material plus some exclusive bits'n'pieces.

SQUALL Magazine online is now a regularly updated forum for radical quality journalism and photography at [www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk). An ever deepening, intra-searchable encyclopaedia presenting investigative, factually reliable news and analysis accessible even to a wandering eye.

The pool of writers, photographers, designers and editors who sweat themselves dry to produce SQUALL do so voluntarily. The motivation for involvement is thus kept separate from money, ensuring the emphasis remains unfettered by the commercial millstones which drown other media sources. We still need money to collate, present and distribute the material of course by we can say with confidence that SQUALL is a mammon free zone. If you don't know what mammon is then we recommend you become familiar with the word....cos it sums up a lot of what's happening around us.

Whilst some of SQUALL's photo and article contributors earn a living in mainstream media they see their contribution as a way of exercising their art and principled concern on SQUALL's web pages. Other people who work for SQUALL wouldn't touch the mainstream with a sterilised barge pole, sure in the knowledge that many of those who populate this arena are irredeemably scurrilous and contagious to boot.

SQUALL encourages anyone interested in principled journalism to contribute photographs and articles.

If British media is unacceptably unrepresentative then SQUALL seeks to proffer a medicine for the malaise. A set of guidelines for photographers, feature writers, news short journo's and subbers are available from SQUALL. Write, specifying your area of particular contributory interest, to SQUALL, Garage Style, PO Box 8959, London N19 5HW.

SQUALL Download (A5 monthly hardcopy) is available on subscription for £12 for 12 issues (includes P&P). Write to SQUALL Download, PO Box 8959, London N19 5HW. Cheques payable to SQUALL. This magazine is non-profit making so please include any additional finance or stamps you can afford to help ensure its survival and thrival. You can contact SQUALL by writing to the above address or by e-mailing us at [info@squall.co.uk](mailto:info@squall.co.uk)

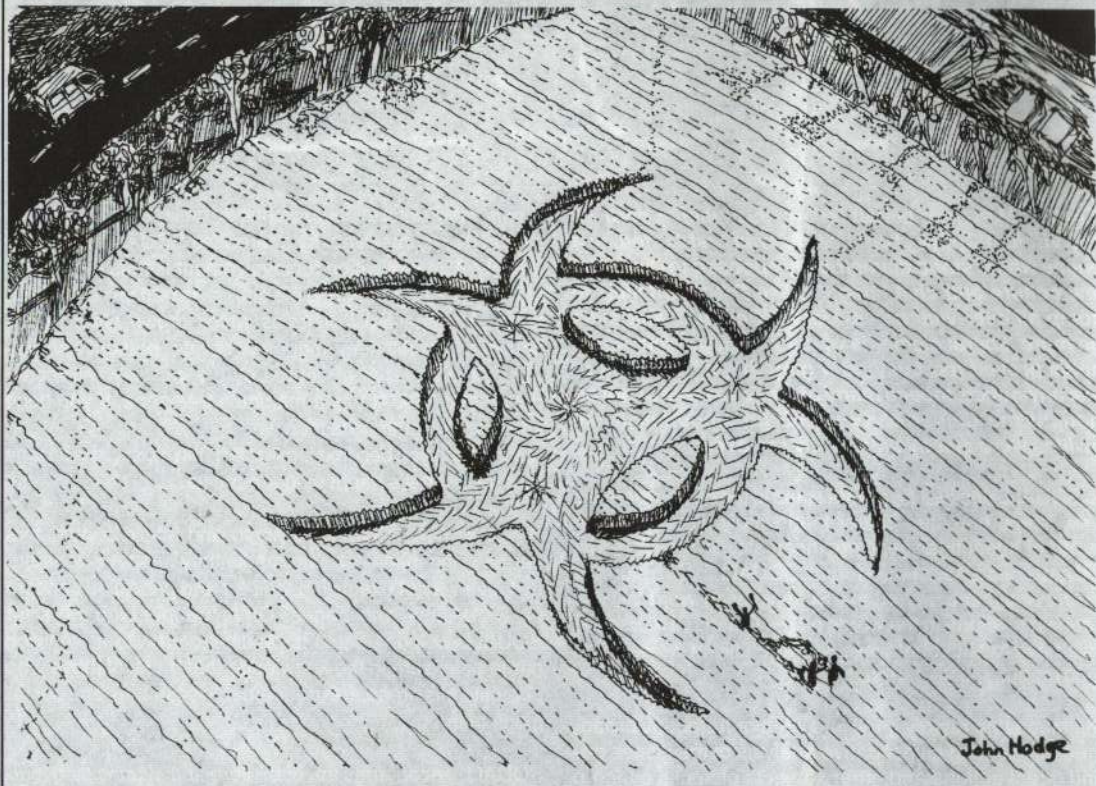
Respect is more than a word. But like muscle, it wastes away when unexercised.



MAMMON~FREE ZONE



# A GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROP CIRCLE



## SQUOTES

"You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour, now you must tell them this is the Hour. And there are things to be considered... This could be a good time! There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are torn apart and will suffer greatly. Know the river has its destination. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above water.

And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally. Least of all ourselves. For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a halt. The time for the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves! Banish the word struggle from your attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration. We are the ones we've been waiting for."

**Oraibi Arizone Elder - Hopi Nation**





Weekly

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SOMETHIN FOR NOTHIN

# SchNEWS

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Issue 201 Free/Donation

## MODS AND SHOCKERS

*"Parliament is being besieged by them. We have our own crop of genetically modified lobbyists."* Alan Simpson, Labour MP

As SchNEWS went to press New Labour were stubbornly refusing to call a five year ban on genetically modified organisms (GMO) despite the outcry against 'frankensteins food' growing louder every day. Meanwhile the bio-technology companies must be holding their collective (three)heads in their hands. Last year the biggest and baddest of them all, Monsanto, spent one million pounds on an advertising campaign, yet support for gmo's plummeted; leaked memo's from the company confirmed that just when they thought it couldn't get any worse it did, again and again and now support for gmo's has hit rock bottom.

So what do you do when you've lost the argument with the public? You take the advice of PR company Burson Marsteller, the greenwash specialists, and fast spinning cog in the propaganda machine of the new world order. Yer good ol' neighbourhood perception managers advised EuropaBio-the main lobby organization for the European BioIndustry back at its first cake-divvying session in 1997- to leave any public debate to "those charged with public trust - politicians and regulators - to assure the public that biotech products are safe". Now SchNEWS would never accuse the party of the people from being hand in glove with big business; the following list is just an uncanny co-incidence.

**David Hill**, one of the top media men for the Labour Party until a year ago, now works for Monsanto's PR company Bell Pottinger. **Cathy McGlynn** is also employed by Bell Pottinger after six years of working as an adviser to **Jack Cunningham Labour MP** (who chairs the Cabinet committee on biotechnology and says a ban on gmo's would "not be sensible")

**Lord Sainsbury**, the billionaire whose supermarket empire sells unlabelled genetically modified food with abandon is **New Labour Science Minister**

The genetic food company Zeneca has an executive on the Dept of Healths Committee on the **Toxicity of Chemicals in Food**. Their Chief Executive **Peter Doyle** is also on the **Department of Trade and Industry's** Biotechnology Research Council.

Novartis, a rival of Monsanto and Zeneca, sponsored last years **Labour conference**, paid for a training session to tell new MPs how to behave and has one of its ex-employees, **Nick Palmer**, sitting in the Com-

mons as the **New Labour MP for Broxtowe** (Novartis gives him £5,000 a year to be its Parliamentary adviser) And surely it can't be true that **New Labour** offered genetic engineering companies including Monsanto, millions of pounds in inducements to expand their UK operations?

Or that companies involved in GM food have met government officials and ministers **81 times** since Labour came to power. An analysis by Friends of the Earth showed **Monsanto's executives** secured 17 audiences with ministers in Blair's first year in office - **one meeting every three weeks**.

Still, even if Labour do slap on a ban, Monsanto and Zeneca have threatened to appeal to the European Union, reckoning the British authorities have no power to halt genetic research if it has been given the go-ahead by the EU.

So it's back to Tory Blair who reckons the food is healthy, tasty, heaven sent dietary bliss and will settle for nothing else, for himself or his family. He must have been drooling when on Thursday activists delivered four tons of mutant soya beans to his doorstep.

*"I wouldn't eat it willingly...It is commercially driven and we are like a guinea pig generation."* Dr.Mae Wan Ho, reader in biology at the Open University.

**So forget** the arguments that we have been genetically modifying crops for thousands of years (look mate, sticking the anti-freeze gene from an arctic fish into strawberries is a whole different ball-game from natural breeding processes which take years); that GMO's are gonna feed the world (the World Health Organisation say we already produce one and a half times what the world needs to feed itself, it's just a shame that market forces mean the poor can't afford to buy it); that genetic crops are more environmentally friendly because they use less pesticides! (get a grip - they actually need more pesticides and disturb the balance of the soil. We haven't a clue what would happen if these crops cross-breed with wild-plants, produce superweeds, create novel toxins, eradicate the wildplants that our native insects and birds depend on to survive in our countryside. In fact all over the world when non-indigenous species have been introduced into new environments they have caused long term damage.) The fact is that this massive bio-tech experi-

ment is the only avenue left if intensive farming systems are to have any chance of survival. The SchNEWS alternative is small-scale organic farms which would wrestle food production away from the multinationals, would create jobs, would safeguard and improve the environment, would improve health, would put a greater percentage of the population back in touch with the land. Just take a look at the million wetland rice farmers in the far east who have shifted to sustainable agriculture, where group-based farmer-field schools have enabled farmers to learn alternatives to pesticides whilst still increasing yields. While in the USA farmers are applying sustainable technologies so well they have higher yields than conventional farmers, without relying on toxic chemicals or the lame assurances of the gene age peddlers.

How many times do we have to say it, big business is only interested in profit, government is only interested in sucking up to big business.

### The Monsanto Monitor

P.O. Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Holland. Tel: +31-20-468 2616; Email: [biotech@aseed.antenna.nl](mailto:biotech@aseed.antenna.nl)

### Genetix Update,

PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY Tel 0181 374 9516 - [www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag/action](http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag/action). GEN can also supply a list of genetic crop sites around the country

### Nationwide Food Survey

Beacon House, Willow Walk, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UP

Produce 'How to Avoid Genetic Foods' [www.wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/pbrown/index](http://www.wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/pbrown/index)

### "The Unbottled Gene"

A week of evening talks in London from Monday 8th to Friday 12th March 1999

For details of venues ring 0171 254 6863 [www.members.tripod.com/UL\\_Forum\\_on\\_GE](http://www.members.tripod.com/UL_Forum_on_GE).

### Grow yer own!

Organic food is the only food that under EC legislation cannot contain gmo's. Unfortunately it's still pretty expensive, so why not start growing your own fruit and veg. Find out how by sending a SAE to the Henry Doubleday Research Association, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG Tel 01203 303517

\* On Wednesday Monsanto and Perryfields Holdings Ltd, were given a pathetic £17,000 fine plus costs after breaking safety regulations in Lincolnshire. A six-metre border designed to stop the escape of GM pollen was found to be inadequate. As pollen can travel for miles and bees don't know the difference the borders are a joke.

### REBEL ALLIANCE

Tuesday 23rd February 7 pm upstairs at the Hobgoblin Pub, London Rd (please note date change!)



## KURDISTAN

What's behind the recent wave of embassy occupations and demonstrations across the globe by Kurds, protesting at the arrest of the leader of the PKK, Abdullah Öcalan? Much has been made of their 'illegal' tactics (invading foreign embassies etc) and the PKK's status as 'terrorists', but what hardships have motivated such resistance?

The Kurds are the biggest stateless people in the world, numbering 20 to 25 million spread over 200,000 square miles including parts of Iran, Iraq, Syria, but mainly Turkey, where they are a sizeable minority. The current war - going on since 1984 - in south east Turkey has seen over 22,000 Kurds killed, and forced 3 million to flee the country. Amnesty have reported numerous human rights abuses, and Turkey had the second highest expenditure in the world on conventional arms during 1992-96; over \$6 billion in 1996 alone. So why does the West turn a blind eye to these atrocities, whilst getting self-righteous about the problems in Kosovo?

Could it be that Turkey has huge arms deals with the US and Germany, or that in 1997 the British company Vickers sent 800 tanks to the Turkish regime? The Campaign against the Arms Trade is calling for an arms embargo on Turkey and implementation of Robin Cook's so-called 'ethical' foreign policy. But the West doesn't want to rock the boat in Turkey - they are an important NATO ally. Air bases in SE Turkey are used by British and US planes to police the no-fly zone over Iraq. Only last week Iraq's foreign minister Tariq Aziz met the Turkish authorities to ask them to stop the flights. They refused, but made it clear that they wanted a favour in return from the West. Could Öcalan have been handed over as a thank you present? His capture is clouded in confusion. He was staying in the Greek embassy in Nairobi, and soon after leaving, mysteriously ended up in Turkish custody. It is unclear whether the Greek authorities deliberately handed him over. Greek and Turkey are old rivals, and the affair caused such an outcry in Greece that 3 cabinet ministers have had to resign. Nairobi, where Öcalan was captured is also the main base for US intelligence in Africa (what a coincidence!).

As Schnews went to Press, the embassy siege in London had finished, and all the occupants had been arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Kurdish Information Centre: 10 Glasshouse Yd., London EC1A 4JN (0171 250 1315)

\*\*Given that all schools and universities in Kosovo have been closed since 1989 by the Serbian authorities, a group of students are doing a tour of the UK from the 15th to 27th March. They will be talking at universities in London, Derby, Leicester, Manchester, Bradford, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Can they talk at your University? Ring 0161 2260404 if interested.

### The Diggers Working Week

Between Saturday 20th - Sunday 28th March at a venue near Brighton All hands are needed to help out making, preparing and repairing - canvas structures (they've got an industrial sewing machine), portable compost toilets, kitchen resources, banners, defenses, etc. for a large scale land occupation. If you wanna get involved ring 0961 373 385.

## 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 BYE-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

## SchNEWS in brief

There's a national demonstration to defend asylum seekers rights and protest at new legislation on asylum and immigration going through parliament. Saturday 27th February @12 noon, Embankment, London, (Embankment tube). Contact 101 Villa Rd., Birmingham, B21 1NH, 0121 5546947 email: cair@ncadc.demon.co.uk \*\*\*Citizen Smith

- a new squatted Sunday afternoon veggie café has opened in North West London at 161 College Road, Kensal Green, London NW 10. Contact 07931 980534 www.members.tripod.com/citizensmith/hello/ \*\*\*The latest set of Corner House briefings are available on subjects such as racism, conflict and globalisation. Contact Corner House, PO Box 3137, Station Rd., Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1YJ Tel 01258 473795 http://www.icaap.org/Cornerhouse

\*\*\*WANTED-films! Whether it's a 90 minute feature, pop video or 30 second experimental animation. Deadline is 26th February. Send to RIL Independent Film and Video Festival, 53 Carnew St., N.C.R., Dublin 7, Tel +353 1 8681466 email:FESTIVAL@EMC23.TP \*\*\*

WinVisible (women with visible and invisible disabilities) have a number of pamphlets and leaflets available. Send SAE for a list to Crossroads Women's Centre, 230a Kentish Town Rd., London, NW5 2AB Tel 0171 482 2496 \*\*\* Natural Selection is a web search engine specifically designed to find and twist far right and racist sites on the net, using ridicule as a weapon. More details check out http://www.mongrel.org.uk/ email: info@mongrel.org.uk \*\*\* The Equality

Housing collective, based in Oxford, squats empty buildings and brings attention to housing problems. They are currently occupying a disused nursing home in north Oxford owned by the council, and with the help of local kids have made many improvements to the building. Despite recent favourable talks leading to potentially permanent occupation, the council have decided to try and repossess the building anyway. Contact 07775 700732 \*\*\* Saturday 27 is a Day of Action for sanctions to be removed against Iraq. Meet 1-3pm, Piccadilly Gardens. More info 0161 834 8301 \*\*\* If you're in Brighton, there will be a talk about sanctions on 22nd Feb. 2pm at the University of Sussex, A1 lecture theatre. Speakers will be George Galloway MP, Sabah Al-Mukhtar (leading Arab voice on international law) and Mailan Rai (Voices of the Wilderness campaign) Oi - Global Capitalism - No!

On Saturday 27th February from 10am there will be a gathering for people participating in actions on June 18th actions against globalisation. It's at the (squatted) United Reform Church, Church Street, Stoke Newington, London N16 - with a social in the evening.

Oops! In SchNEWS 200 we missed out how to get on the June 18th list; send an email to listproc@gn.apc.org with your email address and the following line: subscribe J18DISCUSSIONS

\*\* There's also a June 18th discussion in Glasgow 3-4 April. Contact-counterinformation (Autonomy) c/o 28 King Street, Glasgow G1.

Stop-press: Greenpeace have occupied towers at Liverpool docks to stop gmo's coming into the port.

## INSIDE SCHNEWS

In November last year two members of a Czech anarchist group were brutally attacked by a group of at least five neo-nazis in a Prague club. One of the two was knocked out after a short fight, while the other, Michal Patera, was injured. Fearing for his life, Michal drew his legally owned gun and fired at his attackers. One of the fascists was shot three times, and the others withdrew for a moment. Michal managed to escape, but was arrested shortly after by the police. For defending his life, Michal is now charged with "attempted murder motivated by ideological conviction" and faces 25 years in prison, with at least one year in "protective custody" before his case goes to trial. None of the attacking neo-nazis faces even minor charges.

This is the fourth time in a few years that the Czech authorities have thrown a victim of fascist terror in jail on charges of murder or attempted murder for defending his life. The Czech anti-fascist movement has also had to raise large amounts of money to cover lawyer fees, and is now skint. If you can help send donations to SF International Secretariat, PO Box 1681, London, N8 7LE (cheques payable to NELSF)

Letters of solidarity to: Michal Patera (1976), PO Box 5, 14057 Praha 4, Czech Republic, or send them by email to the Defense Campaign: sam20uj@axpsu.fpf.slu.cz

### ...and finally...

Lambeth Council are not having an easy job with their plans to gentrify Brixton, as squatters have realised that a barricade a day keeps the bailiffs at bay. The 121 centre is an 18-year old autonomous squat in the heart of Brixton, open as a bookshop, advice centre, meeting space for radical groups etc. A notice of eviction was served for last Monday, and according to the Inspector of Operations for Brixton police, the bailiffs were expecting to stroll in, remove the door and brick up the space. Oh dear! What they weren't expecting was for 70 anarchists to be dancing in the street at 6.30am to a sound system, behind barricades in the roads, with the warning cry of a WW2 air raid siren blaring from the rooftop. (In fact the fort proved so effective that a number of activists woke up on Valentines morning to find themselves barricaded inside the building, asking passers by if they could borrow a ladder!) Offices in the town hall were later occupied until police came and broke up the party. While local residents were supporting 121, three other squats in the area were evicted that morning. The Lambeth evictor is ruthless, and help is needed in defending the buildings. It doesn't take much...at another squat, open for 10 years as a workshop, bailiffs were greeted by lots of locals sitting in armchairs in the street who told them the house was crammed with people (ahem!). The bailiffs left crying, "but you promised this property would be empty this morning, you people are supposed to be peaceful types!"

Get a copy of the South London Stress! Contact 121 Raiton Road, Brixton London, SE24, tel 0171 978 8214 email mark261@hotmail.com

### disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all tomatoes not to think they are arctic fish. You can't swim and you will drown.



I WALK AROUND BRIGHTON  
A LOT... I LIKE MY HOME-  
TOWN



# THAT MAKES ME CROSS

LOTS OF PUBS AND SHOPS IN BRIGHTON WHERE I'D HANG OUT ALONG WITH OTHER SOCIALLY UNDESIRABLES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SHUT DOWN! AND RE-OPENED AS SHITE POSH WANK PLACES I CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING IN! JUST SOME EXAMPLES (OF MANY.):

before:

## JUBILEE ARCADE



after:

NOW IT'S  
A THEATRE  
AND POSH  
"CAFÉ-BAR"!

## KOMEDIA



before:

LOTS OF SCUMMY AND  
MEAN LOOKING BODS WOULD HANG  
OUT AT THE GREEN DRAGON PUB..



after:

NOW, THEY FOUND  
SOME SOURCES OF LIGHT AND IT'S:

## the office



I'M NOT SAYING  
SMALL BUSINESS  
IS BETTER THAN BIG  
BUSINESS-IT'S ALL  
CAPITALISM. BUT  
I'M SICK OF BE-  
COMING MORE &  
MORE EXCLUDED  
FROM AN INCREA-  
SINGLY LIFELESS  
AND ARTIFICIAL  
TOWN CENTRE!

Bomb the Yuppie Bars!



# BLANKING THE ORGANIC

We kid you not....One of SQUALL's reporters was recently offered an entire flock of sheep for nothing by a Herefordshire farmer keen to off-load her worthless burden. It is now possible to buy an adult Welsh sheep for as little as ten pence. With farm incomes plummeting by 50 per cent in the year up to June 1999, conventional non-organic agriculture in the UK is in its death throes and the cries of anguish voice loud from the countryside. In an effort to assuage the swelling discontent (used as a political weapon by pro-hunting lobby groups like the Countryside Alliance), Tony Blair recently found £150 million to compensate Britain's suffering farmers. But whilst the Government publicly laments the tragedy by throwing elastoplast money at a seemingly hopeless situation, it continues, inexplicably, to ignore an agricultural salvation prospering in the wings.

For whilst chemically-injected sheep munch unprofitably on chemically-soaked pastures, sales of organic produce have doubled over the last two years. Annual consumer spending on organic food in the UK rose 40% last year to £390 million and is expected to top £1 billion within the next two years.

So it was an announcement worthy of some incredulity when the Government said in August that finance to help farmers convert to organic had run out and that no further money will be available for at least 18 months. An exasperated National Farmer's Union slated the move as "ludicrous". In early November, the affects of the French beef ban in France forced the Government into finding a further £10 million for the organic conversion scheme as a short term palliative but such small amounts of cash are singularly failing to connect British agriculture with the organic boom.

And so it is that 70% of organic food bought in the UK is imported from abroad, with both British farmers and consumers paying the price. A recent opinion poll conducted by the Soil Association revealed that consumer willingness to purchase organic food - booming though it is - is still hampered by high prices. How much lower would it be if we grew it ourselves? How much more could we afford to eat organic?

According to the EU's farming commissioner, Franz Fischler, British farmers are "failing to capitalise" on the booming consumer demand for organic produce: "In some member states the success of organic farming is overwhelming. In others, like the UK, it unfortunately still lags behind." An estimated one per cent of British farmland is run organically compared with ten per cent in Germany and Austria.

The problem for British farmers is that it takes five years of non-chemical application to achieve organic status for land; a period of time which requires financial support. The conversion grants given to farmers by the UK government to facilitate such changes have always been among the lowest in Europe. Now the money has run out all together.

The major UK supermarket chains on the other hand are now hailing organic produce as the new saviour; making hasty readjustments to both retail strategy and marketing. Sainsbury's may have been trailing in the UK's supermarket profit league lately but their rapidly increasing organic sales now lead the current supermarket 'go organic' boom. It is a trend not lost on a British retailing industry bracing itself for the takeover of Asda by the world's largest retail business, Wal Mart. The American retail colossus is about to arrive on British shores with massive bulk purchase potential, aggressive marketing and wide-scale dramatic price cuts on popular supermarket products. Whilst the UK's most profit-successful supermarket chain, Tesco, are putting themselves in the ring for a price match, the other UK supermarket companies realise Wal Mart's immanent foist on British retailing is a serious and potentially terminal threat.



Iceland, Marks and Spencers and Sainsbury's are amongst those already redirecting their advertising focus to show off organic credential, undoubtedly aware that specialising in such produce may be the only sanctuary from Wal Mart's market invasion.

## So where does this leave the Government?

According to Helen Browning, chair of the Soil Association: "By inadequately funding the [conversion] scheme the Government has lost a crucial opportunity to revitalise the beleaguered farming industry in this country in a sector where the potential is obvious to everyone." Everyone that is except the government itself. So why the blind eye?

Lamentable differences in the Government's allocation of agricultural cash provides the clues. This year's exhausted government grants for organic conversion amounted to a paltry £6 million with just £2.2 million spent on organic farming research. In contrast, the Government shelled out £52 million agricultural biotechnology research in 1998.

Blair's US driven globalisation myopia has squandered both political attention and direct financial support on facilitating the US biotech industry's drive towards genetically-modified agriculture and away from the irrefutable potential of organic farming. Both the Soil Association and organic farming in general, stand expressively in diametric opposition to everything genetically-modified farming is about.



"Here - bite my finger - it's more nutritious"

Public concerns about genetically modified foodstuffs are now so great that both the national media and the the British supermarket industry have stepped off their usual safety fence and avowedly embraced the 'No to GM food' campaign; an issue which was only propelled into public consciousness after over a year of crop-ripping direct action back in 1997/8.

Preoccupied with facilitating big business, Tony Blair is the last to acknowledge the point. Meanwhile, the whole country is losing out on a sustainable agricultural future because of a government which fights more for the rights free-trade globalised big business than it does for its own nation's long term health.





## OOH, AMERICA - WHAT BIG LIES YOU HAVE!

*"Over the past two years the US has flooded the world market with unregulated and unlabelled genetically-engineered grain. It is clear it wants to continue this practice and will sabotage any efforts to set international rules for GE crops."*

Louise Gale, Greenpeace

More than once upon a time, an evil mutant wolf (neither beautiful nor noble, so no complaints, wilderness types) called the USA wooed, deceived then shat upon the Little Red Riding Hood of a free world. Well guess what, boys and girls - the furry bastard is back. Blink and you might have missed it, but on Wednesday a world wide agreement that would have put safeguards on the trade of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) was sabotaged and no, there's no prizes for guessing the villain of the piece.

Over 135 nations of the world were at Cartagena, Colombia to agree upon an International Biosafety Protocol, a binding set of international safety standards concerning the trade of GMO's. The Agreement would have forced exporting nations to tell countries whenever any GMO's were going to turn up at their docks. It would mean that biodiversity and environmental safety would be - shock, horror - put above the interests of industry, and provide protection for developing nations.

But surprise, surprise, America - alongside other members of the "Miami Group" (US, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, now dubbed the "Miami Vice" of grain exporters) - did the dirty and scuppered the plans, clearing the way for the biotech companies to take even greater control of the food chain. As Ricarda Steinbrecher, representative for Women's Environmental Network (W.E.N.), at the negotiations argues, *"Biodiversity and safety are the big losers at these negotiations. Trade has got the upper hand and is dictating a Bio-Trade Protocol."*

The US kindly decided to piss in the world's pint-pot on two counts. Firstly, worried that little niceties like clear labelling on international shipments might help citizens boycott products, they refused to allow things like soya beans and corn, which account for 90% of the world trade in GMO's to be included in the negotiations. The "health-conscious" Yanks insist that any safety tests

felt necessary by ungrateful little third-world nations would have to be carried out domestically - beyond the resources of many nations, who were hoping the Protocol might give them the time and knowledge to develop their own laws. Secondly, the US was insistent on the inclusion of Article 31, part of the Protocol relating to other international agreements, which all the countries wanted deleted. This would mean that, in the event of a conflict of interests between the World Trade Organisation and the Protocol, the interests of business would win out. Did the US play fair? We think not, as Dr. Steinbrecher points out: *"The Ethiopian delegate, representing some countries of the so-called 'Third World' was locked in a room with two delegates from the developed world for over seven hours without any break or contact*

*locked doors, not knowing the state of play. We cannot accept this draft that was thrust down our throats without discussion."*

The scuppering of the Protocol leaves countries that want to block the import of GMO's out on a limb - if they make an individual stance they could face the wrath of the World Trade Organisation.

And what, you may wonder, is Britain's stance on this? Well, after initial lip service to outrage, Bill C. got on the blower and now "we" are pressing for compromise along with the US.

As W.E.N. say, *"Consumers... don't want to be bullied by big industry and the USA. Without a strong protocol, we are all the losers."*

The same old Un-fairy tale, eh readers? For more bed-time reading, contact Womens Environmental Network, 87 Worship Street, London, EC2A 2BE. Tel: 0171 247 3327 or visit <http://www.greenpeace.org/>

### DE-MYTH-TIFICATION

The Biodiversity Convention came out of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992; nearly 140 countries signed up to protect the plant and animal species of the earth. Unsurprisingly, the USA didn't join in the fun.

If the world was a Fairy Tale, then the World Trade Organisation would take the role of Big Bad Wolf who wants to huff n' puff our environmental laws down, to leave us as the vulnerable (guinea) pigs to be devoured by the wicked corporations.

*with other 'third world' countries. He is under immense pressure."*

Even more unbelievable is that the US didn't even have a formal delegation in Colombia. It is not even part of the Convention on Biological Diversity, so what was it doing there? Turns out the posse of bullyboy gatecrashers - sorry, powerful lobby group - was a bunch of Arthur Daley sales reps from biotech companies including Monsanto, Novartis, Agro-Evo, Pioneer, Rhone Poulenc and Global Biotech Forum who came, in the words of Greenpeace spokesperson Louise Gale, *"with one task - to torpedo the negotiations."*

The delegate from Mauritius joined 63 countries in condemning the negotiations, *"We came here to negotiate, but found ourselves most of the time in corridors or in front of*

### KVAERNER KREW

**Protester:** *"Do you consider the Economy to be more important than the environment?"*

**Kvaerner Construction:** *"...Yes!"*

That's strange, as their delightful brochure boasts that *"...we see the protection of the environment... as our prime concern... we act as a single globally-functioning business with a single identity world-wide."*

The Kvaerner owned company, Midland Expressway Limited (MEL), are the consortium wanting to build Britain's first toll motorway, the Birmingham Northern Relief Road (BNRR). While the Alliance Against The BNRR were in the High Courts appealing the decision for the go-ahead for the 27 mile motorway, 30 activists paid a visit to their offices, complete with banners, fire juggling and general chaos. Kvaerner may have difficulty getting an estimated £600-700 million from the city following the financial failures of their other toll roads in America and abroad. A camp is still on route, contact Mike on .01922 416110, or Birmingham FoE..0121 6326909 for more info.

**Learn to Desk Top Publish for SchNEWS!**  
We're running a training day on Monday 22 March. Absolute beginners 10.30 am - 12.30 pm, others 1.30 - 3.30 pm. (We can handle 4 people per session; book now!) SchNEWS is desperate for more people to DTP on Thurs evenings. Competent? Patient? Get in touch.



## Fortress UK

While Tory Blair this week talked of a "more tolerant, more inclusive Britain" after the publishing of the Stephen Lawrence report, the second reading of New Labour's Immigration and Asylum Bill eased its way through parliament. Words such as 'tolerance' do not spring to mind in the new way asylum seekers, often fleeing torture and persecution, are going to be dealt with when they arrive here. The Bill includes:

- ❖ Withdrawing all benefits from asylum seekers and their families and introducing a system of cashless vouchers worth about £30 to exchange for food (forget clothes, toiletries, medicines, household goods etc.)
- ❖ Remove local authorities' obligations towards them under the National Assistance, Homelessness and Childrens Acts.
- ❖ Scatter asylum seekers in designated accommodation around the country; no matter that it might mean they are separated from family and/or friends or housed in areas without proper support facilities such as services for torture survivors.
- ❖ Giving immigration officers new powers to enter and search premises and arrest asylum seekers, in some cases without a warrant 'using reasonable force if necessary'
- ❖ Extend the use of detention and fingerprinting on arrival to the UK
- ❖ Some bail hearings to be tried via a live TV link!
- ❖ Reduced appeal times.
- ❖ Introduce a whole new range of criminal offences for people who help asylum seekers.

Still, as the Refugee Council points out, "Most asylum seekers come here for purely selfish reasons: to escape death." Refugee Council 0171 582 6922.

**DEMONSTRATE** *this Saturday against the Asylum Bill: 12 noon, 27 February, Embankment (a minibus is going from outside St.Peters Church, Brighton at 10am.)*

\* 335 pages of the Stephen Lawrence case and no mention of police corruption. Funny that. But what of Duwayne Brooks, who was with Stephen at the time of his murder? After officers said he was anti-police they then reckoned he was in danger and needed their protection. So they assigned him the same copper who had been seen drinking on 3 occasions with the father of David Norris - one of the racist scumbags accused of killing Stephen. Norris is a big time gangster, currently serving 8 yrs for drugs and arms, suspected of at least one murder with a reputation of jury nobbling and intimidation of witnesses. Duwayne had a breakdown and couldn't give evidence at the private prosecution or even turn up at the public inquiry.

\* If readers want to see our double-page interview with someone from the Lawrence Family campaign send an SAE for issue 177 or check out our web-pages.

## Freedom For Tibet Week

March 10 1999 is the 40th Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising, when the Tibetan people rose up against the Chinese occupation of their country. Thousands of Tibetans were killed by the brutal suppression of the uprising with the Dalai Lama also being forced into exile.

For a full programme list of the week, which runs from 4-13 March, contact the Free Tibet Campaign, 1 Rosoman Place, London EC1Y 0JY. Tel.0171 833 9958.

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Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 665913 Get SchNEWS every week by email: schnews@brighton.co.uk

## SchNEWS in brief

Nobody likes paying for public services, do they, Gordon Brown? Apart from the people of **Milton Keynes** that is, who have voted in a referendum to increase their council tax bills by almost 10%. Faced with the prospect of deep cuts in schools, libraries and home help budgets a turn-out of almost 45% said yes to more public services. Bloody revolutionaries. \*\* The **U'wa people** live high in the cloud forests of Colombia and believe that their purpose in life is to protect the earth. Bloody radicals. Of course, as you would expect their lands are now threatened by evil oil giants. One of them Berito KuwarU'wa is coming to the UK on 28th March @ Earth Centre, Denaby Main, Doncaster, DN12 4DY 01709 512000.

\*\* **Permaculture** Introductory Weekend 13-14 March. Contact NatureWise 0171 281 3765.

\*\* **International Women's Day** Rally for Mothers Against Disappearances! Saturday 6th March, 4pm Trafalgar Square. \*\* Discuss **Ghetto Politics** with **London Anarchist Forum**, 8pm, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL (nearest tube Holborn). The Forum meet at same place, same time every week Tel 0181 847 0203. \*\* Benefit evening for **Workers Aid for Kosovo** Friday 5th March, 8pm-12pm, The Yard Theatre, Hulme with Atrila the Stockbroker. Tickets £6/4. \*\* The **Centre for Alternative Technology** has recently won the British Environment and Media Awards, for best website. Check it out [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk) \*\* **Genetic Engineering Network** Office needs help urgently. If you've any have time to spare call 0181 374 9516.

## Bosses that bug us

Sick of your boss sticking their nose beak into your business? Well have a read of "Surveillance and Privacy at Work" by Michael Ford. Today a quarter of a million people are drug tested every year by companies. Businesses are investing in Big Brother interviews, demanding potential employees to release their most intimate secrets like psychological makeup, sexuality, religion, bra size etc. It's not just prisoners that are being fitted with electronic tags, but also your average Joe Public call centre worker. This infra red equipment designed by AT&T follows a worker the minute he gets into work, knows when he's off his PC, and can even track him into the bog. Ford's book goes into the whole world of pervy boss spying antics and calls for extra legislation to make this practice illegal. Contact: Institute of Employment Rights, 177 Abbeville Road, London, SW4 9RL (it's a steep £20 order it from the library.)

## Resistance is useless

Those free party people activists RESISTANCE are holding another one day spectacular on Sat 13th March at the New Trinity Centre, Bristol. Entitled "An alternative thinkers gathering", day-time has stalls, Kebele Kulture veggie cafe and a wide-range of speakers (hey even SchNEWS will take to the stage). Social in the evening includes bands Baby Head and Dubmerge followed by an all-nighter techno party. Last years event was excellent. Details 07970 337638

Avon calling! Construction is underway on the Avon Ring Road (Bristol's answer to the M25). The campaign has squatted a field near the route and need more people. Anyone who can handle a spanner is urged to get on down there! The campaign has good local support and a secure camp. For details and directions contact 0836 653723.

Ashton Court Quarry Campaign, Bristol are celebrating one year anniversary of protest with a week of action on February 27-March 5 starting with a "BIG" free party on the 27th. Contact Campaign Mobile:07970 423834.

## Inside SchNEWS

Eric Mann is a dangerous criminal. Thankfully for the public at large he will be behind bars for the next year. Yes, Eric, a 55 year old granddad is in prison for growing cannabis to stop the pain from arthritis. Send letters of support to Eric at HMP Swansea, 200 Oystermouth Rd., West Glamorgan, SA1 2SR.

Meanwhile the Green Party yesterday supported Paul Flynn MP in his bill to get marijuana de-criminalised for people who use the weed to relieve suffering. This has probably got about as much chance of becoming law as Howard Marks has of talking about something other than dope at this year's festies. But if you want to find out more contact the Green Party on 0171 272 4474.

## Portsmouth Three

Hampshire police love hunt saboteurs, and welcome them to their Police Benevolent Fund all-night fund-raising parties. No, actually they don't; but they did set up a full-time CID incident room for them, for over 4 months. A week on Monday these efforts come to a head when begins the Portsmouth trial of 3 sabs charged with *conspiracy to commit violent disorder*. Funny, this one....

Violence had been mounting from supporters of the Hursley Hambleden foxhunt. When things kicked off again at a meet of the hunt, no-one was charged (on either side) for actual assault or damage, despite plenty of police having been in the area. But the cops were as keen to use the opportunity to gather intelligence on sabs as the hunting lobby were to make PR capital from it. The police took first pickings, arresting 42 sabs, raiding homes and workplaces and seizing clothes, phones, video cameras and vehicles. Then the media to moved in; the Evening Standard reportage furthering its propaganda effort against the anti-hunt Foster Bill.

Thus the web of conspiracy unfolds. We can infer the old bill had tipped off the hunt about the planned large-scale sab, as (unusually) present were pro-hunt surveillance teams and the regional press officer of the Countryside Movement (doubtless keen to canvas support for that organisation's concern for rural Post Offices). Another tip-off:

*Demo outside Portsmouth Crown Court, 1:00pm, Monday March 1 (1st day of trial, and National Day Of Action Against All BloodSports). Prosecutions in Britain are never politically motivated. Be there to admire the Hampshire officers' dedication to the quest for justice.*

\* **Defence Campaign**, Box H, 67 Fawcett Rd., Southsea, Hants, PO4 0DH

## ...and finally...

A company trying to continue its 5 year perfect safety record showed its workers a film aimed at encouraging the use of safety goggles on the job. According to *Industrial Machinery News*, the film's depiction of gory industrial accidents was so graphic that 25 workers suffered minor injuries in their rush to leave the screening room. 13 others fainted, and one man required 7 stitches after he cut his head falling off a chair while watching.

disclaimer





# ASSEMBLIES OF CELEBRATION, ASSEMBLIES OF DISSENT

Jim Carey reviews the recent political history of Travellers, city kids, raves and festivals and reveals the multi-tactic approach used in attempts to annihilate an emerging culture of celebration and dissent.

When the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act began its passage through parliament in 1993, there were many who were genuinely flabbergasted. Why were travellers, squatters, ravers, political protesters and public assemblies considered so much of a threat to the nation that new criminal law was required? As Home Secretary in 1992, Kenneth Baker broadcast the government's opinion thus: "We will get tough on rapists, tough on armed robbers and tough on squatters". Such farcical juxtapositions became a feature of the passage of the new law and an indication of the extent to which the government were prepared to go in persuading the British public that such activities were harbouring nests of parasitic criminals. Such selective demonisation was nothing new of course, though few thought that it would manifest itself in such overtly draconian fashion. That a "series of repetitive beats" should become the defined target of criminal sanctions, reinforced the impression that the Nazi penchant for targeting cultural undesirables was now finding new expression in the UK. Far from an isolated incident however, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act was merely one of the more overt measures in a long term strategy of annihilation.

The networking hub of the UK's so called 'underground' culture were the unlicensed public festivals which had been proliferating across the British Isles since the early seventies. Primarily designed to provide financially accessible community celebrations, these gatherings also harboured active expressions of rising public dissension; populated as they were by an outflux of disaffected youth from inner cities determined to create a new life for themselves outside the market-myopic. The largest example of these gatherings took place annually at Stonehenge around the date of the summer solstice; the longest day.

Having begun as a small gathering in 1974, the Stonehenge Solstice Free Festival attracted 30,000 people to its last uninterrupted incarnation in 1984. The political significance of this 'Mother' of all festivals was exacerbated by its location. Not only were 30,000 people gathering without the presence of the police, they were doing so in the highly Conservative county of Wiltshire on one of the largest military training grounds in the UK. To the British establishment this was a flagrant challenge, and one which, much to their annoyance, was getting larger every year. Furthermore, with environmentalism as a prominent feature of festival culture, those attending the gatherings - including the swelling ranks of British travellers - began involving themselves in direct action, the main focus of which concentrated on nuclear energy and weaponry. Between 1980-1984, convoys of travellers took part in public operations known as Cruise-watch. This involved the overt tailing of mobile Cruise missiles, transported from silos in Wiltshire to secret locations in neighbouring counties. This was a particularly sen-

sitive area for the government. Secretly located nuclear missiles formed a major part of the UK's nuclear deterrent tactics, with mobility designed to confuse the Soviets in the event of an attack. Anti-nuclear campaigners argued such manoeuvres brought the possibility of nuclear war even closer and effectively blew the government's cover by following the missiles everywhere they went.

The term 'Peace Convoy' was a generic term coined largely by the media and, with the continual involvement of travellers in anti-nuclear demonstrations, it was a term that stuck. In June 1982, a 'peace convoy' left Stonehenge to support the nuclear weapons protest outside Greenham Common in Berkshire; holding an impromptu festival on the perimeter and cutting the fence. In September the same year, another convoy incorporated the Sizewell B nuclear reactor in Suffolk into its itinerary of East Anglian festivals. Once again they established themselves in the car-park and stayed for a week. In 1984, the significance of these stand-offs was brought to a head when another peace convoy took part in a

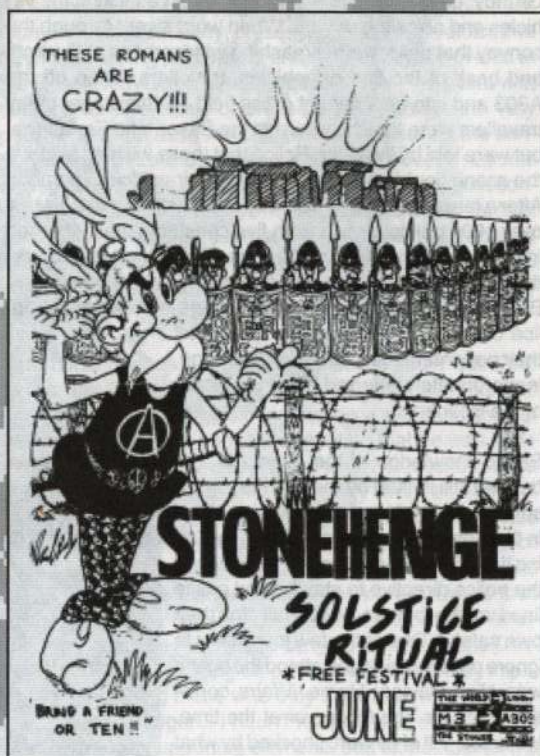
## SQUALL

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large demonstration outside the US Cruise Missile base at Molesworth in Cambridgeshire. Along with other contingents of anti-nuclear protesters, travellers occupied a perimeter site for five months; planting and reaping crops whilst a group of Quakers built a Stone Chapel of Peace. Following a High Court possession order granted in February 1985, the entire protest camp was finally evicted using soldiers from the Royal Engineers regiment. Significant to the political escalation resulting from these protests, the eviction was attended by the then Minister of Defence, Michael Heseltine, famously arriving on site dressed in a camouflage flak jacket. Meanwhile the festival circuit harboured an increasing multitude of campaign groups - particularly those connected with the environment - assembling en masse, distributing information and discussing action. Up until 1985, these burgeoning assemblies of alternative living and dissent stood successfully defiant in the face of Margaret Thatcher's designs on an ultra-efficient market mono-culture. In 1985, however, the 'Peace Convoy' and its associated culture became the target of a multi-strategic campaign of annihilation, inaugurated with blood at Stonehenge.

## The Battle of the Beanfield

It is difficult to convey the extent and affect of the berserk circumstances which occurred on June 1st 1985, but their socio-political ramifications were immense. A convoy of travellers' vehicles left an impromptu park-up site in Savernake Forest to head towards Stonehenge. Seven miles from the Stones, and still some way out of the newly imposed four and half mile High Court exclusion order, police blocked the convoy with three lorry loads of gravel. After a short stand-off, the acting Deputy Chief Constable of Wiltshire, Lionel Grundy, gave orders for his men to begin attacking the vehicles and arresting drivers. When word swept through the convoy that police were smashing windscreens at the front and back of the line of vehicles, travellers pulled off the A303 and into an adjacent grass field. At this stage, many travellers were keen to return to the Savernake Forest site, but were told by Wiltshire Police that those wishing to leave the scene could only do so without their vehicles (homes). After a tense wait, the pressure cooker finally exploded when over 1000 police, drawn from five constabularies, charged into the field wielding truncheons. In an effort to escape, the convoy drove from the grass field into the adjacent Beanfield looking for a way out. A huge number of riot police charged in behind them to commit their now infamously one-sided carnage, inappropriately referred to as the Battle of the Beanfield.

Public knowledge of the events of that day are still limited by the fact that only a small number of journalists were present in the Beanfield at the time. Most, including the BBC Television crew, had obeyed the police directive to stay behind police lines at the bottom of the hill "for their own safety". One of the few journalists to ignore police advice and attend the scene was Nick Davies, Home Affairs correspondent for The Observer at the time. He wrote: "All of us were shocked by what we saw: police tactics which seemed to



break new bounds in the scale and 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....the police operation became a chaotic whirl of violence...basic rules of police behaviour were abandoned. The identification numbers of most officers were concealed by flame-proof overalls....I saw a young man's glasses swiped from his face and front teeth break under the raining blows." The only national television camera crew in the Beanfield was from ITN. Reporter Kim Sabido spoke to camera: "What we the ITN camera crew and myself as a reporter have seen in the last 30 minutes here in this field has been some of the most brutal police treatment of people that I've witnessed in my entire career as a journalist. The number of people who have been hit by policemen, who have been clubbed

**The Battle Of The Beanfield 1985**



**Pics: Ben Gibson**



whilst holding babies in their arms in coaches around this field, is yet to be counted...There must surely be an enquiry." However, when the item was nationally broadcast on ITN news later that day, Sabido's voice-over had been removed and replaced with a dispassionate narrator. The worst film footage was also edited out. When approached for the footage not shown on the news, ITN claimed it was missing.

"When I got back to ITN during the following week and I went to the library to look at all the rushes, most of what I'd thought we'd shot was no longer there," recalls Sabido. "From what I've seen of what ITN has provided since, it just disappeared, particularly some of the nastier shots." Some but not all of the missing footage has since re-surfaced on bootleg tapes and was incorporated into the 'Operation Solstice' documentary shown on Channel Four in 1991. A similar story of missing visual evidence transpires when trying to track down the images taken by photojournalists. Ben Gibson, a freelance photographer working for the Observer that day, was arrested in the Beanfield after photographing riot police smashing their way into a traveller's coach. He was later acquitted of charges of obstruction although the intention behind his arrest had been served by removing him from the scene. Most of the negatives from the film he managed to shoot disappeared from the Observer's archives during an office move. Fellow photographer Tim Malyon narrowly avoided the same fate:

"Whilst attempting to take pictures of one group of officers beating people with their truncheons, a policeman shouted out to 'get him' and I was chased. I ran and was not arrested." Malyon thought his film was safe after storing it with London solicitors' firm Birnbergs. However, despite the fact that his photographic negatives were never supposed to have left Birnbergs' possession, they too disappeared. Fortunately, some of Ben Gibson's and Tim Malyon's prints have recently resurfaced and are printed here.

One unusual eye-witness to the Beanfield nightmare was the Earl of Cardigan, secretary of the Marlborough Conservative Association and manager of Savernake Forest (on behalf of his father the Marquis of Ailesbury). He had travelled along with the convoy on his motorbike accompanied by fellow Conservative Association member, John Moore. As the travellers had left from land managed by Cardigan, the pair thought "it would be interesting to follow the events personally". Wearing crash helmets to disguise their identity, they witnessed what Cardigan described as "unspeakable" police violence. Cardigan provided eye-witness testimonies of police behaviour during subsequent prosecutions brought against Wiltshire Police, including descriptions of a heavily pregnant woman with "a silhouette like a zeppelin" being "clubbed with a truncheon" and riot police showering a woman and child with glass.

"I had just recently had a baby daughter myself," Lord Cardigan told SQUALL. "So when I saw babies showered with



Stonehenge Festival 1983

glass by riot police smashing windows, I suppose I thought of my own baby lying in her cradle 25 miles away in Marlborough." After the Beanfield, Wiltshire Police approached Lord Cardigan to gain his consent for an immediate eviction of the travellers remaining on his Savernake Forest site. "They said they wanted to go into the campsite 'suitably equipped' and 'finish unfinished business'. Make of that phrase what you will," says Cardigan. "I said to them that if it was my permission they were after, they did not have it. I did not want a repeat of the grotesque events that I'd seen the day before." Instead, the site was evicted using court possession proceedings, allowing the travellers a few days recuperative grace.

As a prominent local aristocrat and Tory, Cardigan's testimony held unusual sway, presenting unforeseen difficulties for those seeking to cover up and re-interpret the events at the Beanfield. Wiltshire Police responded to the event with the now familiar tactic of prosecuting for assault the very people they had assaulted. In an effort to counter the contrary impact of Lord Cardigan's testimony, several national newspapers began painting him as a 'loony lord', questioning his suitability as an eye-witness and drawing farcical conclusions from the fact that his great-great grandfather had led the charge of the light brigade. The Times editorial on June 3rd claimed that being "barking mad was probably hereditary".

As a consequence, Lord Cardigan successfully sued the Times, the Telegraph, the Daily Mail, the Daily Express and the Daily Mirror for claiming that his allegations against the police were false and for suggesting that he was making a home for hippies. He received what he describes as "a pleasing cheque and a written apology" from all of them. His treatment by the press was ample indication of the united front held between the prevailing political regime and complicit national media sources, with Lord Cardigan's testimony as an unplanned-for spanner in the plotted works: "On the face of it they had the ultimate establishment creature - land-owning, peer of the realm, card carrying member of the Conservative Party - slagging off police and therefore by implication befriending those who they call the powers of darkness," says Cardigan. "I hadn't realised that anybody that appeared to be supporting elements that stood against the



establishment would be savaged by establishment newspapers. Now one thinks about it nothing could be more natural. "I hadn't realised that I would be considered a class traitor; if I see a policeman truncheoning a woman I feel I'm entitled to say that it is not a good thing you should be doing. I went along, saw an episode in British history and reported what I saw."

Largely as a result of his testimony, police charges against members of the convoy were dismissed in the local magistrates courts. However, there was no public enquiry. Of the 440 travellers taken into custody that day, 24 went through the gruelling five year process of taking Wiltshire Police to court for wrongful arrest, assault and criminal damage. They finally won a four month court case at Winchester Crown Court in 1991, but received compensation almost identical to the legal costs incurred in the process. As Lord Gifford QC, the travellers' legal representative, put it: "It left a very sour taste in the mouth". To some of those at the brunt end of the truncheon charge, the violence left a devastating legacy. Alan Lodge, a veteran of many free festivals, was one of the 24 travellers who 'successfully' took Wiltshire Police to court following the Beanfield incident: "There was one guy who I trusted my children with in the early 80's - he was a potter. After the Beanfield I wouldn't let him anywhere near them. I saw him, a man of substance at the end of all that nonsense wobbled to the point of illness and evil. It turned all of us and I'm sure that applies to the whole travelling community. There was plenty of people who had got something very positive together who came out of the Beanfield with a world view of fuck everyone."

The violent nature of the police action drew obvious comparisons with the coercive police tactics employed on the miners strike the year before. Many observers claimed the two events provided strong evidence that government directives were para-militarising police responses to crowd control, a view confirmed by Sir Peter Imbert, ex-commissioner of the Metropolitan Police: "A subject of concern is the move towards paramilitarism in the police. I accept that such a move has occurred." Indeed in the confidential Wiltshire Police Operation Solstice Report, released to plaintiffs during the resulting Crown Court case, it states: "Counsel's opinion regarding the police tactics used in the miners' strike to prevent a breach of the peace was considered relevant." An edition of the Police Review, published seven days after the Beanfield, also revealed: "The Police operation had been planned for several months and lessons in rapid deployment learned from the miners' strike were implemented." Such heavy handed tactics were 'justified' at the time by a farcical passage from the confidential police report: "There is known to be a hierarchy within the convoy; a small nucleus of leaders making the final decisions on all matters of importance relating to the convoy's activities. A second group who are known as the 'lieutenants' or 'warriors' carry out the wishes of the convoy leader, intimidating other groups on site." If the paramilitary policing used on the Miners Strike was a violent introduction to Thatcher's mal-intention towards union dissent, the Battle of the Beanfield was a similarly severe introduction to a new era of intolerance of travellers, festivals and public protest.

## Manufacturing a case for public order law.

At the 1995 Big Green Gathering Festival, Inspector Hunt, a member of Wiltshire Police force for 20 years, told a reporter from SQUALL: "Stonehenge Festival grew too large and out of control, the Beanfield was just the beginning of the process of dealing with it. The laws that came after were even more effective." The following year saw the imposition of the Public Order Act 1986, giving police powers to break up any gathering of twelve vehicles or more. This new legislation not only provided the authorities with powers to stop convoys, it also had seriously detrimental implications for both festivals and traveller sites all over the country. On June 3rd that year, Douglas Hurd - then Home Secretary - described travellers as "nothing more than a band of medieval brigands who have no respect for the law or the rights of others."

On June 5th, Margaret Thatcher told the nation that the British government was "only too delighted to do anything we can to make life difficult for such things as hippy convoys". On the same day, a cabinet committee was formed to discuss new legislation to deal with travellers and festivals. Chaired by Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, the committee was comprised of the Secretaries of State for Transport, Environment, Health and Social Security, and Agriculture.

Meanwhile, convoys assembling to celebrate that year's Solstice were chased around several counties by police, before finally finding some temporary respite on a site at Stoney Cross in the New Forest. Four days later, Hampshire Police mounted the 4am 'Operation Daybreak' to clear Stoney Cross. Sixty Four convoy members were arrested and 129 vehicles impounded after police came on site armed with DoT files on every vehicle. The police also came armed with care orders for the travellers' children, though a tip off reached the camp beforehand and the children were removed. The Battle of the Beanfield and the increasingly hostile political climate which followed, had a dramatic affect on the travelling community, frightening away many of the families integral to the community balance of the festival circuit.

In 1987, a few hundred people stood on the tarmac beside Stonehenge, having walked the eight miles from an impromptu site at Cholderton. As clouds smothered the Solstice sunrise, those who had walked the distance were kept on the road, separated from the Stones by rows of riot police and razor wire. As the anger mounted, scuffles broke out.

A year later the anger had tangibly increased and once again at Solstice dawn there were some who found the situation too unacceptable. This time the scuffles were more prevalent with concerted efforts made to break through the police cordon. Secreted around the area, however, were thousands of waiting riot police and as the frustration of the penned in crowd grew, numberless uniforms came flooding down the hill to disperse the crowd with a liberal usage of truncheons and riot shields. Andy Smith - now editor of the magazine Festival Eye - finally received a £10,000 out of court settlement from Wiltshire Police in 1996 for a truncheon wound to the head



received after he tripped and fell at Stonehenge in 1988. The numbers of people prepared to travel to Stonehenge and face this treatment naturally dwindled, resulting in a concentration of those who were prepared for confrontation in defence of what was considered as a right to celebrate solstice at Stonehenge. Successive large-scale police operations backed by the Public Order Act 1986, became stricter in attempts to stop anyone from reaching the stone circle at Solstice. Each subsequent year, however, there were those who hugged hedgerows and darted between the beams of police helicopters in order to be in view of the Solstice sunrise at Stonehenge.

## Destroying the alternative economy

Up until 1985, the free festival circuit had provided the economic backbone of traveller's year long itinerancy. Traditionally the three cardinal points in the festival circuit were the May bank holiday, the August bank holiday and Solstice. Without the need for advertising, festival-goers knew to look out for these dates in expectation that a festival would be taking place somewhere. The employment of two bank holidays as specific festival times allowed workers the opportunity of attending a festival without the inevitable bleary Monday back at work. By selling crafts, services, performance busking, tat and assorted gear, travellers provided themselves with an alternative economy which lent a financial viability to their itinerant culture. Evidence suggests that the political campaign to eradicate festivals was in good part aimed at breaking this economy. A working party set up by the Department of Health and Social Security published a report on Itinerant Claimants in March 1986 stating: "Local offices of the DHSS have experienced increasing problems in dealing with claims from large groups of nomadic claimants over the past 2 or 3 years. Matters came to a head during the summer of 1985 when several large groups converged on Stonehenge for a festival that had been banned by the authorities. The resulting well publicised confrontation with the police was said to have disrupted the normal festival economy and large numbers of claims to Supplementary Benefit were made."

"As soon as they scared away the punters it destroyed the means of exchange," recalls traveller Alan Lodge. "Norman Tebbit went on about getting on your bike and finding employment whilst at the same time being part of the political force that kicked the bike from under us." In the years that followed, the right wing press made much of dole scrounging travellers, with no acknowledgement that the engineered break up of the festival economy was a major contributory factor.

Another ramification of this tactic was even more insidious and ugly. At the entrance gate to the 1984 Stonehenge Free Festival, a burnt out car bore testament to the levels of self-policing emerging from the social-experiment. The sign protruding from the wreckage proclaimed: "This was a smack dealer's car". However, dispossessed of their once thriving

economy and facing incessant and increasing harassment and eviction, the break down of community left travellers prone to a destructive force potentially more devastating than anything directly forced by the authorities.

"At one time smack wasn't tolerated on the road at all," recalls mother of six, Decker Lynn. "Certainly on festival sites, if anybody was selling or even using it they were just put off site full stop."



Pic: Nick Cobbing

Heroin, the great escape to oblivion, found the younger elements of a fractured community prone to the drug's clutch and its use spread amongst travellers like myxomatosis. Once again traveller families were forced to vacate sites which were falling prey to the heroin, further imbalancing the battered communities and creating a split between 'clean' and 'dirty' sites.

"I don't park on big sites anymore," says Lynn, who still lives in her double decker bus. "Heroin is something that breaks up a community because people become so self-centred they don't give a damn about their neighbours." Many travellers report incidences of blatant heroin dealing going untouched by police, whilst other travellers on the same site were prosecuted for small amounts of hashish. The implication of these claims were that the authorities recognised that if heroin took hold of the travelling community, political designs on the destruction of the travelling community would take care of itself.

"So many times people got away with it and there were very few busts for smack," recalls Lynn. "They must know smack is the quickest way to divide a community; united we stand and divided we don't."

The other manifestation of community disruption was the emergence of the so called 'brew crew'. These were mainly angry young travellers feeding themselves on a diet of special brew and developing a penchant for nihilism, blagging and communal disrespect. In the previous years of a more healthy festival culture, the outflux of youth from the inner cities was well met, absorbed and often healed.

"To start with it was contained," says Decker Lynn. "Every family had its problems but the brew crew was a very small



element around 1986, and very much contained by the families that were around. But there was large number of angry young people pouring out of the cities with brew and smack and the travelling community couldn't cope with the numbers." The so called 'brew crew' caused constant disruption for those festivals still surviving on the decimated circuit and provided an obvious target for slander hungry politicians and right wing media.

## Raves and the new blood

Towards the end of the eighties a new cultural phenomenon emerged in the UK resulting in an injection of new blood and economy to the festival scene. Rave parties were similar to free festivals in that they were unlicensed events in locations kept secret until the last possible moment. Such events offered similar opportunities for adventure and began attracting huge numbers of young people from the cities. Some of these parties differed from the free festivals in that they were organised by groups such as Sunrise, who would charge an entry fee and consequently make large amounts of money in the process. Not all such rave parties were of this nature however, and the free festival scene began to merge with the rave party scene producing an accessible hybrid with new dynamism.

Once again political attention was now targeted against these new impromptu rave events, resulting in the Entertainment (Increased Penalties) Act 1990. Introduced by John Major's Personal Private Secretary, Graham Bright MP, this private members bill brought in massive penalties of up to £20,000 and/or six months imprisonment for the organisers of unlicensed events. Once again this legislation had a dramatic affect on the free festival/rave scene, pushing event organisation into the hands of large commercial promoters with the necessary sums required to pay for licences and policing. Indeed, a report called 'Leisure Futures', produced by market analysts the Henley Centre in 1993, gave some indication of how worried commercial entertainment businesses had become over the explosion of rave culture. Estimating that British ravers were worth a potential £1.8 billion a year to the entertainment industry, the report confirmed that rave culture was posing a "significant threat" to the market share of drinks retailers, breweries and pubs. Richard Carr, then chairman of Allied Leisure, the entertainments section of the alcohol conglomerate Allied-Tetley-Lyons, had already voiced his concern about rave culture in 1992, describing it "a major threat to alcohol-led business."

A web of mutual interests involving parliamentary lobbyists Ian Greer Associates, Sir Graham Bright MP and one of the UK's largest alcohol-led businesses Whitbread (whose headquarters are situated in Bright's Luton constituency) opened up powerful conduits to political influence. In 1993, Ian Greer's firm helped Whitbread set up a beer club in the Houses of Parliament. With over 125 member MPs it is the largest industrial club in the palace. As a consequence of legislation directed against raves, the nature of festival and rave promotion swung away from its community-based orientation, as big business attempted to commercially harness the public's desire for adventurous festival/parties in the countryside. According to Tony Hollingsworth, ex-events promoter for the GLC and now part of a £multi-million com-

mercial festival outfit Tribute: "The motivation behind these festivals is no longer passion, it is commerce." Relative to the people-led festivals, critics argue that the commercial festival scene now offers little more than another shopping experience, where an attendant wallet is valued and encouraged far more than participation.

## Castlemorton Common

By 1992, leaked documents from Avon and Somerset Constabulary demonstrated the existence of Operation Nomad. A Force Operational Order, marked 'In Confidence', revealed: "With effect from Monday 27th April 1992, dedicated resources will be used to gather intelligence in respect of the movement of itinerants and travellers and deal with minor acts of trespass." An intelligence unit set up by Avon and Somerset Police produced regular Operation Nomad bulletins, listing personal details on travellers and regular festival goers unrelated to any criminal conviction. The Force Operational Order issued by the Chief Constable also stated: "Resources will be greatly enhanced for the period Thursday 21st May to Sunday 24th May inclusive in relation to the anticipated gathering of travellers in the Chipping Sodbury area."

This item referred to the annual Avon Free Festival which had been occurring in the area around the May bank holiday for several years, albeit in different locations. However, 1992 was the year Avon and Somerset Police intended to put a stop to it. As a result, the thousands of people travelling to the area for the expected festival were shunted into neighbouring counties by Avon and Somerset's Operation Nomad police manoeuvres. The end result was the impromptu Castlemorton Common Festival in West Mercia, another pivotal event in the recent history of festival culture. West Mercia Police claim they had no idea that an event might happen in their district and were therefore powerless to stop it. However, observers questioned whether it was possible that Avon and Somerset Police had not informed their neighbouring constabulary that they were pushing travellers their way in Operation Nomad.

In the event, a staggering 30,000 travellers, ravers, festival-goers and inner city youth gathered almost overnight on Castlemorton Common to hold a free festival that flew in the face of the Public Order Act 1986 and the Entertainment (Increased Penalties) Act 1990. It was a massive celebration and the biggest of its kind since the bountiful days of the Stonehenge Free Festival.

The authorities used Castlemorton in a way which led people to suggest it had been at least partly engineered by the authorities themselves. The right wing press published acres of crazed and damning coverage of the event, including the classic front page Daily Telegraph headline: "Hippies fire flares at Police". In the following morning's Telegraph, the editorial headline promised "New Age, New Laws" and within two months, Sir George Young, then Minister for Housing, confirmed that new laws against travellers were imminent "in reaction to the increasing level of public dismay and alarm about the behaviour of some of these groups." One revealing feature appeared in the Daily Telegraph following the festival at Castlemorton. Headlined "From ravers to travellers: a guide to the invaders", it profiled four individuals



under the headings 'The Squatter', 'The Raver', 'The Traveller' and 'The career Traveller' - a significant early indication of what was to come. Indeed, the outcry following Castlemorton provided the basis for the most draconian law yet levelled against alternative British culture. Just as the Public Order Act 1986 followed the events at Stonehenge in 1985, so the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 began its journey in 1992, pumped with the manufactured outrage which followed Castlemorton. By the time it reached statute two years later, the CJA, as it came to be known, included criminal sanctions against assembly, outdoor unlicensed music events, unauthorised camping, repetitive beats, squatting and 'aggravated trespass' (public demonstrations). The law also reduced the number of vehicles which could gather together from 12 (as stipulated in the Public Order Act 1986) to six.

The news-manufacture used to prepare the public palate for the coming law was incessant, with media descriptions of travellers including "a swarming of human locusts" in the Daily Telegraph and "These foul pests must be controlled" in the Daily Mail.

## Police Surveillance and Benefit Clampdowns

The year after Castlemorton Common, the police set up Operation Snapshot, an intelligence gathering exercise on raves and travellers designed to establish a database of personal details, registration numbers, park up sites and movements. This information was used as a backbone for an ongoing intelligence operation begun by the Southern Central Intelligence Unit (SCIU), operated from Devizes in Wiltshire and initially co-ordinated by PC Malcolm Keene. The SCIU held regular meetings with representatives of all the constabularies of Britain.

Leaked documents revealed that Operation Snapshot had estimated there to be around 2,000 traveller vehicles and 8,000 Travellers in the UK. In the minutes of a meeting held at Devizes on March 30th 1993, the objectives of the operation included the development of "a system whereby intelligence could be taken into the control room, and the most up-to-date intelligence was to hand"..... "capable of high speed input and retrieval and dissemination of information". The meeting was attended by constabulary representatives from Bedfordshire, Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Dyfed-Powys, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, South Wales, Gwent, Staffordshire, Thames Valley, Warwickshire, Surrey, Suffolk, West Mercia, West Midlands and the Ministry of Defence (Hampshire and Essex sent apologies). The National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) also had representatives at the meetings, and requested that the NCIS should be allowed "to move in with the Southern Central Intelligence Unit for one or two weeks during the Solstice".

They were all asked and all agreed to provide the Southern Central Intelligence Unit with "any information, no matter how small on New Age Travellers or the Rave scene". The leaked minutes revealed the Operation Snapshot database was initially constructed to hold one million items of information. After a short period, the Northern New Age Traveller Co-ordination Unit, designed to cover the north of Britain, was established and operated from Penrith in Cumbria.

Further intelligence information was gathered via social security offices. The working party report on Itinerant Claimants, prepared for the DHSS in 1986, advised that "in the interests of advance warning and the safety of staff, we recommend better liaison with the police." A 1993 internal Benefits Agency bulletin headed 'New Age Travellers' and marked "not to be released into the public domain", stated: "Offices will be aware of the adverse reaction from the media following the treatment of claims from this client group last summer [Castlemorton]. Ministers are concerned that the Benefits Agency and Employment Services take all necessary steps to ensure that claims from this group are scrutinised carefully." The bulletin reports that a National Task Force had been set up to "monitor the movements of such groups of Travellers" and to "inform relevant District managers of their approach and numbers". In the back of the bulletin is a list of telephone numbers for all the regional police contacts in both the Northern New Age Traveller Co-ordination Unit and the Southern Central Intelligence Unit. Every constabulary in the country, including the Ministry of Defence police had at least one but usually several such designated co-ordinators. In 1995, the Benefits Agency conducted a census of New Age Traveller benefit claimants including their personal details. A leaked copy of the results suggested there to be 2000 such claimants. In July 1996, more leaked documents revealed that the Agency was once again asking regional offices to carry out a census, the results of which are as yet unrevealed. Following the introduction of the Job Seekers Allowance Scheme in October 1996, benefits could be halted if "appearance" or "attitude" "actively militates getting a job". The implications for the further selective targeting of the traveller community were obvious.

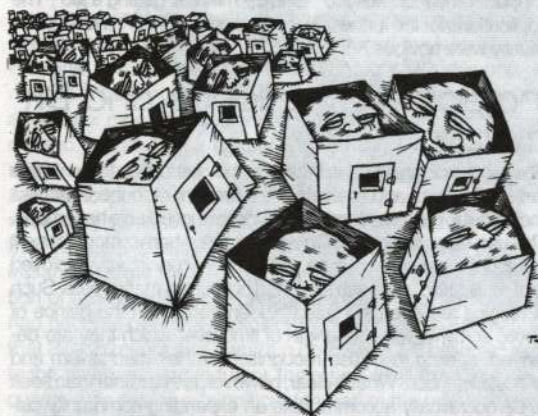
## Increased surveillance and DiY mutation

The extraordinary lengths taken by the authorities to annihilate travellers, raves and festivals are a testament to the treatment meted out to cultural minorities outside the acceptable hegemony. The use of legislation, intelligence targeted harassment, benefit clampdowns and news-manufacture were consistently deployed as a multi-tactic approach stretched out across many years. Such strategies are often executed hidden from even the glance of public scrutiny; with the length of time over which they are deployed, serving to diffuse recognition of their mechanism and ultimate intention. What is clear, however, is that rather than seek to democratically accommodate an expanding community culture, Margaret Thatcher's government and those who replaced her sort instead to annihilate it. Although the battered survival of both travellers and free festivals demonstrates that they did not fully succeed, their jackboot approach left a lot of pain in its wake.

### Sources quoted in body text:

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**Squotes**  
 "Politics on its own is deadly dull. Entertainment on its own is deadly irrelevant."  
*Performer Pieter-Dirk Uys.*

# URBAN DESERT







WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WE COULDN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP

# SchNEWS

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Friday 6th March 1998

<http://www.schnews.org.uk/>

Issue 203 Free/Donation

## PARKING MAD

*"There is a time for words and a time for action. Now is the time for action."*

Harry, a local campaigner currently up a tower during the eviction

As SchNEWS went to press the eviction of the protest camp at Crystal Palace entered its third day. The site is surrounded by hundreds of security and police, main roads have been closed off, but protestors reckon the eviction could last for at least another ten days.

The Grade II listed park, on the highest point in London, is about to be carved up to make way for a £56 million, 20 screen multiplex cinema with 9 bars/restaurants, various retail outlets with concrete ramps leading cars up to the largest rooftop car-park in Britain! 12 acres of the park and 150 trees will disappear under the building which has been likened to an 'airport terminal.' This blot on the landscape will be visible for miles.

*Despite the fact that there was no environmental impact assessment; the Wildlife and Countryside Act was broken and the EU Habitat Directive ignored John Prescott gave the venture the green light saying there was no need for a public enquiry. Since taking over the park from the G.L.C. in 1986 Bromley Council have deliberately run the park down hoping any development would be welcomed by locals. However, the Councils claim that the development will "capture the essence of Paxtons work" hasn't washed with the locals who complain that the consultation process left a lot to be desired. The trashing of Crystal Palace, however, is being repeated around the country. The London Wildlife Trust estimate that sixty wildlife sites in the capital have been threatened by development this year alone.*

Not that architect Ian Ritchie cares. He told disgruntled residents "I'm glad people don't like it - it confirms my belief that it is a good design."

The complex aims to attract people from across South London and as Croydon councillor Adrian Dennis points out, "It is a car led development".

One of the boroughs bordering the site, Southwark, despite having the lowest car ownership rates in the country, suffers some of the worst air pollution rates in northern Europe, and will be hit further by the development with thousands of visitors expected.

In fact Bromley Council's own traffic advisory

when asked by a local person how they could cope with the extra traffic replied 'It will be best to avoid the area'. Bit difficult when you live there.

Southwark is also the most densely populated district in northern Europe - here more than anywhere people need open spaces. Still, councillor John Lewis, a supporter of the development reckons "People don't want change and will find any excuse to hinder progress. There is a hard core group of people who want a museum and more trees in the park."

More trees in a park - good god, whatever next. As one protestor Storm Porrum told SchNEWS "Parks are the lungs of any city and we don't want our breathing space encroached upon by a development that will only add to pollution by increased car use."

### A little history

The Park lies on what was once Penge Common, a patchwork of common land dominated by the Great North Wood. The area was still wooded and rural when the Great Exhibition housed in the 'Crystal Palace' building was moved from Hyde Park to Sydenham Hill in 1852. Over the years the Palace, built by Joseph Paxton became run-down until it burnt down in 1936 after a cigarette was dropped during an orchestra rehearsal. The resulting fire was seen across south east England. The grounds of the Palace became parkland and various Acts were passed by parliament to ensure that the land was held as recreation space for the people.

### Directions to the camp:

It's at the corner of Crystal Palace Park Road and Westwood Hill. By train: Crystal Palace or Gypsy Hill station direct from Victoria then walk up the hill. No.3 bus from Brixton or No. 63 to Kings Cross to Palace.

Contact the Crystal Palace Campaign 0181 693 8200

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For talking to a shop-keeper! After having the cheek to ask a Nottingham ASDA store manager about genetically modified food labelling, a man was told he could either "starve to death, or shop somewhere else". None to pleased with the reply, the disgruntled customer went back the next day and handed out leaflets about the mutant foodstuffs, when he was arrested on suspicion of "tampering and poisoning Asda food products"! (hey, does that mean we can charge Monsanto and their ilk?) The man was released without charge a few hours later.

### CASUAL KILLERS PT2

The Simon Jones Memorial Campaign swung into action again on Wednesday invading the Department of Trade and Industry and occupying the lobby for an hour to demand the prosecution of employment agency, Personnel Selection.

Simon Jones was sent by Personnel Selection to work for Euromin on the docks. He received no health and safety training despite being asked to do one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. Within two hours he was dead. Nearly a year on and despite every legal channel being exhausted as well as a series of high-profile actions no-one has been prosecuted over his death.

Meanwhile on the same day in Parliament George Galloway MP thundered "James Martell's (Euromin manager) contempt for the laws of health and safety in this country, his greed and hunger for profit, his negligence and carelessness, slaughtered this young man just as clearly as if he had pushed him off the dock with his own hands."

Simon's death highlights the spread of low-pay and casualisation across Britain; as a spokesperson from the Memorial Campaign told SchNEWS "If you want to kill someone, the easiest way to get away with it is to do it at work."

Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2600, Brighton, E.Sussex, BN2 2DX [www.simonjones.org.uk](http://www.simonjones.org.uk)

\* Tony Blair has declared in the Register of Members Interest that the Freedom Group of Companies has seconded an employee to work in his constituency office for 15 hours a week. The company advises business on how to convert staff contracts into freelance jobs.

\* A gorilla from the Welsh Socialist Alliance recently tried to get a job at Staff Sign recruitment agency in Wrexham, after hearing the firm paid peanuts. Apparently the recruitment agency boss went bananas.

**SCHNEWS BENEFIT**  
Thursday 18th March  
**Ground Zero & the Exodus Collective**

8 - 9.30 pm film and talk by Exodus followed by music!(til 2)  
@New Madeira Hotel, on the seafront. Just £3

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## CRAP APPOINTMENT OF THE WEEK

"Appointing the former boss of the Countryside Landowners Association to head the Countryside Agency is like putting an alcoholic in charge of a pub." Kate Atkinson, Rambler's Association

What is the CLA? Sounds like a people's democracy movement doesn't it?

**DON'T BE A NANA!** The Countryside Landowners Association is the exclusive club which, as their own promo blurb enthuses, is "a force to be reckoned with, constantly lobbying ministers and government departments" to safeguard the interests of private landowners. In fact, its headquarters are in exclusive Belgrave Square, London, in property owned by the Duke of Westminster, Britain's largest landowner. Last year the Right to Roam movement, headed by the Rambler's Association and the Land Is Ours seemed on the verge of victory with the Blair's pledge to introduce laws forcing landowners to open up their land. So abhorrent were the squirearchy at the prospect of picnicking families and courting couples interrupting a Saturday afternoon's bloodfest, that the Countryside Alliance was formed in the blaze of publicity which guaranteed that the Stoogetry for State got the message. A year on, and a bill backed by the Rambler's Association would, if passed, remove all farming subsidies and government grants from landowners who obstruct footpaths or refuse to provide public access. No-one could be more aware of the duty of landowners to share the wealth of nature's bounty with the people than Ewen Cameron, the former president of the CLA and handpicked by Blair himself to chair the new Countryside Agency, which will oversee the whole Right To Roam programme. Indeed it's almost poetic that Cameron is the same Somerset potato farmer who planted spuds over a public right of way through his farm in 1996. "Trust me, I'm a landowner". I think not. \* Pack your sarnies for the next South Downs Mass Trespass Meet 10am Brighton Train Station March 21.

## CRAP JOB OF THE WEEK

Heard the one about the 'Sustainable Aviation' research post at Manchester University held by Professor Callum Thomas and funded by, eh, Manchester Airport?

Air transport is believed to be responsible for 5% of 'greenhouse gases', so Schnews decided to investigate this apparent conflict of interest. Upon questioning, Prof. Callum declared "yes I'm a fat cat... (but) it is very important for decisions made by society - to be based on sound science." Obviously, the fact that his funding body has an interest in getting a positive light for aviation will not affect his research in any way, and he will of course produce the soundest, unbiased science.

## LOONY LAMBETH

On Wednesday night, over 100 local people were stopped from entering a Lambeth Council meeting held to discuss cuts in local services, including special needs schools, playcentres, youth and community centres. The cops were called, the street barricaded but the council did not change their tune. When SchNEWS tried to discover what's happening in Lambeth, the council gave us the runaround, complaining that the different committees have little contact with each other. "It's difficult to find anything out," one confused official told us. These cuts continue the process of gentrification of Brixton, but people aren't taking this lying down. Local disabled activists are occupying the Lambeth Centre for Independent Living, and the 121 Centre, Railton Road, still faces eviction. For more info contact the 121 Centre on 0171 274 6655, email mark261@hotmail.com.

## 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 whatever next - the Evening Argus supporting the Simon Jones Memorial Campaign! Really.

## SchNEWS in brief

The trial of the three **Portsmouth hunt sabs** up on charges of conspiracy (see SchNEWS 202) has been postponed for the time being. Contact Defence Campaign, c/o Box H 167 Fawcett Rd, Southsea, Hants. Tel 0411 166 533 \*\* **Goldsmith College** students are occupying their lecture building after 8 students were expelled for not paying their tuition fees. They are in court today to fight a possession summons. Meetings are in the Whiteland Building, Goldsmith College, Dixon Road New Cross SE1 5pm every day. Contact 0181 692 1406/0797 9896545

\*\*Having problems explaining the problems of Free Trade? Why is the World Bank so destructive? What is the IMF? What resistance is there world wide? **Undercurrents** have produced a radical 12 minute video exposing the truth. Entitled "WASHES WHITE!" it's £10 plus £1.50 p+p from undercurrents, 16b Cherwell St, Oxford OX4 1BG Tel 01865 203662 www.undercurrents.org

\*\* **MAI-DAY ACTION** on Sat May 1st in Birmingham, needs imagination, music, ideas, street entertainment, banners, donations etc to set the city alight with fun and frolics. Contact 0961 810356 to get involved

\*\*\* **The Network of Socialist Alliances** Conference will be held on Saturday 27 March at the Union Club, 723 Pershore Rd, Birmingham. Contact 32, The Green, Long Lawford, Rugby CV23 9BL Tel 01788 569766. \*\*There's a **whistle-blower** march outside virovision lab Huntingdon Life Sciences on Sat 20th March 11 am outside Huntingdon Tesco, Ring Road (A141) Tel 0589 026435 www.fortunecity.com/greenfield/shell/279/

\*\* **National Anti-Fur Day**: Sat March 6th. Brighton Animal Rights Coalition demo outside Karen Millen boutique, Nile Pavillions, Nile St, 12pm. Brighton's last fur stockists! \*\*What a shame - but apparently the new road surface on the **Newbury Bypass** is cracking up with pot-holes appearing; oil and mud is filling the balancing ponds and the police complaining the slip-roads are too short \*\*\* It's **International Women's Day** this Monday (8th) and the Crossroads Women's Centre have organised some events over the coming month. Sunday 14th March there's a Mothers Day Celebration and Protest 1pm; 26th March video and talks celebrating the sans-papiers (without papers) third anniversary - both events at the Women's Centre. Meanwhile this Sunday there's various events at Hove Town Hall 11 am - 4pm. Join the global women's strike 8th March 2000 'for a new millennium that values women's work and women's lives'. Contact Crossroads, 230a Kentish Town Rd (entrance on Caversham Rd.) London NW5 0171 482 2496

## SNORT FAIR!

Our crazy Californian chums in the city of Huntington Beach (a.k.a Surf City) have signed a deal with Coca-Cola giving the dodgy scum exclusive rights for ten years to display their corporate logo in parks, on benches, even on police and fire stations. Coca-Wankas competitors Pepsi has been banned from sale in all but a few outlets. However, Pepsi are close to signing a similar deal with California's state capital, Sacramento, that "will send a tidal wave of Pepsi over Coke's Huntington Beach deal," says an executive, who no doubt enjoys surfing in his toilet.

\* What have McDonalds, Coca-Cola and Wrigleys all got in common? They all gave £25,000 last year to the Tidy Britain Group who every April organise the National Spring Clean. Y'know where people go round woods, ponds etc. clearing up all the excessive package generated by organisations like - well, eh McDogshit, Coke and Wrigleys. Hey and guess what? The chairman of the Tidy Britain Group is Peter Stokes formerly of 'The Real Thing'.

## INSIDE SCHNEWS

"The pie is cast. We shall not rest until justice, as well as dessert, is served" - Agent Apple of the Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB)

Three members of the BBB have been imprisoned for the anarchic and blatantly anti-social, not to say extremely violent, act of pissing San Francisco mayor Willie Brown. Having already pied the Chief Executive Officers of Monsanto and Maxxam, last November the BBB launched their act of humiliation at Mayor Brown, for his continued collusion with developers at the cost of local poor and homeless people. "Poverty is violence" said Justin Gross, one of the three sentenced. Rahula Janowski suffered a broken collar bone in the fracas that ensued when Mayor Brown ordered the Cherry Pie 3 arrested by his mayor's police guard. The judge complied with Mayor Brown's demand for the maximum sentence of six months for simple battery. This from a Mayor known for his (unpunished) violent outbursts.

Write to the Cherry Pie 3:

**Rahula Janowski #1818075**

c/o SF County Jail 8, E Pod, 425 7th St.SF, CA 94103

**Justin Gross #1818071c/o SF County Jail 8, B Pod 425 7th St.SF, CA 94103**

**Gerry Livernois** has not been sent down yet due to medical reasons.

The BBB could really use some financial support. Cheques and money orders can be made out to Jeff Larson and sent to: Friends of the BBB: 3288 21st #92, San Francisco, CA, 94110, or contact <bbb\_apple@hotmail.com>.

\* "...They Will Never Get Us All!" a new booklet of writings and poetry by US Anarchist prisoner and jailhouse lawyer Harold H Thompson is available for £1.80 from Huddersfield ABC, PO Box 12766, HD13XX.

**Stop-press**: The first two protestors to be charged under the Criminal Justice Act 'trespassory assembly' laws yesterday had their convictions over-turned in a landmark ruling. More next week.

## ...and finally...

It isn't usual for SchNEWS to be lost for words, so we thought we'd throw it out to our readers. An ordinary Wednesday at SchNews Towers, when who should phone but Chief Inspector Mike Flynn from Sussex Police HQ. "Can you help me," quoth the voice of Law 'n' Order, explaining he'd been put in charge of compiling the 'National Guide To Public Order Policing'. Keen to stress his (yawn) 'sense of fair play', CI Flynn doesn't just want the views of the goons with batons. Oh no. He wants to know how YOU feel. "I'm interested in 'alienated groups' expectations of the police," he enthused. Can you help the friendly copper, readers? Don't get too carried away, though: "I know some people might wish we just disappeared altogether. Hey, can we talk real world here?"

CI Flynn is of the opinion some of us may have had 'good experiences' of public order policing. He wants to know about them. "Perhaps some people have even had negative experiences of police in such situations," he added, more plausibly. "Perhaps they have low expectations of us." Surely not? "Tell me about them too."

Well, he asked for it. If you'd like to assist CI Flynn with his enquiries (we know you're itching to) his direct number is 01273 404345; fax 01273 404229. "Please don't hesitate to call".

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to get the silly romantic impression that parks are places to chill out, hang out with wildlife and breathe some fresh air. Let's make it crystal clear. They are not. Money doesn't grow on trees y'know.





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER COOL BANANA!

# SchNEWS

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Issue 204 Free/Donation

## KILLER CORPS GO BANANAS

"Has the world gone mad or is it me?"

Dave Brock- Master of the Universe

Late last year, the guardians of freedom and democracy felt compelled to mount a tactical trade offensive against small Caribbean farmers, as a golden thankyou to Carl H. Lindner, the Chief Execution Officer of Chiquita Brands International, who donated \$500,000 dollars to Democrat funds.

Only hours after receiving this philanthropic gesture the Clinton administration lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) charging the EU with having a 'discriminatory' approach to importing bananas. That is, the EU support the Caribbean economies which rely on banana exports for survival, in preference to the economies of the expansionist corporations which have controlled Central America's "banana republics" with an iron fist for decades.

The US is now threatening action against a range of European business from Italian light fittings to Scottish cashmere sweaters, in response to the \$520 million US banana giants Chiquita, Dole and Del Monte claim they 'lose due to unfair trade' each year. Chiquita alone is worth \$14 billion.

Like one of those baby fishies that just gets bigger and bigger by eating all the smaller baby fishies in the same creek who think it's harmless cos it looks the same as them, the US Killer Corps have gone to war on their allies.

The ACP banana trade is rooted in colonialism which has left Caribbean economies dependent on exports to Europe for survival.

Now small Caribbean farmers are facing ruin because the Chiquita-Dole cartel, which owns massive plantations in Latin America, effectively act as price setters.

*"Take a drive around the island and the decline is evident. Everybody you speak to will tell you that the banana industry is heading for the rocks. Just a few years ago there were 6500 banana growers, these days there are only between 3000 and 4000 in an atmosphere of total uncertainty"*

Windward Islands Farmer's Association.

The real costs of banana production are not included in the current retail price. Banana production in the Windwards is characterised by smallholders, who grow their fruit on family owned farms. The system is labour intensive, and use of agrochemicals is low. Despite the pressures, banana quality from the Islands is on the up. Bananas are Britain's most popular fruit and consumption is increasing. In a fair world you would think there would be room for the smallholders. But Chiquita has 70%

of the EU banana market and wants the lot.

*"The market is now governed solely by the classic supply and demand mechanism. Within the new system, only the most competitive producers will be able to supply the European market."* Banana Link

So let's look at the world of banana dollars and see if we like it.

- Transnational business methods in the 'banana republics' have followed a familiar pattern of eviction, exploitation and negligence.

- In Guatemala, a union officer organising Chiquita plantation workers was shot dead in 1994 while other trade unionists received death threats.

- In Honduras, in 1996, an entire village of 600 people in a banana plantations was bulldozed by troops. Chiquita said the land was no longer suitable, and people must be evicted so it could be sold - then they leased it to a former employee who continued with slashed labour costs. Chiquita was later revealed to have bought food and fuel for the army unit carrying out the clearances.

- And last week Chiquita laid off 6000 workers in Honduras and Guatemala only 120 days in the wake of a hurricane. They have received no financial assistance for the last two months. The company is trying to get unions to agree to lower wages and reduced social benefits. 'Banana dollar' production requires massive capital investments in the form

of roads, irrigation and drainage. Plantations have an unhappy history of low-wages, limited worker's rights, poor working conditions and high levels of agrochemical use.

Frequent applications of the pesticide DBCP (banned in the countries which produced it) together with inadequate protection, has led to more than 20,000 cases of male sterility amongst workers. Both Chiquita and Dole are involved in legal cases brought by those affected. For every ton of bananas shipped, two tons of waste are left behind while an average Costa Rican consumes an incredible 4kg of pesticides a year, eight times the world average. Chiquita's track record is one of aggression, intimidation and brutality in pursuit of massive profits.

SchNews ain't avin it and maybe you ain't either, so this weeks alternative is to discriminate like fuck against Chiquita and support fair trade bananas by buying those labelled Windward Islands (5 Isles bananas) We do not recommend readers find out where Chiquita CEO Lindner lives, buy a Chiquita banana, tie up the slimeball, and shove said banana, now coated in a powerful fixative up the tosser's rectum.

**World Development Movement,**

25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR

0171 737 6215 - [www.oneworld.org/wdm](http://www.oneworld.org/wdm)

**Banana Link**

38-40 Exchange St, Norwich NR2 1XA

### PARK PRANKS

The protest camp at Ashton Court Park in Bristol is calling it a day. For nearly a year protestors have tried to stop the expansion of Durnford Quarry into the park. With the meadow 'translocated' and blasting imminent, it was time to say goodbye, but not without the last few laughs.

Ashton Court was given to the people of Bristol in 1959 with the condition that nothing be done that 'would detract from its value as a recreation ground or prejudice the enjoyment of the people'. Realising that turning the park into an open quarry and destroying the habitats of rare orchids and other wildlife might just 'prejudice their enjoyment' of it, two protestors absented into the quarry and occupied a ledge above a load of explosives that were due to be detonated five minutes later. They were evicted by police after 32 hours and are in court at the end of the month. Meanwhile the quarry manager had his lawn translocated onto his driveway - and a daffodil planted on the roof of his car. Translocation means digging up everything and placing the land elsewhere. Surprise, surprise, it never works but it makes for good greenwash!

### DOUBLE BILLING SPECTACULAR Thursday 18th March REBEL ALLIANCE

7 pm sharp upstairs at  
Hobgoblin Pub, London Road  
Followed by SchNEWS  
BENEFIT

### EXODUS COLLECTIVE GROUND ZERO

@ New Madeira Hotel, 19-23 Marine  
Parade (along the seafront).  
8 - 9.30 pm SchNEWS live! & talk and  
film from the Exodus Collective  
then music till 2 am  
Just £3

Transport is hopefully being sorted to get  
people from the Alliance to Maderia Hotel



## RIGHT TO STAND on roadside victory

All at SchNEWS towers can sleep soundly tonight, safe in the knowledge that we are free to stand on the verge next to the road-side and not fear arrest. The Lord Chancellor decided last Thursday to uphold the quashing of the conviction of two people who were hanging out round Stonehenge one summer solstice, and nicked under the trespassory assembly section of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA). The clause was originally intended to make assemblies of 20 or more people a criminal offence, but the ruling could make this unworkable.

However, before you get carried away with all these new rights, and run out there to stand on your nearest road-side, beware! You can only do so if you have a "reasonable purpose", or the "activity in question does not amount to a public or private nuisance and does not obstruct the highway by unreasonably impeding the primary right of the public to pass and repass" (got that) Rest assured, we can continue to protest peacefully, while our lungs fill up with carbon monoxide.

## RIGHT TO WALK in the countryside shocker

While you're recovering from the shock of discovering that you can stand on the verge of the A303, there's more! Jump for joy, Michael "Swampy" Meacher, this week announced a right to roam across 4 million acres of open land in the UK. It is surely only a matter of time before all land in the UK is collectivised, and we live in anarchist communes, eating root vegetables, sharing stories of the revolution.

However, don't get too excited, as there's no timetable for legislation, and it could get amended beyond all recognition by House of Commons committees, or by those well known guardians of the freedom to access, the House of Lords. Richard Moysse from Land Is Ours told SchNEWS "It's a start, but not entirely satisfactory".

Meanwhile the Local Access Forums could end up a bureaucratic nightmare over-seen by the Countryside Agency, which as we pointed out in last week's SchNEWS is headed by landed gentry bod and former president of the Country Landowners Association, Ewan, ('just like putting an alcoholic in charge of a pub') Cameron.

\*Mass Trespass Sunday March 21st Meet Brighton Station 10 am sharp. Six miles walk. No dogs. £5 travel costs. Tel 01273 620815

\*Sat April 3rd land occupation somewhere in the south of England, to celebrate 350th anniversary of Diggers occupation of St George's Hill.

The Land Is Ours, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RQ Tel 01865 722016 [www.oneworld.org/tlio](http://www.oneworld.org/tlio)

### SECURITY GUARDS ROB LOCAL SHOPS

As SchNEWS went to press, the eviction at Crystal Palace entered its tenth day with people still down the tunnels trying to stop a massive leisure complex being built in the park (see SchNEWS 203). While Bromley Council moan about "professional protestors...preventing those in the surrounding area who are unemployed and unskilled from the opportunities that will..." (blah, yawn) they stay stony silent about the fact that some private security guards from Pilgrim Security have been nicked during the eviction after robbing the local off-licence and petrol station.

There's a massive party planned this Saturday (13th) Meet 12 noon at the Palace Parade. Contact the Campaign 0181 693 8200

## 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](mailto:schnews@brighton.co.uk)

## SchNEWS in brief

We klad you not - after last weeks SchNEWS revelation that McDonalds gives cash to the Tidy Britain Group comes this little gem. Operation Eyesore is a new campaign "designed to encourage improvement in London's most tired and neglected areas." People can nominate their favourite blots on the landscape by picking up leaflets from ...any central London McDonalds. \*\*McDogshit is planning to build a giant 1,000 diner restaurant which will dominate the approach to the Millennium Dome. When Tony Blair was asked why the so-called showcase of British culture should be sponsored by "a great big American fast food corporation, which would probably try to reduce it to a large McDome and fries" he replied that the project needed all the sponsors it could get. \*\*\* The Erotic Oscars male and female striptease artistes semi-finals are on 31st March at Improv, 161 Tottenham Court Rd., London, W1P. £10/6 conc. Money raised will go to the Leydig Trust - helping disabled people find partners \*\*\* SchNEWS has unconfirmed reports from Topshop that they are withdrawing their kipper tie range after they were found to contain genetically modified organisms \*\*\* There's a 'Kitsch Bitch' exhibition at The Last Chance Saloon all this month featuring freaks, monsters and a host of fanatics and revolutionaries 88 Lower Marsh, Waterloo, London, SE1 7AB (Waterloo tube) Ring 0171 7717466 for opening times \*\*\* Lyminge Forest in Kent, has now been occupied for two years to stop the RANK corporation destroying 500 acres of green belt land for a leisure complex. There will be a gathering on Sunday 21st March from 12 noon looking to create a NO SINGLE ISSUE SITE, uniting different campaigns and creative stuff. Contact Jani on 0171 231 0181 or 9797025 3931 \*\*\* Yesterday saw the first ever conviction of a mink fur-farmer for animal cruelty. The farmer who had all his mink released by the ALF recently was fined a pathetic £5,000. If you want to really rub it in there's a demo outside his Windmill Mink Farm, Shaftesbury Rd, Child Okeford, Dorset on Sunday 21st March 11.30 am e-mail: [caft@demon.co.uk](mailto:caft@demon.co.uk) \*\*\* On Saturday 20th March there's another day of action Hillgrove Farm, against cat-breeders for vivisection, meeting at the main gates 12 noon. There are also skills days for animal rights campaigners in Brighton and Birmingham on Sunday 28th March - advice on running an effective campaign, using hidden cameras, and how to deal with all those friendly coppers. For more info call 0121 632 6460. \*\*\* On the same theme, two activists charged with 'conspiracy to commit criminal damage' after a genetic crop site was trashed will be in Plymouth Crown Court on Monday 29th March and request loud and colourful support. \*\*\* The End is Nigh West London Anarchists and Radicals are organising a 'not yer normal' benefit night on Friday 19th March at the Venture Centre, 103A Wornington Rd, (Westbourne Park tube) 8-11pm. \*\*\* The prison service may have to pay up to £1 million in compensation to higher waged inmates who were charged for board and lodging under a policy introduced by the last Tory government. \*\* Following on from last year's Mayday event in Bradford, there will be a three day Easter Rising in Glasgow on April 2nd-4th for discussing global capitalism, multinationalism, consumerism, and (more excitingly) how to oppose it all. Contact CI [autonomy] on 0141 810 3001 or e-mail [radfest@yahoo.com](mailto:radfest@yahoo.com) \*\* Free Range Activism Network is running a day workshop on landfills, how they work, how they get built, and the risks to the environment and human health they present. 11am to 4.00pm, Sat. 20th March at The Stewpony pub, Stourton, nr. Stourbridge. Contact Chris Smart on 01384 877020 email [mobbsey@gn.apc.org](mailto:mobbsey@gn.apc.org)

## RUSSIAN REVOLUTION DEJA VU

A Workers' Collective Committee has taken over a machine-building plant in Yasnogorsk, a town of 20,000 people near Moscow. The 4,200 workers are battling the Communist Party local authority and the (Yeltsinite) privatization program for the plant. In 1990, the factory was turned into a joint stock company in which the workers held a majority of shares. Last September the workers and shareholders of the plant dismissed the Administration at a general meeting. When the "owners" of the plant refused to recognize the results, the workers seized control. A Soviet-style Workers Collective was set up and now oversees admin, production, selling, all finances, distribution of wages and the town as a whole. Last December 10,000 people from Yasnogorsk marched to block the railway line into Moscow to support demands for the release from prison of the worker-elected directors of the factory and to stop the privatization move. It was only the mobilization of special police forces which prevented the workers from paralyzing one of the main railways in Russia. The Yasnogorsk workers say, "This is our revolution" and are appealing for international solidarity in the fight against the trend towards private property and global capitalism.

### RIP

Once again the message from Colombia is 'Don't fuck with the oil barons.' Two years ago the U'wa people won a law suit to stop US firm Occidental Petroleum (working with Shell of course) from drilling in their lands. They had threatened mass suicide believing that if oil ('the blood of the earth') was extracted it would mean the end of the tribe. Helping them with their legal battle and deeply committed to the U'wa people, was Terence Freitas who along with Ingrid Washinawatok and Lahe'ena' Gay were kidnapped last week on their way to the reserve. Their bodies were found bound, blindfolded and bullet ridden. No one has yet claimed responsibility for their deaths.

SchNEWS dedicates this weeks issue to them.

\* Berito KuwarU'wa from the tribe will open the Earth Centre near Doncaster on March 28th. Contact 01709 512000

## ...and finally...

Heard the one about Hunt Liaison Police officer from Wiltshire who got together with his mates from the Countryside Alliance and Master of Fox Hounds Association and produced, after 'lengthy consultation' a code of conduct for hunt protestors "which everyone agreed was the way forward". Apart of course Hunt Sabs and the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS), who seem to have been overlooked in the 'lengthy consultation' process. The code includes gems like

"Do not attempt to interfere with the hunt, engage in any form of sabotage be it direct action or subtle tactics (ie use of whips, horns, sprays, shouting/yelling or the use of your vehicle in any manner to obstruct/cause nuisance to the hunt".

"In the interests of safety should an injured fox be required to be dug out and humanely destroyed a 50 metre exclusion zone will be in force."

Which would just about make hunt sabbing totally ineffective... Talking of coppers, the first hard evidence (if any was needed) that foxes suffer stress and exhaustion from being hunted came early in February, when a fox being chased by a hunt, sought refuge down a rabbit hole. 'Copper' the fox was eventually rescued by sabs and taken to a vet and is now recovering. SchNEWS wishes 'copper' well - tho' we think the idea of sending 'Get well soon cards' a little odd. Wouldn't it prefer a nice juicy...

disclaimer "Come on punk, make my day!"





# WHO'S POLICING THE POLICE?

For the first time in its history, a prominent European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has been censured by a nation under investigation. And that nation is us. Si Mitchell reviews the implications of the CPT's damning indictment of police malpractice in the UK and reveals why Jack Straw is so keen for the cover up.

On December 16 1994, two police officers arrested Ghiji Lapite, a Nigerian asylum seeker on suspicion of possession of drugs. One officer applied a neck hold and the other admitted kicking the suspect in the head. Lapite died from asphyxiation. An inquest jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing, but the CPS refused to prosecute the officers responsible, claiming insufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction. The Police Complaints Authority decided not to push for disciplinary action. The decision not to prosecute Lapite's killers, along with those of another man who died in custody, Richard O'Brien, and the exposed torture of Derek Treadaway at the hands of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, triggered a visit to Britain from the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in September 1997. In March 1998, the CPT submitted its subsequent report to the British Government. The convention under which the committee operates allows the nation state concerned power to veto their reports. The Government (who has given conflicting answers to parliamentary questions about the report's whereabouts) sat on the document until Jan 13, when a censored version - complete with blanked out text - was finally released. No one, not even notorious human rights abusers like Turkey, has censored a CPT report before. We had the choice of not publishing at all or publishing this abridged form, said Mark Kelly of the CPT. Raju Bhatt, the solicitor who represented both Lapite's widow and Treadaway, described the document as a damning indictment of modern democracy. He says the process for investigating police officers is no more than an exercise in mitigation, designed solely to clear their names.

THE POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY (PCA), IS DESCRIBED AS ILL EQUIPPED TO CARRY OUT THE WATCHDOG ROLE IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN CAST.

The report (even minus the deleted memos sent by Metropolitan Police lawyers to high-ranking officers) is brutally critical, raising serious questions about the independence and impartiality of the procedures presently used to process complaints about police misconduct. Out of the 10,243 complaints lodged against the police in England and Wales during 1996/97 only 141 (0.4 per cent) resulted in criminal and/or disciplinary proceedings. In the same period only a single Metropolitan police officer was convicted of an offence against a yearly background of around six thousand complaints. The Police Complaints Authority (PCA), is described as ill-equipped to carry out the watchdog role in which it has been cast. The PCA disputes these figures, saying over half of the complaints are granted 'dispensation', or withdrawn by the complainant. This happens if a complaint is considered repetitious, malicious, is filed more than twelve months after the incident, or if it is not 'reasonably practical' to carry out an investigation. We neither see or want to see the majority of complaints, said an agitated Authority spokesman who disputed the CPT's claims that there is little public confidence in the PCA's independence. He said the committee had failed to under-

stand the British criminal justice system. The CPT's visiting team comprised two UK lawyers and a British trained High Court judge. On January 13, the outgoing Met Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, called for a truly independent complaints authority. The CPT criticises the substantial degree of influence the police retain over the entire complaints process. Both the PCA and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) are entirely reliant on evidence gathered by the police, in most cases by officers employed by the same force as that under investigation. As the report says: In the vast majority of cases the investigating officer will be a police officer from the force about which the complaint is being made, although the chief officer may exceptionally decide to appoint a police officer from another force..The majority of cases are unsupervised by the PCA. The role of 'chief officers', it says, needs to be reviewed. At present they are expected to oversee the disciplinary process from beginning to end, including appointing an investigating officer and determining what disciplinary action, if any, to take. It is doubtful whether any single officer is able to perform all of these functions in an entirely independent way, says the report.

I'VE ASKED MY SOLICITOR TO SUE SOUTH WALES POLICE, O'BRIEN TOLD SQUALL. BUT I DON'T THINK ANY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN. I'VE NEVER SEEN A POLICE OFFICER DONE YET FOLLOWING A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE CASE.

## SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

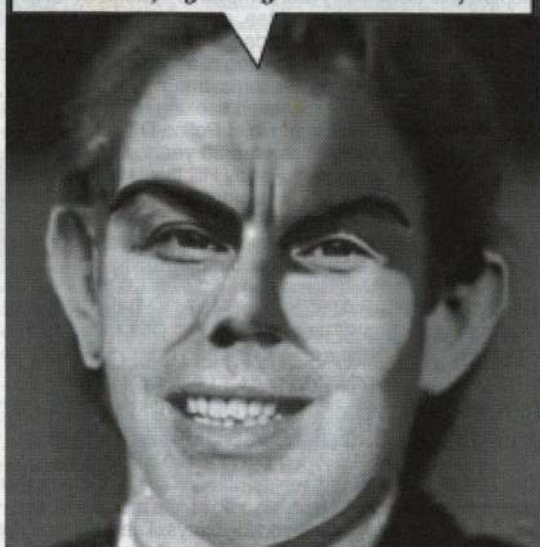
... I Wanna Go Home

Underground Update

Features

- Squall Pics
- Frontline Communique
- The State It's In
- Squates
- Resources
- Links
- From Our Correspondence

....A staunchly left New Labour Party ... but yet an amicably right wing New Labour Party...





Despite being bound by the Crown Prosecutors Code, which states a charge must be brought whenever there is a realistic prospect of conviction or it serves the public interest, the CPT found that the unwillingness of the courts to convict police officers has created a reluctance [within] the CPS to bring charges against them. This in turn has led to a higher standard of proof being required to charge police men and women, than is required for the rest of the population. The CPS said that the Glidewell, Macpherson and Butler inquiries (all published since 1997) have covered much of this ground. Judge Gerald Butler QC described the system used by the CPS for selecting who to prosecute as confused, inefficient and fundamentally unsound. Despite numerous recommendations, Raju Bhatt points out: We are yet to see much action from Jack Straw's action plan. Michael O'Brien of the Cardiff Newsagent Three, had his conviction for murder quashed in December 1999. He spent 11 years in prison during which time his daughter and father died. I've asked my solicitor to sue South Wales police, O'Brien told SQUALL. But I don't think any action will be taken. I've never seen a police officer done yet following a miscarriage of justice case. Paddy Hill, who spent 18 years for the 1975 Birmingham pub bombings in jail before his conviction was overturned, points out that there have been over 300 exposed miscarriages of justice since the Guildford Four were released in 1985, yet the system has not been improved. They're just getting better at covering their tracks, says Hill.

**THERE'S NO STATUTORY TIME LIMIT ON CRIME. BUT IF ANY CHARGES ARE BROUGHT AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS, THEY GO SICK AND THEN THEY RETIRE. THEY GET EIGHTY PER CENT OF THEIR WAGE, AND THEY ARE OUT OF TROUBLE. PADDY HILL**

- One of the Birmingham Six

Hill and O'Brien are in the process of setting up a Miscarriage of Justice Organisation (MOJO) which will offer legal, forensic and support services to victims of bad justice. They plan to launch it in June. Unlike the rest of the population, police officers have retained the 'right to silence' in their disciplinary procedures. A Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry in December 1997 recommended that this be brought into line with standard criminal proceedings. It concluded: There is a great deal of justified dissatisfaction with elements of the disciplinary and complaints system. Other proposals by the Select Committee, endorsed by the CPT report, include greater independence in police adjudication panels (at present often consisting of a single senior officer sitting in private) and greater commitment in establishing if an officer is genuinely sick, when seeking retirement. Paul Barrat of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) said: When an officer has served 30 years, they have the right to retire. According to Paddy Hill this is a ruse to escape disciplinary action: There's no statutory time limit on crime. But if any charges are brought against police officers, they go sick and then they retire. They get eighty per cent of their wage, and they are out of trouble.

**THE COMMITTEE ALSO CALLED FOR THE CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE TO BE REQUIRED TO GIVE DETAILED REASONS WHEN IT DECIDES NOT TO PROSECUTE OFFICER AND THE POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY SHOULD BE REPLACED BY A FULLY-FLEDGED INDEPENDENT AGENCY.**

The Police Federation says its officers are not above the law. But as Jimmy Robinson, cleared for the murder of newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater in 1997, says: The CPS took no action against the eleven officers in my case, despite Ap-

peal Court judges urging them to do so. Unable to gain satisfaction in the criminal justice system many have chosen to pursue their grievances through the civil courts. In 1996/97 the Met paid £2,658,000 in damages (either awarded by, or settled out-of, court), in over 1,100 civil actions. The PCA's spokesman pointed out that the standard of proof is lower in a civil court, with the decision reached on the balance of probabilities compared to the stricter criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt. However the CPT maintain that the gravity of these cases make the courts seek a very high degree of probability and distinguishing between the two standards, does not explain the failure to bring charges against officers whose conduct has been called into question in civil proceedings. The CPT studied four cases in detail where substantial payouts had been made following allegations of assault by officers. The one consistent thread was that no action was subsequently taken against any of the officers concerned. Despite the police being under legal obligation to initiate an investigation and send the results to the CPS, no senior Complaints Investigation Branch (CIB) officer questioned could recall this ever happening. In one example, the civil court even turned up eyewitness evidence - of a man being mauled by a police dog while handcuffed - that the CPS had overlooked

**THE POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY IS DISCREDITED AND IS A DISCREDIT. RAJU BHATT**  
- defence barrister

In conclusion the CPT recommended a review of all cases in the last two years that resulted in a payout in excess of £10,000. In each case, it says, the decision not to bring disciplinary/criminal charges should be reconsidered. The committee also called for the CPS to be required to give detailed reasons when it decides not to prosecute officers and the PCA should be replaced by a fully-fledged independent agency. The PCA is discredited and is a discredit, says Raju Bhatt, adding that it is widely accepted the authority will be replaced. However it is less a question of who will police the police, but how they will be policed and how they are seen to be policed. Bhatt says he understands officers have a difficult job to do. But to do it they need public confidence. To get that they must be seen to be answerable to the rule of law and subject to fair and impartial investigations. Transparency is the key. That's what we need. He believes the situation is not helped by the Government dragging its feet on implementing promised changes, or by the continued resistance towards prosecuting those who even Sir Paul Condon has described as bad officers. ACPO says it has introduced measures to significantly reduce pensions for officers discharged for misconduct. However, ACPO's Paul Barrat was unable to give an example of this actually happening. A Judicial Review last year compelled the CPS to explain their decisions not to prosecute in the Lapite, O'Brien and Treadaway cases. However legal manoeuvring and the passage of time scuppered any potential convictions. Treadaway's was granted £50,000, only to die within a month of the hearing. The police have issued guidelines discouraging the type of neck hold which killed Lapite, though they stress it is not unlawful. As with any use of force, the question to be considered is: 'Was it reasonable in the circumstances?' Lapite's widow, ground down by years of fighting, has chosen not to fight on, but to try and rebuild a life for herself and her children. Justice? asks Paddy Hill. They haven't got the integrity or intelligence to spell it let alone dispense it. The Home Office say they will respond to the CPT's report in February.

*To view the entire, though censored, CPT report check: <http://www.cpt.coe.fr/en/press/20000113en.htm> For more background information on miscarriages of justice check Getting away with it in the SQUALL features section.*





## HERBAL HIGHS

Unless a much bigger international coalition can be formed ... to save health freedom - we will see it stripped from us as the drug companies play a game called 'boiling the frog slowly' - John Hammell (The Life Extension Foundation).

Imagine walking into your local health food shop to get some herbal remedies or vitamin supplements. Well, if certain people get their way you won't be able to.

The Government has been secretly working on a proposal that would give the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) sweeping new powers to classify health products as medicines. Don't be surprised if you don't know anything about this. The government's consultation period wasn't exactly extensive with only a few weeks for objectors to put their side. When SchNEWS decided to have a ring around to find out what people involved with health and medicine reckoned to the proposal, most didn't know what the hell we were talking about (nothing new there then).

Thanks to Britain's membership of the European Union (EU), the only criteria the MCA needs to apply are:

- Can the product alter physiological function?
- Is it being used for medicinal purposes?
- Is as anything you eat or drink has an effect on your body, this covers everything.

Previously a product had to be either unsafe for human consumption, or else its manufacturer had to make false medicinal claims before it could be banned. In theory, under the new EU regulations, even glucose, coffee and brandy could be classified as medicinal. This back door plan will mean that if small businesses want to license a product they will have to fork out between £80 000, for a single-ingredient product, and £2 million, for a multi-ingredient product in order for them to go through testing procedures. Everything from cancer chemotherapy drugs to simple vitamin preparations would be treated the same.

*'Clearly this is but yet the latest stage of a concerted effort by the powerful pharmaceutical industry to halt the growing interest in 'alternative' medicine'*

Ann Wills (British Anti-Vivisection Association)

By restricting what nutritional supplements people can take, the government is telling us that we don't know our own bodies and aren't smart enough to make decisions about our own health. As Penny Viner of the Health Food Manufacturers Association points out

*"This proposal will achieve the situation whereby the MCA will be acting as policeman, judge and jury without any checks and balances"*

So who the hell are the MCA? They are a QUANGO, funded by taxpayers and run by people appointed by ministers. By 1996 a third of public expenditure (£50 billion) and three quarters of civil servants had been quangoed. It's hard to find the status of quangos: they can be Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Next Steps Executive Agencies, private companies, government departments, trusts, public companies, or a mixture of any of these. They can refuse to answer any questions over the phone by hiding behind their protected status and are only in the phone book under their supervising department's name. So here you are: the MCA's phone number is 0171 273 0392.

Internationally, the drug companies are trying to stitch us all up by saying a level playing field is needed for global commerce. To achieve this, countries must agree on common rules. A German proposal calls for (1) no dietary supplements to be sold for preventive or therapeutic use, (2) dosage limits set by the commission, and (3) preventing nations from setting their own standards. This proposal is being pushed by three German companies - Hoechst, Bayer, and BASF - who were formed when IG Farben was disbanded after the Nuremberg War Trials due to their role in manufacturing the poison gas used in the Nazi concentration camps.

So is SchNEWS getting its herbal knickers in a twist? To see what will soon happen here we only have to look across the pond to Canada and America where supplements have been withdrawn following similar pressures from the multinational drug companies.

According to Christopher Whitehouse of Consumers for Health Choice *"The implications are much more serious... It is not the law that has changed, but that the MCA is saying that it is going to be the most ruthless regulator in Europe"*

Oh dear - someone pass us a cup of Camomile tea.

Society for Promotion of Nutritional Therapy, P.O.Box 47, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8ZX Web: <http://visitweb.com/spnt>

Consumers for Health Choice, 9 Old Queen St, London SW1H 9JA

What Doctors Don't Tell You, 4 Wallace Rd, London N1. 2BR Web: [www.wdty.co.uk](http://www.wdty.co.uk)

## Revolting Students

Three Colleges and Universities in London have been occupied over the past couple of weeks, as students grew militant in the face of chronic underfunding. Funnily enough Tony Blair's promise to make education a top priority hasn't materialised for students. Not content with continuing phasing out grants, New Labour introduced tuition fees. However, when students started getting expelled for not doling out over £1000 a year in fees, they reacted. At Goldsmith's College in South London, 8 were expelled for non-payment, so they staged a week long occupation, ending only when the College gave in and re-instated the students from Easter.

At University College London (UCL), things were a bit more full on. Over 300 students occupied buildings in protest at the planned expulsion of non-payers. The occupation started at 1 pm on Thursday, UCL issued a Court summons by 9pm and the case was in Court the next morning. By 6pm that evening the bailiffs (who were paid triple time) turned up with sledge hammers. This eviction may be related to the fact that Mikhail Gorbachev was due to speak in one of the buildings occupied!

The students' union at UCL covered the college with posters disowning the occupation and wanted to liaise with the management. A student from UCL said "the Union's procedures are official, but not democratic. What have they done to secure the future of those who cannot pay?" The student welfare officer at UCL was even seen having a pint in the bar while students were being dragged out!

Meanwhile, over 100 students at Camberwell School of Art have been in occupation for over a week to protest against the lack of resources and increasing risk to students' welfare from dodgy Health and Safety practices. Management are refusing to reply to their demands until they concede. They are due in Court at 10am, Friday.

Contact the occupation: 07930 662 416.

\* Campaign for Free Education, PO Box 22615, London N4 1WT. Tel: 0958 556 756 [http://members.xoom.com/nus\\_cfe/](http://members.xoom.com/nus_cfe/)

## STOP-PRESS

As SchNEWS went to press, students at UCL had sacked their executive officers after a vote of no confidence.



# THE EXXON FILES SchNEWS in brief

It was just past midnight on March 24th, 1989, when the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* ran aground on Bligh Reef in the icy waters of Prince William Sound. Nearly 11 million gallons of crude leaked into the water, blackening 1,500 miles of the magnificent Gulf of Alaska coastline, 250,000 seabirds, 2,800 sea otters, 300 harbour seals, 250 bald eagles and as many as 22 killer whales were killed.

Ten years on from the most damaging oil spill in history, and the effects of the *Valdez* continue. According to a recent report by the state-run Oil Spill Trustee Council, which monitors the effects of the tanker accident, of the 28 species listed in the report, only two - the bald eagle and the river otter - are considered "fully recovered" a decade later.

However, another disaster soon followed that had nothing to do with the choking black mass that coated the pristine arctic wilderness. The *Valdez* disaster has become in the text-books of the public relations companies, a prime example of how *not* to handle the press and public. Forget the oil-spill, what Exxon needed was some green-wash.

*"It is easier and less costly to change the way people think about reality than it is to change reality"*

Morris Wolfe, PR consultant

Green-wash is the term used for corporations who make a big song and dance about chatting to mainstream environmental groups, spend millions on adverts telling the world how green they are, while behind the scenes doing everything they can to oppose any laws which might harm their profits. This is commonly known as having your cake and eating it, or what John Stauber, of PR Watch magazine calls the "good cop/bad cop" approach.

The father of 'greenwash', E. Bruce Harrison, is a strong advocate for corporate-environmental 'partnerships'. *"It's smart on two levels: it avoids legal problems, and it widens your options,"* he wrote in the 1993 book *'Going Green: How to Communicate Your Company's Environmental Commitment'*. In chapters with titles like *"Mental Greening: The Habit of Thinking Like a Good Guy"* and *"What to Do When You're Attacked by an Activist Group"*, he suggests that companies meet with citizens who criticise them, listen but reveal little information, and research their opponents, even if it means hiring private detectives to spy on them.

So while the *Valdez* oil spill continues to pollute the gulf of Alaska, Exxon continue to drag their feet in paying \$5 billion damages to the 30,000 Alaskans affected by their recklessness. Meanwhile, the company's vice president for environment and safety reckons that while the oil spill was unfortunate, exhaustive studies by the company and so-called independent scientists had found no long-term harm. Strange then that the Oil Spill Trustee Council have discovered that oil spills cause a hundred times more damage than previously thought and oil pollution of less than one part per billion is sufficient to kill marine life. Salmon and herring with half-formed tails, twisted spines and grossly distended stomachs are

still being caught in Alaska's Prince William Sound. 'There are still patches of heavy oil pollution out there, and traces of these are still killing fish,' said Dr Bruce Wright of the US National Maritime Fisheries Service in Alaska. 'It is not the local impact that is the real problem,' says Wright. 'Our work indicates that even microscopic amounts of oil that get into any stream or bay are going to kill fish. This is a problem for the whole world.' Swilling out a tank of diesel fuel or an out-board engine will have deadly consequences, he added. 'Even rain falling on car parks will flush oil that has leaked from engines and carry it into drains and then into streams and bays. Marine life will be killed off even if only tiny traces of oil are present.'

The *Valdez* disaster provided us with a perfect laboratory. We are able to compare fish that were born in polluted parts of the Sound with those born in areas unaffected by oil,' said Wright.

The scientists' study suggests that no coastal region can ever be protected from oil pollution. In plain English this means that 'green' and 'oil company' are two words that can never be compatible.

Companies like Exxon (called Esso in Europe) now pay public relation firm front groups (nicknamed 'Astroturf' groups) that support their interests. Astroturf groups often hide their real agendas behind warm and fuzzy names to try to, as one PR man admitted in a New York Times interview, come over all "good-guyiness."

One of Exxon's favourites is the Global Climate Coalition, who lobby governments to oppose any international climate change treaties, that could wreck oil companies profits. A couple of years back the Exxon chairman addressed a large international gathering in China and urged developing countries to sort out their environmental problems by "increasing...the use of fossil fuels". The logic being that economic growth will pay for the mess caused by...economic growth.

\*Joseph J. Hazelwood, skipper of the *Valdez* when it crashed is finally returning to Alaska to begin a community service program, picking up litter on the streets of Anchorage.

\*International Day of Action against Exxon-Mobil Wednesday 24th March. Contact Friends of the Earth 0171 490 1555

\*Read 'Global Spin' - the corporate assault on environmentalism by Sharon Beder (Green Books)

\*Corporate Watch Issue 8 out now, digging the dirt on your favourite multinationals. Essential. £3 + 50p+p PO Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd., OX4 1RQ www.oneworld.org/cw

## Court in a maize

The two women charged with 'conspiracy to cause criminal damage' are appearing in Plymouth Crown Court on 29th March 9.30am. They are defending themselves over the trashing of a genetically modified site which they admit to, but say it was in the public interest. The mutant maize was growing next to an organic farm and near bee hives so cross-pollination could easily occur. A large demo is expected. Get down there! Contact 07970 873643

The Crossroads Women's Centre, are hosting **Sans-Papiers**, immigrants without papers third anniversary celebration, on Friday 26 March at 7pm, with big screen footage of recent protests around Europe. The centre is at 230a Kentish Town Road NW5 Tel: 0171 482 2496 \*\* Get on down to the Guilford **Technival** on 4th April at Maltings Bridge Sq Farnham. Six room festival featuring acts from Megadog and Pendragon. Tickets £6.80 adv. Box office 01252 726234.

\*\*If you're interested in permaculture design then get in touch with **Naturewise** who do working weekend courses. Call 0171-281 3765

\*\*\*Free **permaculture courses** if you're on benefits in mid Wales. Contact 01970 832044

\*\*Brighton and Hove **Wood Recycling Project** is open at Regent Street, Brighton, selling timber saved from landfill - 01273 570500 \*\***Culture Culture** is a wicked little 'zine that rips out the still beating heart of consumerism and feeds it to the dogs. Get it from CattleProd, Box 39, 82 Colston St BS1 5BB or www.gn.apc.org/cattleprod \*\* Last week the **Wild Greens**, the direct action youth wing of the Green Party jumped the fence at the Crop and Food Research Centre near Christchurch, New Zealand destroying an experimental G.M. potato crop & ruining the \$200,000 research project. The experiment involved mixing the genes of potatoes with genetic material from toads and silkworms to make the potatoes rot resistant. www.econation.org.nz/ \*\* Protest at a genetic crop site near Edinburgh on Sunday 28th March Contact **Fire Earth First!** 01334 477411 \*\* Next meeting of the **Inter-Continental Caravan** is on 24th March at Strike, Top floor, 11-29 Fashion St, London E3 at 7 pm \*\*

Ever wished you could get SchNEWS off the web and print it out so it looks like the real thing? Well now you can. All you need is an internet connection, Web browser, the Acrobat Reader and any old printer. See our web-site for more info.

## ...and finally...

The Queen Mum could be in for a bit of an eye-opener this summer, if plans for a mass disrobing outside Buckingham Palace take place. Organiser Vincent Bethel reckons that *"Society is mentally ill"* and forcing people to hide their body's isn't helping.

*"It is a fact that humans have genitals"* (can't argue with that one)

*"Would you like to live in a healthy world, a healthy environment, among healthy happy human beings?"* (well, yeah that sounds good)

*"Theoretical humanism is a misnomer; theoretical humanitarianism is a paradox, theoretical love is utterly preposterous."* (eh, you've lost us)

Now SchNEWS isn't against people getting their kit off if they want, but maybe well stick with the beach. Still if you want to 'protest naked for the right to be naked in public' on June 8th contact 208 Foleshill Rd., Coventry, CV1 4JH

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers to remember to keep on swallowing the corporate truth pills while chanting "profits are good, profits are good", then you will feel content. Honest

## Subscribe!

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## FORESTS FOR THE CHOP

*"The agreement reflects an economic agenda which prioritises unsustainable corporate profit-making over the maintenance of healthy ecosystems."*

### Friends Of The Earth

What would your solution be if SchNEWS told you that an area larger than Mexico had been deforested between 1980 and 1995? More forest protection? Don't be daft. Last week negotiations took place in Geneva at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to kick off a wood trade free-for-all which would effectively trash what's left of the world's forests.

So who is behind all this? Surprise, surprise, it's the good 'ole apple pie United States, strongly supported by their paper and wood product industries! They're pushing for a WTO agreement, which could strip the world's remaining natural forests of any existing protection, while boosting consumption of forest products and increasing logging. SchNEWS wasn't surprised to hear the US Trade Representative at the WTO talks in Geneva, Charlene Barshefsky, used to be a lobbyist for the Canadian Timber Industry.

This little story (and SchNEWS readers might be going all *deja vu* about these trade agreements) started in 1995 when negotiations between GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum) failed, and the WTO was asked to join a forest products free trade agreement. A quick look at deforestation rates in APEC countries is enough to raise a few concerned eyebrows... between 1990 and 1995 the annual deforestation rate of APEC countries was more than twice the world average. Doesn't really inspire confidence eh?

Peru, Russia and Vietnam joined APEC in 1998... worrying as Russia has the most remaining frontier forests of all the world's countries; Peru the fourth most; meanwhile, Vietnam's frontier forests are the third most threatened in the world.

The Forest Industry reckons that protection laws reduce their profits, this is reason enough for them to push the WTO to pass new laws removing such petty obstacles to their progress. WTO have been described as having 'uniquely powerful tools' and are obviously not afraid to use them! The Director General said "We are writing the constitution of a single global economy".

Minor inconveniences that may arise from this attitude include the probable importa-

tion of destructive pests on wood products.

One such pest is the Asia long-horned beetle which has killed thousands of trees across the United States since it was imported on untreated logs and packaging material.

Another probable bummer is that the removal of tariffs will mean no distinction between wood products that are harvested by sustainable methods and the logging of old-growth and endangered trees. Basically, Joe public will have no way of knowing whether they are buying the last remaining rainforest or not.

As per usual the worlds press are falling over themselves to tell us about this charming little agreement- and it could be law by November when the WTO meet in Seattle. So what can we do about it? As the WTO obviously consider our world's forests a resource to be plundered, we can only suggest a spot of direct action-go and plant some trees!

\* Trees For Life, The Park, Findhorn Bay, Forres IV36 OTZ, Scotland. Tel:01309 691292

\* For info. on sustainable living, contact the Permaculture Assoc. BCM Permaculture Association, London, WC1N 3XX. Tel: 01654 712188 Web <http://www.btinternet.com/~permaculture.uk>

If you are interested in fighting against the WTO agreement, contact [karen@aseed.antenna.nl](mailto:karen@aseed.antenna.nl). This woman has all the information ammunition you will need!

Recommended reading: "Profit Over People" by Noam Chomsky.

### SCARY STATISTICS

\* Every hour, at least 4,500 acres of tropical forests fall to chain saws, machetes, flames or bulldozers, and another four plant or animal species become extinct.

\* Half the world's original forest is gone.  
\* Only 22% remains as undisturbed 'primary' forest.

\* Less than 10% of temperate forests remain.  
\* Half the world's tropical forests have been cleared.

\* Chile's native forests-one third of the world's remaining temperate rain forests-will be completely deforested in just 20 years if current practices continue.

\* At least 200 million hectares of forest were lost between 1980 and 1995 - an area larger than Mexico says the 1997 United Nations Food and Agriculture's State of the World's Forests report.

### CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

**For walking around with your hands in your pockets.** Conrad Samuels was walking along a street in East London when he was told by a police officer to take his hands out his pockets. He refused. On being asked where he was going, he replied "This is a free country and I can walk where I like." Oh no you can't - your nicked.

**For walking on a flower bed!** A supporter of the Movement Against the Monarchy (MA'M) was in Basildon, Essex trying to disrupt a visit by the Queen, when they were nicked. However, after the cops couldn't match the footprint, they were later released without charge.

MA'M, PO Box 14672, London E9 5UQ [www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/1793/Index](http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/1793/Index).

### Why do we need forests?

- \* To prevent global warming
- \* To stabilise climate change
- \* To ensure a steady source of clean water
- \* To prevent floods and serve as wind-breaks (stops soil erosion and desertification)
- \* As a source of fuel, food, medicine, beauty and recreation

### MR. LIBERAL JOINS THE BANKERS

"The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians." ... according to the world view of Dr Pat Robinson, a right wing extremist with whom the Royal Bank of Scotland has just announced a business link. Over 100 people recently demonstrated outside the Edinburgh branch. You can tell them what you think about Mr.Reasonable by ringing 0131 442 7777.



## ERT GO HOME

Ever heard of the the European Round Table of Industrialists(ERT)? Thought not. Well, these are the people (made up of various multinational bosses) that pushed the European Commission to adopt the Trans European Networks(TENs) project.

The aim of TENs is to expand and build new roads, high-speed railroads and airports. As you would suspect TENs gets the thumbs up from the road and industry lobby, but has been described by others interested in a rather more sustainable future, as an 'environmental nightmare'.

A SEED Europe have organised a Transport Action Day on the 27th March. This will coincide with the official meeting of EU Transport Ministers. Actions are promised all over Europe. For a Transport action pack contact Frank van Schaik, c/o A SEED Europe, Postbus 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands. Tel + 31-20-668-2236 email: frank@aseed.antenna.nl

## BUNKERMENTALITY

The eviction of the protest camp at Crystal Palace (see SchNEWS 203) ended on Monday, with two people Animal and Ken, spending 19 days in an underground bunker! The Grade II listed park could soon be home to a £56 million, 20 screen multiplex cinema with nine bars/restaurants, various retail outlets with concrete ramps leading cars up to the largest roof-top carpark in Britain. According to local papers, an extra million pounds has been spent by Bromley Council on the eviction.

One of the bunker residents, Animal, is currently in remand awaiting sentencing relating to the Manchester 2nd runway campaign. Send love letters, magazines, cards etc. to Eleanor Hutson, SX2145, HMP Newhall, Dialwood, Flockton, Wakefield, WF4 4AX

Crystal Palace campaign 0181 693 8200

## ON THE BUSES

Britain's first toll motorway came another step nearer completion this week, when the High Court refused to allow the protestors' legal challenge to go ahead. The Birmingham Northern Relief Road would be a 27 mile, 3 lane motorway bypassing Birmingham to the North, would devastate local wildlife and communities, and would do little to reduce congestion. This is all bit ironic, considering it happened around the same time that Prescott announced more incentives to increase bus use, and boasted that 15% of his weekly journeys were by bus. Well done John, you must be really roughing it, only using your chauffeur driven cars 85% of the time!

## Benefit Night



For "June 18th"

films from

RECLAIM THE STREETS  
UNDERCURRENTS

BANGIN' TECHNO AND JUNGLE

@ Cuba Club, Brighton

Tues 6th April from 7pm-2am.

What's June 18th 1999? An International day of direct action aimed at the heart of the global economy - the financial and banking centres across the globe  
Info @ 0171 281 4621 - rts@gn.apc.org

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## SchNEWS in brief

Guess who? The National Year of Reading is part-sponsored by The Sun newspaper \*\* Demonstration against Hillgrove Farm's continued breeding of cats for vivisection on Saturday April 17th from 12 noon. Transport is available from all over the UK - for details call 0121 632 6460

\*\* EuroDusnie, Liedien, The Netherlands . What started off as a three day counter-EU summit in April 97 has grown into an anarchist collective with four buildings squatted around the town. On the week of 27th March - 4th April a celebration of the two years is planned. For more info call 00 31 (0)71 5173019 or [www.dsl.nl/eurodusnie](http://www.dsl.nl/eurodusnie) \*\* Med TV the only independent Kurdish Channel in the world, has had its licence revoked by the Independent TV Commission. Complain to the commission by ringing 0171 255 3000 or faxing 0171 306 7800 \*\* Stop the Asylum Bill public meeting 16th April 7.30 pm Friends Centre, Ship St., Brighton \*\* Will alternative economic institutions ever challenge capitalism, or are they only useful in covering up its failures? The answer to this question and more at the Secular Hall, Humberstone Gate, Leicester on April 24th . More details from T.Hooley, English dept., Univ. of Leicester, LE1 7RH email [caw4@le.ac.uk](mailto:caw4@le.ac.uk) \*\*

Red South West is a decent mag covering lots of left-wing subjects an interesting way! Wow. Send a quid + SAE to Exeter Left group c/o The Flying Post, PO Box 185, Exeter, EX4 4EW \*\* Transport is going from Brighton to the opening of the trial of the Totness Two, charged with trashing a genetically modified crop site. Page 0336 760424 if you want a lift! \*\*

Don't forget the Global Days of Action against Monsanto and genetically modified foods on April 15-30. Info- [www.jps.net/dcasnet](http://www.jps.net/dcasnet) Tel 0181-374-9516, Genetix update, c/o PO Box 9659, London, N4 4JY \*\* McBurger Off! Anti McDonalds benefit gig featuring special guests Chancer (Folk-Rock) at the Royal Standard Music Venue, Blackhorse Lane - directly opposite Blackhorse Lane (Victoria Line) tube station - Walthamstow E.17. 29th April 8pm \*\* Shout out for more people to get down to the squatted 121 Centre in Brixton which has now been in occupation, behind barricades, for eight weeks. They are expecting eviction any time soon, so why not pledge a three hour shift? Events are still happening daily. 121 Raiton Road, Brixton, London SE24 Tel 0171-274-6655 \*\* Last week more than a million people demonstrated in Mexico City including electricity workers fighting privatisation and students protesting against the introduction of fees \*\* Last week one of the Southdowns Hunt Sabs received a broken arm in five places at the very last meet of the West Kent Fox Hunt (they are folding and will now be taken over the Old Surrey and Burstow hunt). Sabs arrived to find the place swarming with red coats and about 150 riders - some of whom decided to ride at sabs and broke a woman's arm. Despite a four wheel drive full of cops less than 10 yards away they saw nothing. As for the press always portraying hunt sabs as violent, in the last season about 15 hunt supporters were found guilty and convicted in the courts - only one hunt sab. Contact Hunt Sab Association 01273 622827 \*\* On the 27th March the Tameside care-workers will have been out on strike for a year. 250 of them were sacked by a Labour Council after they refused to accept worsening pay and conditions. There will be a demo and rally from Astley Rd., Stalybridge. Contact 0161- 308-2452

\*\* Looking ahead to June 18th an internet broadcast is being set to coincide with the Global day of action. Contributions are needed Tel: 07788-491899 / e-mail: [Capitalism.sux@hotmail.com](mailto:Capitalism.sux@hotmail.com) or write to Box 6, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St, Bristol, B51 5BB.

## Inside SchNEWS

"What I realised after the end of this case is that I never, or almost never, have been involved in a trial which has ended in a conviction where I am certain, or almost certain, that the defendants are wholly innocent, and are wholly wrongly convicted." - defence solicitor Gareth Pearce.

Samar Ali and Jawad Botmeh, two Palestinians accused of bombing the Israeli Embassy and Balfour House in London in 1994, are still protesting their innocence. Both are being held as Class A (highest security) prisoners on twenty year sentences, after which they will face deportation.

The two were convicted in 1996 on circumstantial evidence only. Since their conviction, more evidence showing the unfairness of the trial has come to light. In November 1997 it was revealed in the Mail on Sunday that MI5 had received a warning prior to the bombing which was ignored. The source of the warning pointed in a different direction to Samar and Jawad but this evidence has never been made public. In 1998 Paul Foot revealed in Private Eye that another MI5 official had cast more doubt on their convictions. There is also evidence that the jury were exposed to biased journalism and TV documentaries.

An appeal date has now been set but the defence is being refused access to even more important evidence which could be important to the outcome of the case. A campaign for justice for the two was launched in 1997 and are calling people to picket the appeal on 29th March at the Royal Court of Justice, Strand, London WC2 .

Contact BM FOSA, London WC1N 3XX or [www.freemaj.org.uk](http://www.freemaj.org.uk)

## SQUATS GOING ON

Hackney Squat Evictions are continuing without court orders. Using the electricity board and the police, the council has been evicting people on suspicion of having illegally supplied electricity and smashing meters and toilets to make buildings uninhabitable. Protesters who occupied the Estates Management offices last Friday were told they couldn't speak to the man responsible for the evictions, as no-one knew which of his TWO houses he was at! When they did get to speak to someone they were told that the council would do 'everything legal' to keep squatters out of Hackney's thousands of empty properties, as part of their 'zero tolerance' policy. No-one could tell the protesters whether the council also had a 'zero tolerance' policy on homelessness.

## ...and finally...

Thanks to increasing work hours and the 24 hour society Britain is becoming a nation of 'border line retardards' - according to the British Sleep Foundation.

So SchNEWS reckons this is as good a call as any, for people to get involved in the World Phone in Sick Day on April 6th. For this action, all you have to do is get on the blower, give some excuse for not turning up for work.

The brains behind the day, Decadent Action - the consumer terrorist organisation - are out to bring down capitalism by feeding it until it bursts. This involves a campaign of luxury living funded by shoplifting, credit and the DSS, all intended to push the country into hyper-inflation. According to the Decadent ones, phoning in sick is fast becoming "a genuine alternative to the organised strike."

Check 'em out at BM Decadence, London WC1N 3XX. England.

[www.underbelly.demon.co.uk/decadent/](http://www.underbelly.demon.co.uk/decadent/)

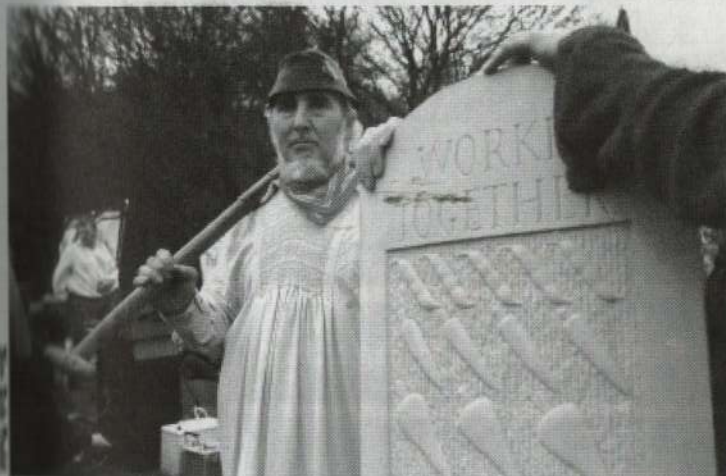
## disclaimer

SchNEWS apologises to all our readers for going on about those nasty people at World Trade Organisation and their dirty little free trade agreements. Hey, we know sarcasm is more our style. We won't let it happen again. Honest





The Land Is Ours commemorate 350 years since the Diggers originally occupied St. George's Hill by laying a stone at the same site (**SchNEWS 207**)



17th century Digger

20th century digger

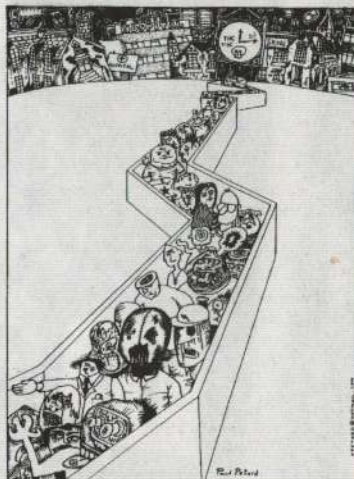


"Beats sitting around in an armchair!" Stopping the Avon Ring Road - Bristol's answer to the M25

## SQUOTES

*"That which encourages us to go on in our work, is this; we find the streaming out of Love in our hearts towards all; to enemies as well as friends; we would have none live in Beggary, Poverty or Sorrow, but that everyone might enjoy the benefit of his creation; we have peace in our hearts, and quiet rejoicing in our work, and filled with sweet content, though we have but a dish of roots and bread for our food."*

**Gerrard Winstanley, 1649**







**Scenes in Kosovo after the fighting**



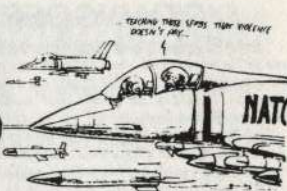


Weekly

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER NEWS-SPEAK

# SchNEWS

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Issue 207

Free/Donation

## WAR IS PEACE

"We are taking this action for one simple reason: to damage Serbian forces sufficiently to prevent Milosevic from continuing to perpetrate his vile oppression against innocent Albanian civilians"

Tony Blair

"The first casualty of war is always the truth" traditional

On 24th March, two weeks after Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined NATO, NATO launched massive air strikes against Serbia. As ever, superpower aggression was dressed up as a humanitarian exercise, this time to defend Kosovan Albanians from Serb terror. As ever, this was a lie. Since 1992 the desire of Germany, Britain and the United States to expand their influence into eastern Europe at the expense of an enfeebled Russia has brought war, genocide and 100,000 dead to the peoples of the former Yugoslavia. Those dying now in Kosovo and Serbia are the latest victims of these western powers' bid for control of the region.

There is no doubt that Milosevic is engaged in mass murder of the majority ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo. Ethnic Albanians account for over 80% of Kosovo's two million population - well over one million of these Albanian Kosovans are now refugees, either inside Kosovo or in neighbouring countries. It is still unclear how many have been killed by the Serbian army, police and fascist paramilitaries.

Until 1989 Kosovo had been an autonomous province within Yugoslavia, but with the rise of nationalist hatred fuelled by the super powers, Milosevic was able to use his assertion of Serbian nationalism in Kosovo to grab power for himself in Serbia - and lay the basis for war, ethnic cleansing and genocide in Bosnia and, now, Kosovo. There is no doubt that Milosevic's warmongering, encouraged and payrolled by western powers when it suited them, needs to be opposed.

But NATO's attacks on Serbia are nothing to do with protecting Kosovan civilians - their plight is now worse than ever. For less than a tenth of the cost of one bomber, NATO could have supplied significant amount of arms to the Kosovan Liberation Army or supported what is left of the democratic opposition in Serbia. Of course, they did neither - because they are concerned with global power struggles, not the plight of those they cynically exploit to justify their warmongering.

If the United States, Britain and the other massive military powers currently bombing the former Yugoslavia were concerned with defending "innocent civilians" they have had numerous opportunities to do so recently - and not done it. In Turkey, the Kurds have had their villages burnt, their culture outlawed, their people killed and turned into refugees by the thousand without any action from NATO - maybe because Turkey is a key strategic member of NATO. When one million Rwandans were systematically slaughtered in a hundred days Clinton did nothing to prevent it because it did not suit US global interests to do so.

The air strikes NATO are carrying out are aimed at ensuring that Serbia, with its strong economic and political links to Russia, does not get in the way of growing western influence in the region. A staggering amount of air power is being used. 80 fighter bombers and 100 cruise missiles - costing £800,000 each - were launched on the first night alone. You can only wonder at the technology contained in the B2 stealth bombers, which cost \$2.1bn each.

NATO tells us that these weapons are so expensive because of their ability to minimise civilian casualties - in fact, they are designed to increase their destructive power while minimising any risk to those using them. Each cluster bomb being dropped from an RAF Harrier jets, for instance, spreads 147 small bombs over an area of up to 100 acres - many do not explode, creating unregulated minefields wherever they are dropped. The RAF is currently dropping cluster bombs on Kosovo.

For four decades following the second world war, socialist Yugoslavia was able to maintain peace amongst the various nationalities making up the country. The Balkans had always been a region where major world powers fought out their battles at the expense of the local population. The anti-fascist militias that became the Yugoslav state after the second world war were determined to prevent the rise of national tensions and fascism in the area again.

The death of Yugoslavia's President Tito and the collapse of the Soviet Union in the late 80s allowed western powers to expand their influence in the region by encouraging the national tensions that would lead to the present horrors. They consistently backed local politicians stirring up national hatred - like Serbia's Milosevic and Croatia's Tudjman - against those trying to keep Yugoslavia united.



The powerful multinationals that NATO and control of natural resources - not Kosovan refugees. The peoples of the former Yugoslavia, like so many other millions of people from South America to East Timor, can expect no help from these warmongers except for PR purposes. Organising practical support for the victims of the war in Kosovo and building serious opposition to the multinationals' war machine in Britain is the only way we can show solidarity with the millions so cynically used to justify this latest European war.

Further reading: The Death of Yugoslavia by Laura Silber and Alan Little; Kosovo - a short history by Noel Malcolm.

Workers' Aid for Kosovo are involved in organising a convoy of food, medical supplies, toys, etc leaving for Kosovo on 20th April. You can help by organising collections, bagging/lending vehicles and going on the convoy. 0161 227 8184 for details.

"For action is the life of all and if thou dost not act thou dost nothing" Gerrard Winstanley.



## DIRTY DIGGERS

*"All the Commons and waste Ground in England, and in the whole world, shall be taken in righteousness, not owning any property; but taking the Earth to be a Common Treasury, as it was first made for all."*  
Gerard Winstanley.

Landlessness, homelessness and poverty are nothing new. The Diggers were fighting for the right of the common person to make rent-free use of the common land way back in 1649.

350 years ago, British activists were already trying to reclaim their rights. The King, who officially owned all the land in England, had been defeated in the civil war leaving England's pastures potentially up for grabs so activist Gerard Winstanley, with twenty of his poor and landless friends took possession of St Georges Hill at Walton on Thames. The Diggers used 'liberated' presses to produce pamphlets encouraging the poor to make use of common and waste land for cultivation and common grazing, attempting to raise consciousness of why so many go hungry while so few grow rich. SchNEWS can't argue with that - but unfortunately the government and landowners weren't impressed and got rid of them through a combination of legal actions, military intervention and mob violence.

350 years later and the Diggers are back! They have set up site on St George's Hill, ironically now a huge private estate for millionaires, and are demanding a permanent home for the Diggers' memorial stone and guaranteed public access to the hill. The squatters have now been served with an eviction notice, so try and get along this weekend.

SchNEWS spoke to local resident Cliff Richard, who expressed concern over possible 'Devil Women' on site, but was keen to offer his 'congratulations and jubilation' on the memorial site. Location details 0961 373385 The Land is Ours Office: 01865 722016 - [www.oneworld.org.uk/dio/](http://www.oneworld.org.uk/dio/)

## GENETICS VICTORY!

*"This was a political, and in my experience, unprecedented decision. By withdrawing the case from the jury the Crown have accepted that there was compelling evidence that the defendants had a lawful excuse to remove the GM maize. The last thing the Crown wanted was to see a jury - a microcosm of society - acquit people who admitted taking direct action against GM crops."*  
Mike Schwarz, defence solicitor.

The two women who faced charges of conspiracy to cause criminal damage for removing GM maize from a test site have had their charges dropped, with the Crown Prosecution Service admitting that they were unable to prove that the two women did not have 'lawful excuse' to pull up the GM maize.

After nine months of preparation for the case, the Crown Prosecution Service decided to drop the charges four days before the trial was set to begin, announcing that "for complex reasons the Crown intend to offer no evidence." They admitted in court that they actually overestimated the cost of the damage, that the figure of £605,000 was a bit exaggerated, its more like £5,000!

Despite the pouring rain, 300 people turned up outside the court with banners and street theatre, with a bio-hazard flag hoisted onto the Crown Courts mast. The defence solicitor stated that this was a green light for direct action...so lets get busy this summer!! Totnes Genetics Group Tel: 01803 840098 [www.toggs.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.toggs.freeserve.co.uk)

\* A genetic test site on the Scottish Agricultural College's Boggall Farm was trashed last week, despite a large police presence with horses and dogs. 6 people were nicked but were released without charge.

\* Don't forget April 15-20: Global days of action against Monsanto & genetic engineering.

## SchNEWS in brief

**Designer Babies** - From the elimination of genetic diseases to creating the perfect child - should we be tampering with our genetic make up? Meeting on April 15th at the Royal Institution 21 Albermarle Street, London W1 7 3 pm.

\*\* Thought you'd all like to know that April 29th is 'Take Our Daughters to Work Day'. Wanna know more, then check out [www.gn.apc.org/daughtersday/](http://www.gn.apc.org/daughtersday/)

\*\* The **McLibel Two** stuck another two fingers up to the BigMac corporation last week, when three appeal court judges added to the list of accusations found in the Whats Wrong With McDonalds leaflet. Already charged with being responsible for cruelty to animals, exploiting children in advertising campaigns and paying workers a pittance, they now stand accused of promoting a diet which may lead to heart disease! Contact McLibel Support Campaign, 5 Caledonian Rd., London, N1 9DX 0171 713 1269 [www.mcspotlight.org/](http://www.mcspotlight.org/)

\*\* **"The End is Nigh"** - an evening of Millenium Paranoia compered by Tony Allen & guests will be performed upstairs at the Hobgoblin on Sat. April 17 \*\* Fighting Shell in Nigeria: **Ogoni and Ijaw** Resistance talk and video session at Brighton Unemployed Centre, Tilbury Place (Behind the Edward Street AMEX Building) on April 14th, 7.30pm.

\*\* **Whoops!** The phone number on the fliers for Brighton June 18th action group is wrong and should read: 01273 298192 \*\* Saturday 17th - Benefit party for June 18 International Day of Action with Dead Dog Mountain, Max Pashm, Praying for the Rain. 9pm till 3am at On the Rocks, 25 Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, London E2. Just £3

\*\* **Save The Shamrock Monkeys** have set up a National Demo For Laboratory Animals March in Brighton and wreath laying at Shamrock on Sat 24th April. \*\* **No More Bombings!** Lift the Sanctions! (Libya & Iraq) April 17th, London: March and Rally for Peace and Justice: 1pm assemble Hyde Park Corner, 3pm Rally in Trafalgar Square. Tel: 0171 436 4636.

\*\* **Movement Against the Monarchy** have had a few scenes cut from their upcoming programme "Get Rid of the Royals". Apparently the BBC's lawyers were worried that some scenes were a little treasonous (heaven forbid). Watch it on BBC 2 on April 13th at 7.30 pm \*\* The **SQUALL** Crew presents 'Commotion' - djs from Squall, Exodus and Under One Sun play underground sounds of house, drum&bass and eclectic beats at the Pembury Tavern - junction of Amhurst Road and Dalston Lane London E9 Friday April 23rd. Just £1 \*\* **Project Censored** Yearbook: Censored 1999 highlights the hot stories that the mainstream press ignored. And the top of the censored list? It's the Multilateral Agreement on Investment - that nasty little 'free trade' agreement that would have nullified human, environmental and labour protection laws in all countries that signed it. \* Don't forget **Street Party** outside 121 Centre, Railton Rd, Brixton 2pm Saturday 10th Info 0171-274-655

## Inside SchNEWS

Lindis Percy is currently serving a nine month sentence for putting 'invalid' stickers up on illegal bylaw signs that run around the US Menwith Hill in Harrogate Yorkshire. While the MoD sponsored NSA (National Security Agency) Spy Base has been busy feeding military intelligence and data through to the Western War Machine killing thousands in the Balkans, Lindis has just come out of a week in solitary confinement for refusing to be strip searched on entering the prison. Lindis needs all the support she can get as she is being restricted visitors, given harsh routine psychological tests and is getting ill through all the strain. To cap it all she can even hear fighter jets taking off from the nearby bases at USAF Lakenheath and Mildon Hall. Write to: LindisPercy (CF9734), HMP Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 9YG

## PENSIONER POWER!

When the Church of England wanted to pull down the Community Centre on Gloucester Rd in Bristol 15 years ago, local pensioners stepped in and occupied the premises. After 5 years they arranged a lease, and ever since volunteers have been running the centre on a non profit basis, available free to skint organisations, finding places for the homeless and organising a bread run. The centre is also used by Hare Krishnas, Buddhists, and a music school that caters for 100 Sikh children.

Despite the fact that the 6 other local churches are never exactly packed with punters the C of E wants to take back the centre and rent out the rooms to raise cash. Charitable souls that they are they promise zero tolerance of other religious groups so presumably the sikhs, buddhists and krishnas will be out on their collective arse.

The pensioners even offered to buy the premises but the C of E is still determined to evict them so the sagacious squatters took their tale to the top, petitioning the Archbishop of Canterbury by chaining themselves to his railings outside Lambeth Palace! Their case goes to court on April 19th. Tel. 0117 944 4401.

## ...and finally...

*"We always wanted to actually hit an arms dealer, and then turn round and say 'well if I didn't do it, someone else would.'"*  
- Mark Thomas

Tired of hearing about massacres of people in far-away countries while you sit helplessly at home? Sick of seeing TV footage of people being shot at by the shock troops of dodgy regimes? Ever wished you could hit back at those arming such tyrants? Then read on... this year, some of the world's biggest arms dealers are handing us ample opportunities to deal them some determined blows. They don't only hang out in remote countries, these firms have events and premises in this country too. So it's open season on the industry that equips mass murderers and torturers the world over....

**April 18** - Two firms, British Aerospace (BAe) and Alvis/GKN are having their Annual General Meetings in London on this Wednesday. Two for the price of one - come and play! All you need is a single share; with an offer like this, you just can't lose.

**BAe** is Europe's biggest arms manufacturer, and with the planned £7 billion merger with GEC-Marconi there's no better time to give them hassle. Come and meet the guys in suits who are about to sell 16 Hawk attack fighter planes to Indonesia, and who are flogging 200,000 assault rifles for the Turkish military. Or perhaps you'd like to speak to the top people at **Alvis**, whose Scorpion tanks have been used on the streets of Jakarta against unarmed protesting students.

**No-one goes away empty handed...** If you can't make it to the AGMs on that day, BAe and Alvis are giving you the chance to visit them in one of their many centres of manufacturing excellence around the country. To ensure maximum impact try to organise actions hitting them at these places at around the time of April 28. Targets at the following locations: Hampshire, Stockport, Nottingham, Bristol, Plymouth, Lancashire, Humber, London & Coventry.

September 14-17 - the even bigger one. Defence Systems Equipment International (DSEI) is the title of the UK's one-stop bombs 'n' guns emporium, to which you can be sure many of your top torturers will be coming along. And the best gag is - we ourselves bankroll it with a cool quarter of a million of taxpayers' money. Put those dates in your diaries, May 15 (Manchester, Friends Meeting House) and May 29 (London, Conway Hall, WC1).

Take a well-aimed pot-shot or two at your favourite arms dealers this year. These not-to-be missed opportunities are brought to you by Campaign Against the Arms Trade. Call them on 0171 281 0297 [www.gn.apc.org/caat](http://www.gn.apc.org/caat)

## Subscribe!

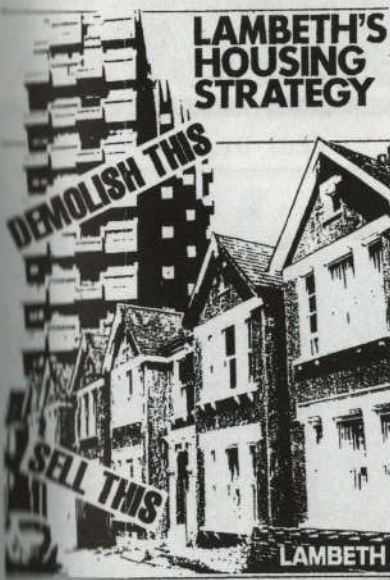
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Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: [schnews@brighton.co.uk](mailto:schnews@brighton.co.uk)

Don't forget Street Party outside 121 Centre, Railton Rd, Brixton 2pm Saturday 10th Info 0171-274-655



## SO WHAT IS THIS GENTRIFICATION?



Despite being far too long a word to roll off the tongue, gentrification explains a lot of the changes happening right here in Brixton. Lambeth Council (*in all their infinite wisdom – Not!*) are selling off properties to raise capital (what we call money) but the “development” of Brixton does little to help local people or shops (surprise, surprise). The council are, just like the rest of the country, in a mad race to sell-off and privatise as much of our neighbourhoods and services as possible – cutting funding to vital resources like Libraries and Centres while raking in a profit from mad shopping and tourist schemes that dispossess and disempower local communities. None of this money goes to help US, in fact they are trying to price us out of our own area, like in some parts of Islington, Hackney and Tower Hamlets and now Brixton, to make our areas yuppie playgrounds!

**DON'T BE FOOLED!** The development of Brixton and the criminalisation of groups like the homeless and squatters are just the tip of the iceberg. If the police and the council have their way, once Brixton has been “cleansed”, rents will soar and people will be forced out of their own neighbourhoods. Local shops will either “make” or “break” with hefty new RATES to accompany the new pony clientele, and many will be bought out or bust. So we have a situation where first they kick out the undesirables and homeless on the streets with new police powers, then they evict all the squatters, AND THEN GUESS WHO IS NEXT?? Watch your back, your Council is on the loose.

South London Stress, 27<sup>th</sup> March 1999

## 121 RAILTON RD, BRIXTON



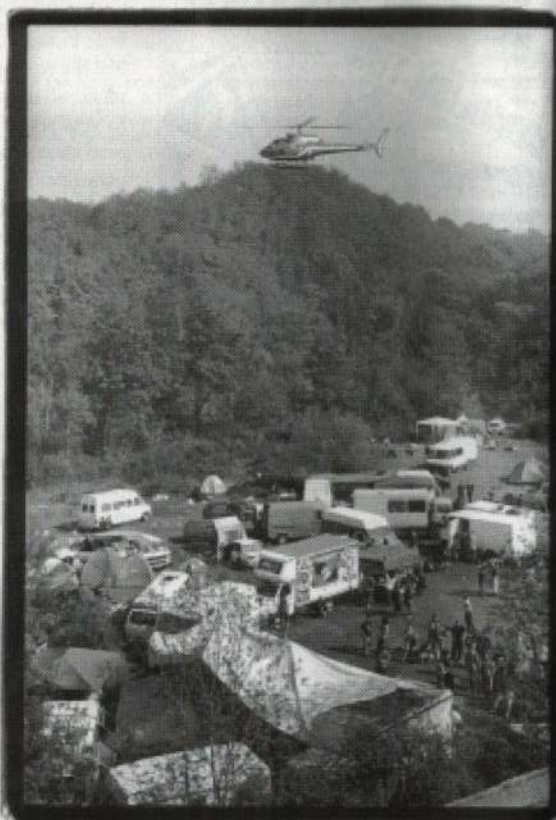
Reclaim the Streak, street party on 10th April, 1999



# TEKNIVALS IN FRANCE



**1. The Transport**



**3. The People**



**2. The Power**

France is currently enjoying a big free party scene – or Teknivals as they're called in Europe. The scale of these events is huge, with as many as 5-10,000 people, and up to forty sound systems – and most parties are tolerated by the authorities... unlike some here in Britain. Party people of all ages and backgrounds come together in a unified feeling of resistance. Unlike here, there had been no free festival/ party scene until the turn of the 90's when Spiral Tribe left England and inspired people across Europe to set up their own parties. Squatting is popular in France, but - like in a lot of places - many young people are still seen as unpoliticised. In France the May Day teknival has become the biggest of the year. Check out: [www.freetekno.org](http://www.freetekno.org) United Systems party line: 020 8959 7525



**4. The Party**



Weekly

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER

# SchNEWS

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## HILLSBOROUGH

### 10 YEARS ON

*"I've followed Liverpool for over 50 years and what I saw that day at Hillsborough will stay with me till the day I die. We could see something was wrong even as the match started, the pens behind the goal looked packed, although there was plenty of space either side. We couldn't believe the scenes we witnessed, we were in deep shock as it became obvious that things were wrong. Why weren't the police helping? I watched them come on with police dogs, whilst younger supporters ferried the dying and injured on advertising boards. They were heroes, yet the media portrayed them as thugs and animals. It's not right that 10 years later most of those responsible have never been charged with a criminal offence; what kind of country are we living in?"*

Pensioner who was at Hillsborough.

Ten years ago on April 15<sup>th</sup> 1989, Liverpool were playing Notts Forest in a FA Cup semi-final at the Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield. As kick-off approached, the ancient turnstiles at the football ground became a bottleneck as five thousand Liverpool fans tried to get in. When the police eventually opened the main gates, instead of directing the fans to the open terraces they sent them into a crowded pen.

*"I was at the front of the pens, and you could see people were dying. I asked, pleaded, with a copper to open the gates. He just looked at me as if I wasn't there. Some who tried to climb out were pushed back in, maybe to die." Hillsborough Survivor.*

96 Liverpool fans lost their lives and 400 were injured that day in the Leppings Lane terraces, crushed to death against the jail-like railings, which became twisted from the pressure. As people tried to get on the pitch, the police pushed them back, thinking there was a pitch invasion. At 3.06 pm the game was finally abandoned.

What followed was a monumental and arrogant cover-up of inadequacies and incompetence, which one supporter described as an 'active propagation of mistruths' as the police sought to hide their mistakes.

The subsequent inquiry by Lord Justice Taylor left no doubt where the blame lay: "The main reason for the disaster was the failure of police control."

Not however according to the SUN newspaper, which, in the aftermath of the tragedy, dragged its gutter self to new depths. In a front page spread editor Kelvin MacKenzie blamed the tragedy squarely on Liverpool supporters:

*"Some fans picked pockets of victims..." "Some fans urinated on the brave cops" "fans beat up PC giving kiss of life."*

During the thirty-one days of the Taylor inquiry no one mentioned hooliganism.

Nearly two years later, an 80 day inquest, verdicts of accidental death were reached. But as the Hillsborough Justice Campaign pointed out "Senior South Yorkshire police officers were responsible. They committed a criminal act when they threw open exit gates for the fans to enter the stadium... they should have delayed the kick-off that day."

Then in December 1996, Carlton TV's "Hillsborough" ripped apart the inquest decision that the victims suffered only accidental death. They unearthed evidence that a camera, which the police claimed was not working, held vital evidence that people were being crushed. This footage mysteriously vanished. It highlighted the fact that more fans might have survived if medical treatment had been available sooner. It exposed police lies, such as blaming fans for forcing a gate open to get in the ground. There were allegations of cops putting pressure on people giving evidence at the enquiry. And still no police officers have yet to face any disciplinary hearing.

*"Unfortunately, the facts concerning Hillsborough haven't been told - all we've had is the usual manipulation of facts to be served up by the media circus - football supporters become SCUM and ANIMALS, easy scapegoats. South Yorkshire police were rubbing shoulders with journalistic filth before the bodies of the dead grew cold. I'll never forget what the S\*\* printed. I remember burning a copy with my father. I'll never forgive those journalists, they could have refused to print the police's lies."*

Liverpool supporter As Trevor Hicks - who lost his daughters at Hillsborough - said "We got two disasters at Hillsborough: the one on the day and one that's happened since. There was evasion and an orchestrated cover up against us from the beginning. Nothing has been done willingly."

# The Hillsborough campaign are calling for a boycott of the Liverpool v Sheffield Wednesday football match on 8<sup>th</sup> May

# The High Court gave the go ahead in March for two police officers to go face charges of manslaughter and wilful neglect of duty in court

# A campaign against The Sun got under way with sales slumping by almost 40% costing £10 million a year. The boycott is still going on

Hillsborough Justice Campaign, 134 Oakfield Rd., Anfield, Liverpool, L4 0UG Tel 0151 260 5262 Recommended reading 'Hillsborough, the Truth' by Phil Scraton (Mainstream)

### WHO KILLED BLAIR PEACH?

*"As the police rushed past him, one of them hit him on the head with a stick..He tried to get up, but he was shivering. He couldn't stand. The police came back and told him 'Move! Come on, Move!' They were very rough with him and I was shocked because it was clear he was seriously hurt. He was in a very bad state and he couldn't speak. Then he just dropped down."* Mr.Parvinder Atwal

On 22 April 1979 5,000 people marched from Southall to Ealing Town Hall to hand in a petition of 10,000 signatures demanding that the National Front (NF) should not be allowed to come into their town and insult their community. The next day 4,000 cops arrived to deal with the 20,000 people who had turned out to oppose the fascists. The police brutally attacked the protesters. Blair Peach and his friends were trapped...at least six witnesses saw a riot cop club Blair Peach in the head, he later died. No inquiry took place and no one has ever been charged with his murder.

Blair Peach was a white school teacher in East London, active within the South Hackney and Shoreditch branch of the Anti Nazi League. His murder became a symbol of establishment incompetence and police brutality. "his death....exposed how black people were treated by the police, and how both black and white people were affected by racism....It united people who saw that the National Front was a threat to our democracy."

The Scarman Report in 1981 suggested the 'bad apple' theory- that a few police 'let down the force' but the police force themselves are not intrinsically racist. The report suggested 'race awareness training'...Stephen Lawrence's case is just one of many incidents which confirm a blatant lack of such awareness to date. Muhammad Anwar, of the Centre for Ethnic Relations at Warwick university explained "You cannot isolate one incident, just as you cannot isolate one institution, but these all contribute to an accumulated perception of how the police treat black people. Many of today's young people weren't even born when these incidents took place, but they learn from parents and community leaders. You cannot separate attitude from experience. They are just as important as each other."

On Sat 24 April there's a Demo Against Racism in Southall Park. Meet 1pm @ Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall. Coaches from Brighton outside the Royal Pavilion at the Old Steine at 10.30am Tickets £7/5 for sale at the Peace Centre. For Information Tel: 0181 980 3601.



## TUBEWAY BARMY

Reclaim the Streets! On Sat 1st May its time to transform the tube! Meet at Tower of London, 2pm, Saturday 1st May with your party-pants on. Bring food and drink and fun and games! The Party Line terminates at Clapham Common May Day Festival. For too long has the tube been the stomping ground of the wealthy, an unattainable luxury for those on low incomes. The government's privatisation plans put profit before passengers as always through the intended full-scale sell off of the tube.

London's tube system is already the most expensive in Europe and fares will spiral out of reach of poorer pockets as private profit is increased at our expense. Anti-strike legislation has put paid to any arguments from the underground, consequently workers suffering attacks against their pay and conditions are only likely to make an impact through 'unofficial' action.

So on 1st May let's turn the tube into a Place to Party! Show your solidarity and revel against the fat cats. Bring food, drink, musical instruments, decorations, toys, games, masks, banners and flags. Further information: Reclaim The Streets: 0171 281 4621.

\* Transport from Brighton, tickets from Peace Centre, Gardner Street

### MAY DAY EVENTS

**\*INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MAY DAY MARCH.** Meet 12 noon Clerkenwell Green to Trafalgar Square. 100 years of celebrating trade union rights, human rights and international solidarity. + May 2nd, May Day International Evening-music from around the world at Subterania, 36 Acklam Rd, London W10(Ladbroke Grove)4-11pm

**Reclaim May Day** The Oyster House 6-11pm, Locksway Road, Milton, Portsmouth. £3/2. Featuring bands and DJs. Food 6-8pm.

**Cannabis Coalition** Beltane Ganja day. Celebration of Cannabis March and free-festival on Clapham Common. Meet noon Brixton Ritzy. Tel: 0171 737 6289 mayday@schmoo.co.uk

**Nottingham May Day events** 26th April to 1st May. Program available from Mushroom Bookshop, 12 Heathcote St, Nottingham

**Bradford May Day.** Tel: 01274 734160 tin12@legend.co.uk

**\*DIY Resist Global Action.** B'ham. Fight back against global economic power.. Meet 11am outside NatWest HQ. Colmore Row, City Centre.

**Manchester mini reclaim the streets.** Meet Midday, 30th April at University Students' Union, Oxford Road. 0161 2245153 mfox4rhm@fslart.man.ac.uk

**Hull reclaim the streets** Saturday 8th May, meet at Pearsons Park (off Beverly Rd) 12noon

**\*Finally,** for those of you who are sick to death of all the politics, fuck it all off and get with the **Vegan Organic Network.** Permaculture, forest gardening, community gardening, etc. May 1-2 at 'Fresh Horizons', 50 Ditton Court Rd, Westcliff On Sea, Essex. Tel: 01702 303259

### INSIDE SCHNEWS

Mumia Abu-Jamal, black rights activist and award winning radio journalist on death row for the past 16 years, has been subject to state oppression since he joined the Black Panthers. He was wrongly arrested in 1981 for killing a Philadelphia cop. In '95 files were finally exposed proving that minority citizens were being routinely framed. Abu-Jamal's years' work exposing state terror led to over 300 victims' convictions being reversed, but even when it became national news his own was not. Mumia again faces imminent execution. Mass demos on 24th April, his birthday. Contact Mumia Must Live! BM Haven, London, WC1N 3XX. [www.Mumia.org](http://www.Mumia.org)

## Subscribe!

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

## SchNEWS in brief

The National Front are planning a march in Worcester on the 24th. The Anti-Nazi League are planning a counter-demonstration, assemble at the Guildhall at 1pm. For confirmation: Tel: 0171-2844040, e-mail: [editors@slight.demon.co.uk](mailto:editors@slight.demon.co.uk) \*\*This month's 'special issue' of **The Ecologist** is full of information on the growing climate crisis, the political and corporate response, and what the hell we should be doing about it. Our planet is being sabotaged, inform yourself and take action! For copies ring 01403 786726 **\*Kosovo Aid Convoy** benefit @Sussex Arts Club, Ship St, Brighton this Sunday (18th) 7.30pm with Tartan Amoebas + DJ's Ghecko and Hair Bear. £5/3 \*\*There is another benefit gig for People's lifeline for **Kosovo** on 29th April at New Madeira Hotel, Marine Parade, Brighton. 8-2 with talks and videos £3 **\*\*No Pasaran.** Get cultural with the Stroud Football Poets compelling accounts of the Spanish Civil War. Sat 24th April, 8pm. Hexagon Theatre, Kingsfield School, Brook Rd, Kingswood, Bristol. Tickets £4/3 - Tel: 0117 9711540 \*\*Alternatively, you could motivate yourselves to march from Westminster Cathedral to the BNFL office in Buckingham Gate to remind them about the **Children of Chernobyl** who are still suffering as a result of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Tel 0171 6072302 **\*\*No Smoke Without Fire** is a guide for people who believe they are the victims of a miscarriage of justice, containing advice starting from the moment of arrest through to post-release care. SAE to: Liberty, 21 Tabard St, London SE1 4LA. Tel 0171 403 3888 **\*Thespionage** presents **'TICK-A-TEENTH? because dealing can be murder'** Another tale from the front-line, for those that know the score. At The Komedia, Gardner St, Brighton. Tues 27 and Wed 28 April 8pm 01273 647 100. The Akademia, Manchester St, Brighton. Fri 14th & Sat 15th May 7.30pm 01273 607 171. Tickets £5/4 **\*\*Conference on Iboga** A talk by Dan Lieberman on the therapeutic uses of Iboga (a psychoactive plant from the Congo Basin). Used by the Bwiti in their 3-5 day initiation ceremonies it has been especially effective in treating opium addiction. At the Akademia, 14-17 Manchester St. Tel: 0181 3878824 [ethnobotany@iafrica.com](mailto:ethnobotany@iafrica.com) **\*\*The contract for the Avon Ring Road** has been awarded to Christiani Nielsen, the Leamington-based outfit responsible for the Wells relief road and the nasty evictions at Dead Woman's Bottom. Work is expected to start on Apr 10; the protest camp is gearing up for action. Contact the camp on 0836 653 723 or 0797 999 0389 or STARR at 84 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB **\*\*World Day for Laboratory Animals** is Sat April 24 with a national march in Brighton. Meet Preston Park at noon followed by wreath laying at Shamrock Farm **\*\*First-ever National Animal Rights demo at Medical Research Council,** the Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London. The labs here were infiltrated several years ago and such cruelty exposed that top profs had to resign; the experiments still continue- let's stop them. 11am, Fri April 23. Nearest tube Mill Hill East, then 240 bus. More info: Soraya 0181 888 4971; Chrissie 0181 203 2325/ 0467 471111 **\*\*Party at Lyrminge Forest** West Wood protest camp, 24/5 Apr. The battle is nearly won! **\*\*Third Battle of Newbury** are suspending their monthly meetings until 2nd Sep, due to lack of cash **\*\*The camp at the B'ham Relief Road** need tarpaulin & wood, sorry no tel no as one of the dogs buried the mobile **\*\*Don't forget:** this Saturday (17) Benefit gig with comedian **Tony Allen** @ Hobboglin London Rd upstairs 9pm. £1.50 \*\*

### SIMON JONES MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN

Meeting next Thursday 22nd April 7.30pm upstairs at The Hobboglin. 01273 685913

## Watching me, watching you.

Each person in this country watches an average 4 hours of TV a day; that's a quarter of the waking life of everyone spent staring at a piece of furniture. Scary, but we ain't seen nothing yet.

How about a TV that watches you? Every time you click the remote control of a new Digital TV, the set notes what you are watching and for how long, and then relays this information to the service provider. As you explore the interactive new world of entertainment a file is being compiled of your interests and viewing habits, name, address, bank details... This will then be sold to the multi-national corporations, so they can target you with specific products, or to any other organisation who wants it.

The happy advertisers of TV's 'digital revolution' promise more "viewer power", but in fact the opposite is true. Pilot interactive TV projects have created programmes that are designed to extract even more information from people, through on-screen quiz shows and questionnaires. Matthew Timms, head of programming at Two Way TV says viewers are happy to answer personal questions:

*"They tend to be fairly honest... because somehow they feel they're sitting there, it's just them and the television, even though the reality is it's got a wire leading straight back to somebody's computer..."*

And there's more in store. The service providers can send new software to your telly at any point, without telling you, and they're working on the idea of artificial intelligence programming so the box can respond to the information it gleams about you. It could sell you products you might like, suggest programmes to watch, work to increase your viewing, or your children's... turn off, tune out and drop off drop the thing out of a twelve storey window.

22-28th April is International TV-Turnoff Week, coordinated in this country by White Dot. They encourage you to "Take a healthy break from TV and you'll find out what you really enjoy doing." More information on this and the leaflet "Spy TV" about digital telly from White Dot, PO Box 2116, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3LR; [www.whitedot.org](http://www.whitedot.org)

## SHIT HAPPENS

April 19th-25th is Real Nappy Week - did you know that British parents throw out 8 million disposable nappies a day, that's over 800 000 tonnes a year of nappy waste - all have to be disposed of. For every £1 spent on nappies, the taxpayer pays 10p to get rid of them. The Real Nappy Association and Women's Environmental Network are trying to expose the environmental damage caused by nappy waste and promote alternatives. Councils are joining in, giving away free real nappies and encouraging use in maternity wards. Apart from the volume of waste, the campaign is concerned with the ingredients of disposable nappies, which are not subject to govt controls and include at least one chemical removed from tampons in 1985 because of its link to toxic shock syndrome. Real Nappy Association, PO Box 3704, London SE26 4RX, 0181 299 4519

### ...and finally...

Tomatoes around the country are going all gooeey over drum and bass. Growers have found that blasting the fruits with loud bass-heavy music which helps to dislodge the pollen, which falls on the stigmas and a baby tomato is born. Ahhh. "Music with a strong beat is best" reckons Alan Parker, chair of the Tomato Growers' Association "Even growers whose taste inclines more towards Radio 3 recognise the merits of drum and bass. We have not compiled a tomato top 10 yet, but it is safe to say Simply Red will be in there".

SchNEWS has unconfirmed reports that Monsanto is trying to splice a DNA gene from Goldie into tomatoes.

**Disclaimer** SchNEWS warns all readers that their TV is full of disposable shit. Honest!





# BALACLAVA BOVVER

Just when you thought that there weren't enough nasty laws to keep us in our places, along comes The New Crime and Disorder Act, which came into effect this month. Democracy is now surely safe with this new law which amongst other things, makes wearing masks on demonstrations illegal, and creates new Anti-Social Behaviour orders to deal with bad people. Here is your survival guide to the new powers the forces of darkness now possess

## Masking up illegal

Sections 25-7 of the new act dictate that a Police Officer of inspector rank or above can order you to de-mask on a demo if s/he fears "serious violence or disorder in his/her area". They also have the power to confiscate and destroy materials used to mask up with - so don't take your brand new tops. Failure to de-mask can land you in the nick for up to a month.

On a hunt sab in Dorset last month, the cops declared the whole county an area of potential serious disorder in order to force sab to de-mask. Amongst items confiscated were hooded tops and a copy of the local paper that one shy sab was using to preserve his modesty! But fear not, when quizzed by SchNEWS our friendly Dorset cops informed us that they would only use the legislation where appropriate, and if it was a cold December morning on a peaceful demo then you could wear your scarves in safety. Well that's alright then.

Hames Valley Police used the act at last weekends anti-vivisection demonstration at Hillgrove Farm. The police went back on a previous agreement not to perform searches on the day, forcing 41 people to unmask and nicking one man who refused to do so. Some might say it's a wee bit unfair, since cops often have their faces covered on demos, and seem to mysteriously lose their ID numbers. But of course, police don't need to conceal their identity, as they would never do anything wrong, would they?

**THE REBEL ALLIANCE**  
Wednesday 28th April  
7 pm upstairs @ Hobgoblin Pub,  
London Rd

## Anti Social Behaviour Orders

Sections 1-4 of the Act cover the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO). When someone is suspected of anti-social behaviour, a senior police officer or local authority can apply to the courts for an ASBO which is done in a civil rather than criminal court, so they need less proof to get one. The hearing can also be held without the person affected by the ASBO being there to defend themselves. Once they get it, they can not only force the person to stop the "anti-social" behaviour, but can also get more wide-ranging restrictions on their actions, even if it's not directly relevant to the ASBO, such as curfews or exclusion orders. The order runs for at least 2 years, but can be extended for indefinite periods. Violation of an ASBO can land you with up to 5 years in the nick.

These orders are being hailed as the way to deal with "neighbours from hell", but animal rights groups fear the new law will be used against them in the same way that the anti-stalking laws have. The definition of anti-social behaviour is so wide-ranging that you can have an ASBO slapped on you if your behaviour causes "alarm or distress, or harassment to one or more people". Wouldn't it be spooky if protestors at Hillgrove or Shamrock started getting ASBOs issued against them?

## Wider definition of terrorism

Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, those nice guardians of our freedom in the Labour government have published their 'Legislation against Terrorism' Consultation Paper which will protect us all from international terrorism, with the use of even more draconian laws. The Paper suggests, amongst other things, that there is a "continuing need for counter-terrorist legislation for the foreseeable future." This is regardless of the threat of terrorism in Northern Ireland. How odd then, that it was a Labour government that introduced the first Prevention of Terrorism Act in 1974, promising that it was only a temporary measure, brought in after the Birmingham pub bombings. Well apparently the "time has come to put that legislation onto a permanent footing." Whoops!

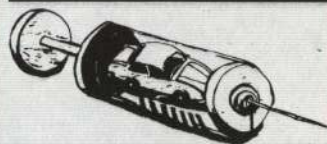
## CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

With intent to have a cup of tea. A worker at Faslane Naval Base got talking to peace-camp demonstrators and decided to go back for a cup of tea with them. The MOD police threatened him with the sack if he went to the camp and when he persisted in his tea mission he was taken away by the (Tea)-Service Police!

This Consultation paper also proposes to widen the definition of terrorism as "the use of serious violence against persons or property, or the threat to use such violence to intimidate or coerce a government, the public, or any section of the public for political, religious or ideological ends." If it wasn't obvious enough, they intend to use this definition to include animal rights activities, and "indigenous groups prepared to engage in serious violence to further their cause (e.g. independence for a certain region, or environmental concerns)". So watch out all you Cornish nationalists and anti-open cast campaigners. Finally the paper proposes that the powers of stop and search and detention that exist in Northern Ireland should be extended to the rest of the UK. So a copper can arrest you to "prevent acts of terrorism" and hold you for up to 28 days without trial.

But before you all get too paranoid and give up direct action, and start to write dodgy anarcho news-sheets, they're only bringing in such laws, because they realise how effective direct action is. So bear in mind the London Animal Rights News editorial "Whilst we should monitor the situation, it in some way reflects the success our movement has had. It shows that animal abusers see us a force to be reckoned with."

## PARTY ON THE TUBE with RECLAIM THE STREETS



Saturday May 1st  
Coach leaves Brighton 11 am from  
St. Peter's Church  
Tickets £4/3 available at the Peace  
Centre, Gardner St. then on to  
Clapham Common festival



## ROBERT HAMILL RIP

"In Northern Ireland this case has the sort of impact for many that the Stephen Lawrence case has in London" *Jeremy Hardy*

On 27th April 1997 Robert Hamill left a Catholic social club in Portadown after a family night-out. A Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) landrover parked nearby had been warned that a group of loyalists were hanging around. Seeing the RUC presence and knowing that they had been alerted to possible trouble, Robert and his family made the fatal mistake of assuming that the police would keep the peace, and they could safely walk past the lurking Loyalists. The mob, of about thirty, knocked Robert down then gave the men a serious kicking. The women ran to a nearby RUC vehicle, begging for help. They received NO response, though the attack took place in full-view of the officers. The police said they feared for their safety even though they carry guns. No arrests were made, no crime scene declared. After twelve days in a coma, Robert finally died.

Roberts' family have been taunted ever since the attack by RUC vehicles beeping their horns, one time swerving close enough to hit a brother's ankle; also by Loyalists chanting "Where's Robbie Hamill!", while miming holding someone by the hair and kicking and stamping on their head.

Of the six men who were eventually arrested, five were released without charge due to insufficient evidence. Although there were CCTV cameras overlooking the scene, the RUC claim nothing of any relevance was recorded. It took 10 days and 5 press statements for the police to come close to admitting the truth. Initially the RUC said "Police moved in to separate (two) groups... bottles were thrown... and the police themselves came under attack", this bears little resemblance to the truth.

One man, Paul Hobson, 22, was recently acquitted of Roberts' murder but convicted of causing an affray, he could be back on the streets in less than six weeks! Roberts family, realising that no-one else is going to do anything about this, are collecting funds to pay for a private prosecution.

\* Donations and messages of support to: Robert Hamill Justice Appeal Fund c/o 8 William Street, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, BT66 1JA.

\* In a recent TV documentary 'Loyalists' reporters were told that thousands of documents containing detailed information on 'suspects' were passed onto Loyalist death squads by the RUC and British Army.

Read 'The Committee: political assassinations in Northern Ireland' by Sean McPhilemy

\* Since July 1998 Catholics living in Portadown, Northern Ireland have been living under a state of continuous siege, since the Orange Order were banned from marching through the Garvaghy Road. Residents are harassed daily by Orange Order demos and other violent acts. A support group in Britain has now been set up Friends of the Garvaghy Road, BM Box 5519, London, WC1N 3XX Tel 0181 442 8778 email fgr@brosna.demon.co.uk

\* Demonstrations by the South Armagh Farmers and Residents Committee continue. Despite the Good Friday agreement they live in the most militarised area in Western Europe. Within an area under ten miles in radius there are 30 spy posts and five military bases with 3,000 troops assigned to the area. That's one for every eight people in South Armagh.

\* A helicopter flying for just one hour costs the equivalent of a nurse's wages for 4 months. Official figures show that 30,000 flying hours were recorded last year in N. Ireland - enough to pay around 6,000 nurses.

\* Good Friday Agreement discussion meeting 1pm Sat 8th May St.Margaret's House, 21 Old Ford Rd., Bethnal Green, E2 Tel 0171 833 3022

## SchNEWS in brief

The Big Issue is launching a campaign to end the Home Office's inhumane practice of issuing food vouchers to asylum seekers. They're printing coupons over the next four weeks for you to send to Jack Straw. Support line-0171 526 3305\*\*American news group Cable News Network (CNN) have agreed to show an Adbusters advert as part of "TV Turn-Off Week." ABC, CBS and NBC however, told Adbusters to get lost. International TV Turn Off Week runs from 22-28th April and is co-ordinated in the UK by White Dot, PO Box 2116, Hove, E.Sussex, BN3 3LR www.adbusters.org

\*\*Stop the War! Brighton and Hove campaign, meeting every Monday, 7.30 pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship St. Protest every Sat. 12 noon, Clocktower, Brighton. National Demo, London, 8th May, coaches will be organised\*\*Come to the opening of the new Unemployed Workers Centre.

1st May 1pm, 4 Crestway Parade, Hollingdean. Food, stalls, music etc.\*\* Whitehawk Hill Allotment Gardeners Association (WHAGA)

are a co-op working a 1/2 acre of disused allotments at Whitehawk Hill. They want to expand to open up more derelict land for organic growing in a cooperative way and need to show they have support in the wider community. Ring Karl Heyman 292215 to put your name on the waiting list for Whitehawk Hill\*\* Newcastle Community Green Festival, FREE environmental event. May 1 + 2 Tel: 0191 232 1750

\*\* A woman is due in court next month charged with writing 'don't bomb Iraq' on the dockyard walls at the Royal Naval Base in Portsmouth. As they point out "People in Iraq need our solidarity, not bombs and sanctions" so turn up outside the court hearing wearing black. Portsmouth Magistrates' Court, Thursday 6th & Friday 7th May 9.30am Contact Portsmouth Anarchist Network, Box A, 167 Fawcett Rd., Southsea, Hampshire, PO 4 0DH

\*\*If you saw the TV programme Movement Against The Monarchy (MAM) and you want to know more about those trouble making anti-royalist scum go to a MAM meeting on May 2nd 2-5pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Tube, Central London

\*\* Protesters camped along the route of the proposed Birmingham Northern Relief Road have sent us their new contact no. after their dog buried their mobile last week: 07931 161761\*\* Demonstrate against student fees in Huddersfield on Wednesday April 28 Meet 11am outside Students Union\*\*The National Front plans to march through Worcester this Saturday have been cancelled. Shame.

## BLOODY TREES

A protest camp has now been set up at Cedars Wood after Manchester Airport PLC started felling trees. The airport authorities wanted to chop down the wood because those blasted trees will get in the way of the radar for the new runway. Permission was given by the owners, National Trust, who are, once again, breaking their own rules.

The protesters are expecting eviction soon, despite the fact that the House of Lords have still to decide on the woods future. Contact 01226 764279 Site mobile: 07931 931850

Radio 4 comes to Brighton for the day. With A difference. Tune in to an alternative womens hour, Archers, gardeners question time, the shagging forecast, childrens programs, documentaries, with special guest appearances from comedian Mark Thomas, ex-Crass Penny Rimbaud, Jeremy 'Leveller' and Atilla the Stockbroker. And hourly news from SchNEWS.. Full program for Radio 4A in next weeks SchNEWS. 10 am Sun 2nd May 106.6FM www.indifference.demon.co.uk/radio4a

## Inside SchNEWS

In March, prisoner activist **Kenny Carter** was placed in solitary at Full Sutton gaol in the interests of 'Good Order and Discipline'. Although he had committed no offence, the guv decided that his presence on 'normal location' was "objectionable". He was segregated because of his campaigning for prisoner rights. Kenny spent years on the 'ghost-train', being constantly moved around until his arrival at Full Sutton in 1998 where he was segregated immediately. After 3 months he was allowed into an ordinary wing but remained a target for prison staff. Four months later, Kenny was back in segregation where he remains. It's important that he is supported by all who share his vision of a society free from brutal prison systems and dehumanised prisoners. Write letters of support to Kenny Carter, AD3434, HMP Full Sutton, Moor Lane, York YO4 1PS. Letters of protest to the governor at the same address.

\*Benefit gig for **Michal Patera**, a member of the Czech anarcho-syndicalists, Sat 1st May @Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Rd, 10 mins from Finsbury Park, with Steve Cope, the Doleclaimers and North London anarcho-syndicalist choir. 8pm 'till late £5/2.50 unwaged. Michal is currently facing 25 years hard labour after defending himself from attack by 5 neo-nazis. None of the attackers have been charged. Funny that! Over a third of Czech police are members of racist organisations.

## WORKERS MEMORIAL

April 28th is Workers Memorial Day, a day to remember workers around the world who have been killed, disabled or injured at work. The day not only highlights the preventable nature of the vast majority of workplace accidents and ill health, but promotes campaigns for safety at work. In the UK alone about 500 people are killed every year in work and road traffic accidents. An estimated 20,000 more die each year from work related illness.

One of these deaths was Simon Jones, who one year ago went to work at Shoreham docks for Euromin Ltd. for the first and last time. Sent by a temping agency to do one of the most dangerous jobs in the country with no health and safety training. He was helping to unload a ship when the grab of a crane crushed his skull. He died instantly.

A year on and despite every legal channel being exhausted as well as a series of high-profile direct actions no-one has been prosecuted over his death. In Parliament George Galloway MP said Euromin manager James Martell's "contempt for the laws of health and safety in this country, his greed and hunger for profit, his negligence and carelessness, slaughtered this young man just as clearly as if he had pushed him off the dock with his own hands."

\*Wed 28th April protest outside the Health and Safety Executive HQ, London (South side of Southwark Bridge) Transport leaves Brighton from St.Peters Church at 11 am £1/50p concession

Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 2DX www.simonjones.org.uk

## ...and finally...

Get yer laughing-gear round this one! Vegan Condoms are available to delight the discerning in their search for kosher contraception. Comdomi's exciting new range of cruelty-free jonnies (best avoided by S&M freaks) have something to tickle everyone's fancy: 'Nature' for down-to-earth types, Flavoured for the discerning palate, Schnews imagines a tasty tofu flavoured option, simply marinated in soy sauce for optimum results.. Noppy, for the adventurous, and Hand-Painted Fun for arty types. Schnews just hopes they taste better than your average vegan meal!! Contact Comdomi 0171 277 6630

Disclaimer: SchNEWS warns all readers not to be shy. Always be prepared to give up your clothing to friendly police officers, who only want to get to know your particulars better. You will then be cool. Honest.

## 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 May Day double-issue cash crisis - cough up chickens



# Seeing The Back Of Hillgrove and Shamrock

The grass-roots animal rights movement has truly revealed its power over the past year with the closure of two major suppliers of animals to the vivisection industry. A combination of high-profile campaigning, public support, direct action and a hell of a load of determination has seen the end of Hillgrove Farm and Shamrock Farm.

Hillgrove Farm was a family-run business breeding and supplying cats to vivisection labs worldwide for over 30 years. Based near the small village of Witney in Oxfordshire it had been the target of a small low-profile campaign for many years. The closure of beagle-breeders Consort Beagles in July 1997 gave the animal rights movement the boost and confidence to take on establishments such as Hillgrove, and the Consort campaign had been an opportunity to try out various methods, old and new. Long-term activists had said that the feeling of power generated at Consort demos was something they hadn't seen since the mid-80s. Thousands of activists had gone to Consort on a regular basis not just to express their disgust at the vivisection industry that mutilates and murders millions of animals (and people through the drugs it produces) but to go further, and try and rescue animals and cause as much damage as possible to property in order to close the place down.

Many of those involved in the Consort campaign turned their attention to Hillgrove, notorious for supplying kittens as young as 13 days to a whole list of torture labs. In time, daily demos and night vigils were held at the entrance to the farm, regional and national demos were organised on a regular basis, and firms supplying all sorts of materials to the 'Farm' were persuaded to stop their dealings. Concerned members of the public flooded Hillgrove with phone calls and faxes during office hours so that genuine customers couldn't get through. Mr Brown and his wife found themselves receiving all sorts of things they had never ordered, from books to porcelain statues of Elvis (sent to them after people had 'mistakenly' put Brown's address on the 'send no money now' forms found in magazines). When Brown received a letter bomb courtesy of the Justice Department it was clear he had become a major target.

Amazingly, even after a huge ten-foot fence was erected around the premises, which was patrolled by CCTV cameras and security guards, Mr Brown's wife was still trying to run her bed and breakfast business! The ads continued to claim a "friendly atmosphere" without mentioning the thousands of cats at the back of the farm waiting to be shipped to labs, and the thousands of masked and angry protesters! Eventually, the bed and breakfast business had to fail after holiday bureaux, the Caravan Club and guide-books all removed Hillgrove from their listings, adding to the financial pressure. The Advertising Standards Authority even banned the Browns from using the word "friendly" to describe their B&B and self-catering holidays due to the constant presence of demonstrators!

National demos at Hillgrove were events that anyone who attended will never forget. It was a time when grass-roots activists were largely in control and the police could have very little impact. Who could forget the demos surrounding World Day for Laboratory Animals where thousands of people tried to storm the farm, ripping down fences and pelting Brown's house with rocks that smashed probably every window as well as extensively damaging his roof. Protests such as this were attended by up to 400 cops and cost £100,000 each time to police. By the end of the campaign over £1.5million had been spent policing the protests. Although the large police presence prevented activists getting to the cats during most demos, earlier on in the campaign some activists did manage to rescue cats during a daytime action. Later, one intrepid activist who happened to be walking around Hillgrove one daytime found a carrying box in a vehicle and decided to take it away for closer examination - inside were four six-week old kittens about to be sent to a lab.

The campaign attracted people from all walks of life, young and old, who felt equal outrage at Brown's activities. Local support came in with 95% of people voting to close down Hillgrove in one

local newspaper poll. During one trial at Witney Magistrates court, the chair of the Magistrates commented that many of them supported the protesters!

With both the Shamrock and Hillgrove campaigns, activists were determined to stay ahead of the police. When exclusion orders were issued, preventing protests at the farms, campaigners instead went to the city centres of Brighton and Oxford. There was no way they were going to simply go home, they had a message to take to the public and they certainly made it heard. If the police think that by stopping campaigners from going to the hell-holes that they will simply give in, then they have been proved wrong. This not only gave the public a chance to hear the message, but they also saw first hand how the police treat protesters, and it was often people out shopping who were attacked by police. It was during the Hillgrove campaign in particular that journalists and photographers were harassed and attacked by police. Despite carrying official press cards a number of photographers were arrested and had films confiscated. Home Secretary Jack Straw got dragged into the fight when it emerged that his having a country cottage as a "weekend retreat" just half a mile from Hillgrove may have been the reason for such restrictive exclusion orders banning protests and the massive police presence. Friends in high places ...

Shamrock (GB) Ltd was another company that had long been a target for animal rights activists, but it wasn't until campaigners took a leaf out of the book from the Consort and Hillgrove campaigns that things really started to move. Shamrock was set up in 1954 to supply wild caught primates for vivisection, later starting its own breeding colonies at the site in Small Dole, West Sussex. Like Hillgrove, Shamrock also supplied labs all over the world. The new improved campaign kicked off in November 98, and despite 45 years in business it only took 15 months for some extremely dedicated activists to finish the company off.

In the early 90s an undercover investigator from the BUAV worked at Shamrock, keeping detailed diaries of goings on and filming conditions. He exposed the day to day brutality, where monkeys were punched, pulled out of the cages by their tails, and being repeatedly stabbed with a needle to try and take a blood sample. The BUAV estimated that in the 10 years up to 1992 Shamrock had sold 40-50,000 monkeys to labs. With the vast majority being wild caught this represents some 250,000 monkeys when deaths during capture and shipping are taken into account.

Once the campaigns really got going there was no stopping them. The companies were hit from every angle. If someone supplied a product to Hillgrove or Shamrock they were persuaded to stop. A constant presence at the premises made day to day business uncomfortable. Those staff who weren't wise enough to leave immediately found themselves receiving mass demos outside their homes. One Hillgrove worker finally gave in after her house was taken over for the day by a bunch of cops awaiting a home demo - apparently the mess they made with their muddy size elevens was



Picture: Andrew Testa Hillgrove - 18/4/98





just too much! Lynda King, vet and Managing Director of Shamrock, knows more than most people what it's like to take on the animal liberation movement. It has been reported that at the stroke of the new millennium as she and her friends were singing auld lang syne some uninvited guests improved her ventilation by smashing all her windows. Not long afterwards an arson attack on her garage destroyed two cars.

Rumours had abounded for some time about the closure of Hillgrove, but it wasn't until 13th August 99 that it was finally confirmed. The RSPCA went in that night to take away all 800 cats to RSPCA centres for rehoming. The RSPCA had criticised the campaign against Hillgrove all along, and even after its closure they continued to defend not only Chris Brown but also his business of supplying cats to labs. In April 2000 the RSPCA even appointed ex-Shamrock vet Paul West as their assistant chief veterinary officer! This is a man who was criticised for his treatment of animals at Shamrock by even the Home Office.

The closure of Shamrock came more suddenly and surprisingly. On 9th March campaigners met to plan the next stage of the campaign. They had no need - Shamrock released a press statement on 10th March announcing they would close as soon as the remaining monkeys could be "humanely relocated". Although this turned out to be a lie as all the monkeys have been sent to labs, no more animals will suffer there anymore.

The strength of these two campaigns came from the diversity of people involved and the diversity of actions. From the pensioners writing letters to the younger activists risking their liberty to cause financial pressure, everyone played their part. We are all in it together and we can all do something to achieve animal liberation. A lot of people were arrested during protests against Hillgrove, and several served prison sentences for various "public order offences". But their sacrifices helped achieve not just the clo-

"Thank god there are people willing to sacrifice their liberty for the sake of defenceless animals, and prove that common humanity does still exist in this so-called civilised country."

Marilyn Tyrrell, 94-year old Hillgrove supporter - Oxford Mail 27.1.98

sure of Hillgrove but the snowballing of an anti-vivisection campaign that no-one seems able to stop.

These two establishments existed because of money. There were big bucks to be made in supplying cats and monkeys to labs. When you start to have an impact on that profit the incentive for carrying on is weakened. When you have to pay for constant security guards and spend thousands on new security measures that means less profit at the end of the day. And when you find it difficult to find anyone to work for your company, and you keep getting your property trashed, it doesn't seem like a good line of business to be in after all.

The main lesson learnt from these campaigns is 'keep at it'. Right from the start those involved most knew it could take many years of a long hard battle until they won, but they were determined to not give in until they had reached their goal. Animal Liberation is not an unachievable goal, we have to put all we have into it because we know we can - and will - get there.

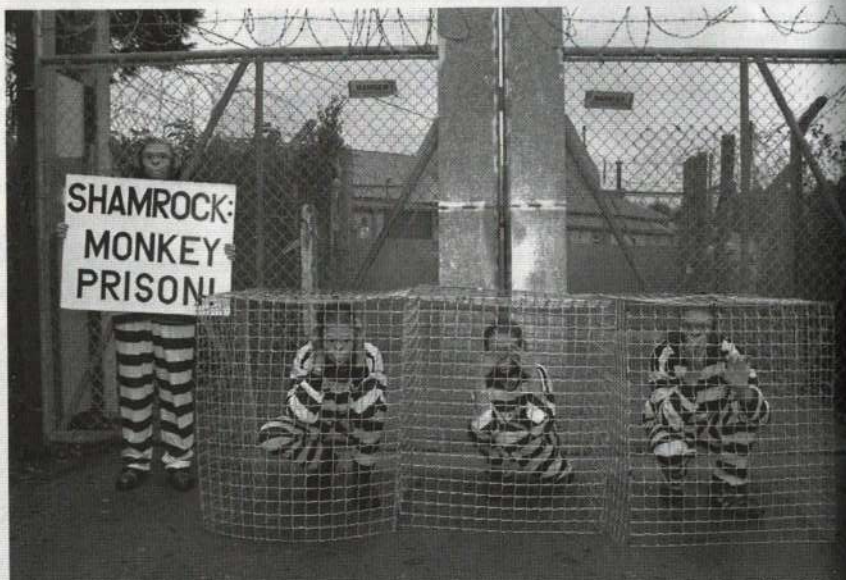
So where does this leave us now? Hillgrove and Shamrock are closed but animals are still being poisoned, burned and mutilated in their millions in the name of 'science'. These campaigns make vivisection unprofitable. Closing down animal breeders will make it more difficult - and more costly - for labs to get hold of animals. Vivisectors will look elsewhere for employment and those

thinking about working in animal torture may think otherwise. Millions of people have been informed about the realities of animal experiments. When vivisection becomes less profitable those companies currently testing on animals will look at non-animal methods of testing as a cheaper way of getting their products onto the market. The whole animal abuse industry has been shaken to the core by these campaigns. We've still got a long hard battle ahead, but no-one ever said this would be easy.

There are now two major anti-vivisection campaigns operating on the same lines that need your help:

- Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs: PO Box Evesham, Worcs, Tel: 01902  
- Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty: PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 1YN. Tel: 0121 632 6460

For information on grass-roots animal rights campaigns contact ARCNEWS on 01902 711 935 or [james@arcnews.demon.co.uk](mailto:james@arcnews.demon.co.uk), or see [www.arcnews.co.uk](http://www.arcnews.co.uk)





## FAT CAT SLIM

*"The Private Finance Initiative means paying more for less."* Dr Jean Shaoul, accountancy expert Manchester University.

Public services sold off to big business. Private firms in our schools. Worse pay and conditions for workers. Adverts on fire-engines. Who could possibly be behind such dastardly schemes? New Labour silly.

Welcome to the world of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), which in plain English means privatisation by the back door.

### FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE TUBE...

The London Underground is already the most expensive in Europe, and with plans for it to be sold to private companies, fares will spiral even higher. As with the fragmentation of British Rail, health & safety will be put at risk, services will be cut, and large scale redundancies and casualisation are on the cards.

### THEN THEY CAME FOR OUR SCHOOLCHILDREN.....

In Haringey four private companies have been short listed under the PFI to take over schools, including Rentokil Initial (who in the past have been removed from one in three of its school cleaning contracts).

School buildings will effectively be privatised, as private companies will take control for up to 30 years, and they will decide how schools will be used outside of school hours, to make profits.

In Haringey this will mean the privatisation of cleaning, caretaking and repair and maintenance work, threatening jobs, pay and conditions. Despite widespread opposition, the council is pushing ahead spending £250,000 just to prepare its bid.

If that's not enough New Labour have also come up with Education Action Zones, allowing big business to get involved in running education. In Sheffield the main sponsors are Midland bank and Yorkshire Water. Meanwhile in Surrey, the council have announced plans to privatise the teachers of one of its schools.

### THEN THEY ATTACKED OUR BRAVE FIREFIGHTERS....

*"It's privatisation through the back door. All companies work for profit and this is just not appropriate within a public service."* Fire Brigade Union spokesperson

Fire-fighters are on the brink of their first national strike since the seventies over plans to break up the national framework, which sets a minimum standard of working conditions around the country and replaces it with "local bargaining." Fire-fighters rightly see this as a first step towards privatisation. One union spokesperson commented "We've seen what damage local bargaining has done to our public services, our railways and our ambulance service. First they carve up the workforce then they sell bits off and the public end up paying for a worse service."

Just to show how keen they, the London Fire Brigade this month made a multi-million pound Private Finance Initiative deal to fund their fire-fighting fleet and equipment.

And there's more... London are also looking into the raising cash through private sponsorship, which could include advertising on the side of fire engines!

### NEXT IT WAS THE HOSPITALS

*"It's (the PFI) like taking out a mortgage from a loan shark to buy a house which you already own - and then discovering, 25 years down the line, that the property has been repossessed by the lender anyway".* Francis Wheen, journalist.

Dryburn hospital in Durham due to open in 2001 will be built, financed and owned by a private sector consortium, Consort Healthcare. In return for use of the hospital, the local health service trust will pay the consortium £7 million every year for the next 30 years. Consort will also provide most of the hospital's ancillary staff, at a cost of an extra £5 million a year.

Officially, PFI schemes are given the go-ahead only if they offer better value for money than other options. But a study by the union UNISON shows that the cost of the PFI scheme over 30 years will be over £22 million more than if the public sector had built and owned the hospital.

There will also be a reduction in services with only half the hospital beds originally planned and a 22 per cent cut in clinical staffing budget over the next two years

Workers at the University College Hospital in London recently went on a two week all out strike over privatisation plans.

### THEN THEY WENT FOR THE HOUSING BENEFIT DEPARTMENTS

Housing Benefit and Council Tax staff in Brighton and Hove are preparing to take strike action after the Council revealed it's plans to sell off their department to a private company called Capita. The announcement, made only three weeks ago, was followed by an immediate meeting where 180 people voted unanimously for a strike ballot to defend their jobs, and two mass pickets of the Town hall while the issue was debated left Councillors in no doubt as to what the mood was.

The proposals, which will remove the entire Housing Benefit operation to Falmer, will mean an inevitable drop in the quality of the service: long delays in processing claims, no local service points, no flexibility when it comes to overpayment demands. Capita have a past history of incompetence (in one mistake 4,600 pensioners were accidentally sent a letter informing them that their housing benefit was being cut, along with an increased council tax demand), lying about their efficiency rates and redundancies.

The most interesting thing about the company is that Labour Council leader Lord Bassam lists a consultancy with Capita in the House of Lords Register of Interests! When news of the privatisation broke, Capita's shares rose 39p more money for Bassam's chums.

The Council, worried that this is becoming a local election own-goal have decided to 'review' the decision a stalling tactic if ever there was one. But with Unison deciding to introduce a voluntary levy on all it's Brighton and Hove members to support a prospective strike, the Council may have bitten off more than it can chew.

A recent report which studied 41 local authorities involved in Private Finance Initiative schemes, has concluded that 150,000 jobs will be transferred to the private sector in the next 10 years. Job losses are estimated at 30,000.

### LIFE AFTER PRIVITISATION

*"Strikes in the future are not just going to be won by the withdrawal of labour - they are going to be won by employing other methods. Having people like Reclaim The Streets (RTS) involved could go a long way to winning other disputes in the future. RTS get publicity and cause the bosses serious financial distress - and they can't be sacked."* Steve.

Steve Hedley was on strike with other railway maintenance workers and engineers over pay and conditions. Since privatisation the companies that bought British Rail have been making around £1million a day profit and Railtrack a similar amount. Meanwhile maintenance workers are taking home around £135 a week after tax for a 37-39 hour week.

During the dispute Steve was at Euston Station on a picket line when a scab van drove straight at the picket line. On its way past it was alleged that a wing mirror was cracked on the van and Steve was blamed. However two independent photographers and even Railtrack's own CCTV showed that Steve wasn't the person. Still, the Railtrack sub-contractors sacked him and even though the case was thrown out of court, the company have refused to give him his job back.

### SKY CHEFS DISPUTE

Last November 273 airline catering workers at Heathrow airport were sacked just three hours after going on an official one-day strike over worsening pay and conditions. People on holiday pay or sick that day were sacked.

The company LSG Lufthansa SkyChefs are the biggest airline catering company in the world serving 260 air-lines with pre-tax profits of £2.2 million in 1997. Meanwhile sacked workers doing a 60 hour shift could expect a take-home pay of just £220 a week.

The strike, which has received virtually no press, is seen by many as a pointer to the future. If SkyChefs get away with it, then all their workers will eventually be forced to work under worse conditions for longer hours and less pay.

There's a mass picket on Monday 3rd May 9 am - 1 pm at Fagg's Rd off the A30, south end of Heathrow airport. Assemble opposite the 'Green Man' pub (5 mins walk from Hatton Cross tube station.)

**THE STRIKE SUPPORT GROUP** aims to give financial aid to workers in struggle, give striking workers resources to print and publish their own leaflets etc., and to physically support pickets and other demonstrations of workers in dispute.

For a copy of their newsletter send SAE to 145 Imperial Ave, Victoria Rd., London, N16 8HL. Tel 0171 249 0041. They meet every Monday at the Cock Tavern, Phoenix Rd., London NW1 at 7.30 pm.

Reclaim the Streets 0171 281 4621; [rts@gn.apc.org](mailto:rts@gn.apc.org)

Haringey Against Privatisation, c/o PO Box 8446, London, N17 6NZ

Campaign Against Tube Privatisation 47c Wadsworth St., Bethnal Green, London, E2 9DP. Tel 0181 981 8065

Anarchist Trade Union Network PO Box EMAB 88 Abbey St., Derby DE22 3SO



## MAY DAY/BELTANE

The celebration of Beltane heralds the start of the summer in the pagan calendar - signifying the death of winter and the return of the warm weather. *BEL-TENE*: 'A goodly fire'. Traditionally people jumped the fire together and alone to purify, to cleanse and to bring fertility. The *TEIN-EIGIN*, the sacred fire, was kindled after all the fires in the community had been put out. Beltane is the celebration of the sacred marriage. A festival for friends and lovers, for joining energies together and for honouring that union. It is a time to honour sex in its raw state as part of the cycle, nature and the expansive energy of this time. So get out into the fields, light a fire and indulge in some loved-up beltane celebrations.

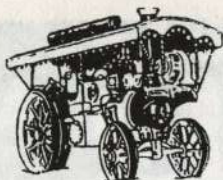
## THE HAYMARKET MARTYRS

May 1886 and 80,000 workers and their families walk down Chicago's Michigan Avenue in the world's first ever May Day Parade. At the same time 340,000 workers in 12,000 factories across the US down tools to demand an eight hour day in order to spread work among the thousands made unemployed by new 'labour saving' machinery. The next day Chicago police attack peaceful strikers with guns and clubs, killing and wounding several. On May 3rd 6,000 striking lumberworkers march to the aid of strikers at the McCormick Harvester factory who have been locked out over a wage dispute. When pickets try to stop scabs from entering the plant, the cops attack again, opening fire killing four and wounding many others. Outraged at this a protest is called for the next day at the Haymarket Square.

The meeting was peaceful and a shower of rain soon sent away most of the crowd. However, with only a few hundred people remaining the police once again attacked - a bomb was thrown and exploded among the police who immediately opened fire. Several cops and many workers were killed.

It has never been discovered who threw the Haymarket bomb, but it was certainly none of the eight anarchists who were put on trial for it. Six of them were not ever there! Yet the trial with biased judge and hysterical press ensured a guilty verdict and condemned 5 of the 8 to death. Despite worldwide protests Parsons, Spies, Fischer and Engels were hanged on November 11th (Ling had committed suicide the previous day). Six years later the state governor released the survivors from jail, admitting that there had no evidence to link any of the 8 with the Haymarket bomb.

On 14th July 1889, on the 100th anniversary of the Bastille Day, an American delegate at the International Labour Congress in Paris proposed that May 1st be officially adopted as a workers holiday. This was unanimously approved and since then May Day has served as a date for international solidarity.



## PROTEST CAMPS

**AVON RING ROAD** Trying to stop Bristol's answer to the M25 being built. People with experience of tunnelling would be most welcome, as would anyone else. Directions: from Bristol train station catch the 48 or 49 bus to the end of the route (Sainsburys), go down the hill and turn right. The camp is another minute's walk, and is opposite the security compound. Tel: 0797 999 0389.

**BIRMINGHAM NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD** Camps set up to try and stop England's first toll motorway. Directions: From the centre of Birmingham take the 105 or 105A bus to Roughley Terminus. Carry on walking in the direction the bus was going, past a beech wood on the left and past Turf Pitts Lane. They could use materials for treehouses plus some tarpaulin. Tel: 07931 161761.

**LYMINGE FOREST** After battling against the Rank organisation for a couple of years (who want to build a massive leisure complex), the camp has almost won against the entertainment giants. Rank have lost interest, but there's a rumour that planning permission may be sold to Center Parcs.

The local council in Kent wants to sell the land, but will have to do so by August. Tel: 01303 257046.

**FASLANE PEACE CAMP** Still hassling the Trident base next door, after 16 years the camp is still going strong. Contact: 01436 820901.

**MANCHESTER** A camp has been set up to stop Manchester Airport PLC cutting down trees at Cedars Wood. A few days ago nearly 30 cops raided the camp without a warrant and arrested 5 people and nicked off with boltcroppers and tools (replacements most welcome!). More people are needed to keep the two camps going, local support is still strong. There is a stay of execution till October when the House of Lords will make their decision. A party is planned for June 21st. Tel: 07931 931850

## WOMENS PEACE CAMPS

**SELLAFIELD Womens Peace Camp.** 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds. LS7 3HB. Tel: 01132621534. Email (marked clearly for the peace camp) [cornerstone@gn.apc.org](mailto:cornerstone@gn.apc.org)

**ALDERMASTON Womens Peace Camp.** Contact Helen, 33 Heron Rd, Bristol. 0117 9393746

**MENWITH HILL Womens Peace Camp.** Outside Menwith Hill US NSA Spy Base, Kettleing Head Layby, A59, Harrogate. HG3 2RA. Tel: 01943 468593

**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 information about and actions against, the production of trident at Aldermaster and Burghfield.

## RECOMMENDED Festival Eye

New issue out in next couple of weeks. All the usual listings and reviews of fringe, mainstream, alternative festivals, camps, parties and protests. Send £2.50 + large SAE to BCM 2002, London, WC1N 3XX

[www.festivaleyve.com](http://www.festivaleyve.com)

## THE ECOLOGIST

Climatic Crisis Special Issue. Essential magazine £3.50 + postage from Cissbury House, Furze View, Five Oaks Rd., Slinfold, W Sussex, RH13 7RH

## undercurrents 10

The final edition of the "alternative news video" is out now featuring workers aid to Bosnia, pie attack, Big Brother awards, Adbusters, plus all yer global direct action news available for £15 from 16B Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG Tel 01865 243562 [www.undercurrents.org](http://www.undercurrents.org)

## JUNE 18th

At last the June 18th video is out....18 minutes of sizzling video to inspire you and your friends. The video is free IF you are going to show it to groups, at meetings etc just send a stamped addressed jiffy bag with enough stamps for a video to Reclaim the Streets, PO box 9656, London N4 5JY

..REALLY FUCKIN'...  
RECOMMENDED!  
The

## SchNEWS

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- a comprehensive contacts list of 500 grass-
- roots groups. Order your copies
- NNNNNNNOOOOOOWWWWWW
- £6 + SAE 93 pence worth of stamps

## 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, ramblers 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 603868**
- Enjoy yourself - and don't let the party poopers get you down!



## MAY.....

**Summit, Cologne** Details from Bundnis Köln 99, Kornersstraße 69, 50823 Köln, Tel: 492129500008 email koeln99@gmx.net. **Sat 29th EUROPE-WIDE-MARCH.** Cologne. Against unemployment, job insecurity, Social Exclusion and racism. Tel: 0191 222 0299. Email: **EUROMUK@aol.com**. **Sat 29th ORGANIC FESTIVAL, Arundel**. **Sat 29th CAAT** day-school-planning action against DSEi arms fair (14-17 Sept) 10-5pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C1. Tel: 0171 281 0297. **Mon 31st KINGSTON GREEN FAIR.** Canbury Gardens, Kingston, Surrey. Tel: 0181 974 8883. **Mon 31st Anti Bloodsports demo.** Surrey County Show, Guildford, 10.30am-5.30pm. Tel: 0790 181 4936

**JUNE.....**

**Tue 1st LONDON to STONEHENGE**  
**WALK** begins. Meet Battersea Park Peace Pa-  
goda noon onwards phone Willie X 0171 722  
4781..**Fri 4th-Sun 6th COVENTRY**  
**FESTIVAL**...**Sat 5th STRAWBERRY**  
**FAYRE**,Mid Summer Common, Cambridge  
**FREE!**...**6th LIVING LONDON FESTI-**  
**VAL**, environmental music festie Battersea Park,  
[www.proteusweb.com/gp/](http://www.proteusweb.com/gp/)...**Tues 8th World**  
**Oceans Day**. Walks, talks, exhibitions and  
events worldwide. Tel: 0171 924 2355..**Tues 8th Protest** naked for the right to be naked in  
public outside 2pm Buckingham Palace. Con-  
tact: 208 Foleshill Rd. Coventry, CV1 4JH...**Thur**  
**10 Possible Referendum** for a ban on genet-  
ically modified food. Under the 1972 Local Gov-  
ernment Act if 10 local authority electors in a  
parish vote for a referendum then one has to be  
called. For a campaign pack ring 01226  
762359..**Fri 11th National Goldfish Day** .  
For goldfish freaks everywhere, put your best  
fish forward and boogie on down...**Sat 12 Na-**  
**tional demonstration** against Hillgrove cat  
vivisection farm. Meet 12 noon at Hillgrove,  
Whitney, Oxfordshire 01386 833846..**Sat 12th-Sun**  
**13th STOKE NEWINGTON CHURCH**  
**STREET FESTIVAL**...**12TH-20TH STOP**  
**THE ARMS TRADE WEEK**-An International  
Week of Action. Contact Campaign Against the  
Arms Trade (CAAT) Tel: 0171 281 0297  
[www.gn-apc.org/caat](http://www.gn-apc.org/caat)..**14th-20th National**  
**Vegetarian Week**. Vegetarian Society, Tel: 0161  
928 0793

**JUNE 18th INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF PROTEST AND CARNIVAL**

On the first day of the meeting of the G8 Summit in Cologne, Germany a global day of direct action is being planned, aimed at the heart of the global economy/financial banking districts. Actions are planned to take place in 35 countries across the world. In the UK people are taking their action to the City of London. Groups including London Animal Action, Campaign Against Arms Trade, Third World First, London Greenpeace/MLibel and Reclaim The Streets are planning openly advertised action for people to get involved in. Autonomous groups around the area are also planning actions to carry out on the day. For info n your local groups contact Reclaim The Streets. A booklet about how the City works and detailed map of the area is also available for a SAE from j18 info, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RG [www.j18.org](http://www.j18.org)

**19th-20th LEAMINGTON PEACE FESTIVAL**, Warwick (free!) 01926 421830. **18th-27th SPACE 1999-10 Days That Shook The Universe!** A celebration of independent, community-based space exploration including \*games of 3-sided football\* All night parties/training for raves in space\* Workshops on how to become an autonomous astronaut\* Sex in space. The Association of Autonomous Astronauts are

keen to hear from those with access to venues, satellites, soundsystems, rocket technology. Contact: Space 1999 c/o BM Box 364 London WC1N 3XX. [www.deepdisc.org/aaa...](http://www.deepdisc.org/aaa...)  
**..21st-26th Global Week of Action against Quintiles Animal Tests.** For info on events tel: 01562 745778. Email: [sqat@messages.to](mailto:sqat@messages.to).  
**Mon 21st STONEHENGE SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION!!** The exclusion zone has been lifted but in anticipation of a renewal of the old festivities police say their operation will be "adjusted accordingly". **SUNSET 8.49pm** at the Stones - **BST-..Tues22nd SUNRISE** (nearest to solstice) 4.59am at the Stones- **BST- ..www.geocities.com/soho/9000/glastone.htm.** **Fri 25th-Sun 27th GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL.** Pilton, Somerset

**JULY.....**

**Fri 2 - Sun 4 Bracknell Festival South Hill**  
Park Tel 01344 484123. **Sun 4th FREE FESTIVAL OF GLOBAL RIGHTS** 12noon-10pm (Hackney Marshes)...**Thur 8 - Sun 11 Larmertree Music Festival** Wilts; £50; 01722 415222  
[www.larmertree.demon.co.uk](http://www.larmertree.demon.co.uk). **Sat 10th BIG DAY OUT**, Milton Keynes...**10th-11th T IN THE PARK**, Glasgow...**15th-17th SEVEN REVELS**, Forest of Dean...**17th-18th MUSIC IN THE SQUARE**, Portsmouth 01705 357593

**Sat 17 Derby Punx Picnick Bass Recreational Ground**, **Sun 18th ASHTON COURT FREE FESTIVAL**, Bristol...**Fri 23 - Sun 25 Foot-hills, Wales**...**Sat 24th No Animal to Human Transplants Action Day**, Jesus Green, Cambridge. Tel:0114 2530020 They want to break the world record for the biggest ever ring-a-roses (over 12,000 people) so come out to play!!...**Wed 28th-1st Aug Northern Green Gathering**, on an organic farm in West Yorkshire. £30 0113 2249885...**30th-8th AUG THE 4TH ANARCHIST SUMMERCAMP**, Near Hannover, Germany. Tel: 0531/82909. Email: [a-camp@pmx.de](mailto:a-camp@pmx.de)

**AUGUST.....**

1st-21st MOONSHADOW ECLIPSE  
FAMILY CAMP, Cornwall..6th-8th THE  
BIG CHILL 'ENCHANTED GARDEN 99',  
Salisbury Tel: 0181 372 9735;  
[www.bigchill.co.uk](http://www.bigchill.co.uk), 6th-15th SUNSHADOW  
FESTIVAL, Cornwall  
[www.klasol.demon.co.uk/svc99/sunshadow/ssMain.htm](http://www.klasol.demon.co.uk/svc99/sunshadow/ssMain.htm), 6th - 12th LIZARD ECLIPSE  
FESTIVAL, near Plymouth, Devon ..6th-12th  
MEGADOG SON-OF-A-BEACH FESTI-  
VAL [www.thepulse.co.uk/megadog/](http://www.thepulse.co.uk/megadog/index.html)  
[index.html](http://index.html), 7th-14th CORNISH ECLIPSE  
STONE FESTIVAL..9th-12th TOTALITY!  
Newquay Tel: 01637 871999  
[www.totality.co.uk/](http://www.totality.co.uk/), 10th-11th ECLIPSE  
PARTY, + camping for one week. £25  
[www.splintered.demon.co.uk/eclipse](http://www.splintered.demon.co.uk/eclipse), Wed 11th  
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE...BOOM  
SHANKAR!! Who turned the fuckin' lights  
out..Wed 11 World Earth Healing Day Tel  
0181 806 3828 email  
WEHD@freenet.co.uk, Mon 13th ABBEY  
PARK FESTIVAL, Leicester ..21st - 22nd V99  
Chelmsford [www.gigsandtroups.com](http://www.gigsandtroups.com), 29th-30th  
NOTTINGHILL HILL CARNIVAL  
FREE...28th-30th EXODUS FREE FESTI-  
VAL, Luton. Don't miss this one.

**SEPTEMBER.....**

**14th-17th Demonstrations against the Defence Systems Equipment International, Chertsey and London Docklands arms fair. Campaign Against The Arms Trade 0171 281 0297. 1/1/00. SATANIC ORGY.** Royston Parish Church. Please bring condoms and a partner Ruth Kettle Project.



## JUST LIKE THE SIXTIES

As SchNEWS went to press, students at Sussex University were still occupying the finance office of their administration building following the threatened expulsion of 89 students over non payment of fees. They said they would remain until their demands were met- that no student would be expelled for non payment and that there would be no repercussions on students involved in the occupation. University management responded by barricading a fire door and cutting off electricity to the occupied part of the building, although they later agreed it was a fire risk and re-connected it.

In Court yesterday morning, a rather senile old judge bored everyone with anecdotes about his involvement in the University choir. He then went on at great length about how much he loved the University before declaring he had no conflict of interest. He also granted the University possession before hearing the defense case, and told to them to be out by 2pm, despite the fact that the wrong papers were served, and he was obviously biased against the students (he refused to call them students, and instead preferred 'undergraduates'). Apparently the University's solicitors used to represent squatters and hippies in the 70s!

Some rather interesting memos from university management about the previous proposed occupations at Sussex in 1994 also surfaced, which showed that the Student Union at the time was in the pockets of management and was told to sabotage the occupation debate. The Union Officers were supposed "to take on the opposition at the EUGM and not be defensive". Nice to know they were sticking up for the interests of students who elected them. The university was also worried that there were 'sleepers' on the staff who would help the students, and that they had links with anarchists from Brighton, and that they were more of a problem than the SWP. How flattering!

\* Campaign for Free Education National Conference, Wed May 12, Sheffield Hallam University Union 11am - 5pm Debate + practical workshops. Contact CFE, PO Box 22615, London, N41 WT email cfe@gp.apc.org

## A BRIDGE TOO FAR

Simon Jones died when he was sent to do highly skilled work in Shoreham docks as a stevedore with no health and safety training. Within two hours he was dead. A year on and despite a high level direct action campaign no-one has been charged with his death.

So on Wednesday (Workers Memorial Day), fifty people including his family, gathered outside the Health and Safety Executive HQ in London to pay their respects with a minute's silence. Health and Safety have done nothing to bring Simon's killers to justice, so people decided to occupy Southwark Bridge for an hour, stopping the traffic by unfurling banners across the street and blowing whistles and shouting. Despite this direct action, when Simon's parents and a few of the group gained access to the director of the Executive, Jenny Bacon, she fobbed them off, telling Simon's aunt to "shush"! This high ranking government official denied receiving 5 letters sent by Simon's mum, and claimed that investigating 1 in 20 serious injuries in workplaces was acceptable due to budget restrictions. Jenny Bacon chose not to respond when asked what chance people would have of having their grievances heard, if they didn't occupy bridges in central London.

Simon Jones Memorial Campaign c/o on the fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, E.Sussex BN2 2DX 01273 685913

www.Simonjones.org.uk

## 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

Cheeky protestors from the No Opencast group have put in a planning application for a 20 acre opencast mine on the site of the **Millenium Dome!** There's gonna be a grand opening ceremony on May 9th 1.30 pm at Westcombe park Station (Charing Cross to Dartford line) Contact 0181 767 3142 \*\* John Tyndall, the leader of the **British National Party**, has been invited to address the Oxford Union (University Debating Society) on Monday 17th May. Protest to Oxford Union, Frewin Court, Oxford, OX1 3JB Tel(01865) 241353 E-mail: President (Theo Mills): [president@oxford-union.org](mailto:president@oxford-union.org) \*\* MayDay is the official opening of the **LOFT** (Library of Free Thought) in Penzance. It will be selling anarchist and alternative books, mags, postcards with meeting space. Contact LOFT, PO Box 19, Penzance, TR18 2YP Tel 01736 331236 \*\* A **'No War but the Class War'** discussion group has been set up in London for people from differing political backgrounds-anarchist, Trotskyist, libertarian Marxist etc., who oppose NATO intervention but want to maintain a socialist or working class perspective. Meet every Wed, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., London WC1. Holborn tube. Email: [escap6@hotmail.com](mailto:escap6@hotmail.com) \*\* The **Ecstasy.org website**, is being relaunched on Wed Feb 3rd. Hosting the first on-line edition of Nicholas Saunders last book on ecstasy: "Ecstasy Reconsidered"- the most comprehensive and authoritative work on the subject to date. For scientific research-user experiences and the interactive ecstasy testing database surf on into [www.ecstasy.org](http://www.ecstasy.org) For info. Tel: 01718369404 or email: [nicholas@ecstasy.org](mailto:nicholas@ecstasy.org) \*\* **London Anarchist Black Cross**, supporting class struggle prisoners, if you want to fight, inform and organise against the prison system then join 'em at 7.30pm, 1st and 3rd Tues of every month, Red Rose Pub, 129 Seven Sisters rd. N7 (tube Finsbury Park) email: [londonABC@hotmail.com](mailto:londonABC@hotmail.com) \*\* G.M.

## RIOT NOT DIET!

**FREE CAKE!** At the no-diet day celebrations, Thurs 6th May at 4pm in the Pavillion gardens (or Churchill Sq. if it's raining) Bring your bellies and bikinis and let it all hang out...bare your beauty if you've got it, flaunt it! The diet industry is there to make money out of our insecurities, remember the saying "you can never be too rich or too thin"? Well who wants to be a capitalist bastard and waste their life obsessing about their weight? Learn to love your body as it really is. Babes and boyz welcome of all shapes and sizes, WE'LL BE HAVIN'IT LARGE!

## BELT UP

People who said the building of the Newbury Bypass would lead to the opening of greenbelt land had their worse fears confirmed on Wednesday, when planning permission was given to VODAFONE to build a massive new HQ on a greenfield site in the area.

One resident told SchNEWS "Vodaphones attitude to this town has been appalling, nothing less than blackmail, telling residents they would pull out of the town if they did not get planning permission."

Vodaphone refused to contemplate moving to other sites such as vacated MoD site or Greenham Common (which they reckoned was a security risk because of the peace women there - all three of them.)

Funally enough, Vodaphone were supporters of the pro-bypass campaign.

During the six hour Council meeting it was estimated that the company had earned around half a million pounds.

## BIGGHAM BULLSHIT

*"It is hypocrisy for Sir Robin to accuse Med T.V. of incitement to violence when he is a director of a company selling arms to a security force which tortures and kills it's own people"*

Rachel Harford, CAAT.

Sir Robin Biggham, a director of British Aerospace(BAe), would seem to be engaged in a 'serious conflict of interest' or blatant hypocrisy concerning his role as chairman of the Independent Television Commission(ITC). He is apparently unaware of the irony of the ITC decision to revoke the license of the Kurdish satellite station Med T.V. for repeatedly flouting the regulations on incitement to violence and impartiality by sympathising with Turkey's Kurdish separatists. Strange, considering that BA has landed an \$18 million contract to start licensed production in Turkey of assault rifles and grenade launchers for the security forces whose reputation for human rights abuses have been repeatedly documented. So the senile old bastard is not prepared to tolerate the use of tv to encourage violence but sees no problem with his company selling arms to a security force which tortures and kills it's own people, an incident in keeping with their long-term tendency to sell arms to repressive regimes. Since the guns will be made locally in Ankara, BAe avoids having to apply for an export license-a handy little scam. The factory in Ankara is now exporting 500 machine guns to the Indonesian Police, friendly types these guys!

BA is also currently trying to buy a Roman Catholic Church in Wharton, Lancashire, so it can improve access to the factory where 16 Hawk jets are being built for Indonesia. BAe's Don MacLean kindly explained to protesters "sometimes you have to leave your conscience at the door". In other words, as long as the cash keeps rolling in they just don't give a shit. Tel: CAAT on 0171 2810297 web-site: [www.gpnc.org/caat](http://www.gpnc.org/caat)

Ever wished you could get SchNEWS off the web and print it out so it looks like the real thing? Well now you can. All you need is an internet connection, Web browser, the Acrobat Reader and any old printer. See our web-site for more info.

## ...and finally...

Spooky goings-on's at the new HQ for the Intelligence and Security Centre (ISC, an all-services agency established in 1996 to coordinate covert intelligence operations) Apparently the 850-year old Chicksands Priory near Bedford, is haunted by at least nine spirits, including a nun called Rosalia who was entombed after being forced to watch her lover's execution. After several sightings, unexplained laughter and moving lights in unoccupied rooms, the MoD deployed surveillance equipment and seismic sensors but drew a blank. Head of the ISC, Brigadier Chris Holten, appreciates the irony of an intelligence agency being haunted by spooks. He believes the apparitions are recordings of "traumatic events imprinted in the fabric of the building". Permission has been obtained for a new investigation involving ISC personnel using high-tech pressure sensors, night vision recorders, infra-red video, temperature and movement sensors, to prove Brig. Holten's conviction that there is a "spiritual element to the intelligence business".

## DISCLAIMER....

SchNEWS warns all readers to get their fingers out and give the Private Finance Initiative a good kickin' otherwise what's left of our public services will go down the tube.Honest

P.S. Don't forget Reclaim The Streets Party this Saturday. Bus tickets from Brighton Peace Centre. P.P.S. Tune into radio 4A this Sunday 10am onwards 106.6 fm-worth listening to-.



# Cannabis Mayday Festival Triumphs



Over ten thousand people gathered in the sunshine on Clapham Common for the hugely successful Mayday Cannabis Festival.

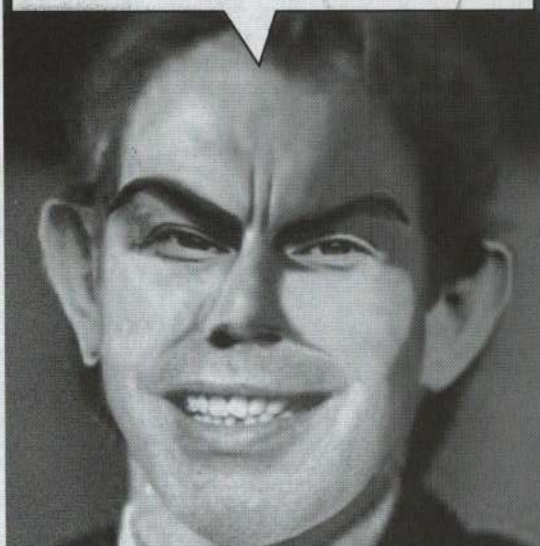
Over 5000 people (police estimate) people took part in the cannabis march from Brixton to Clapham, headed by the Exodus Sound system on a flat bed lorry. The march stopped briefly in Brixton to pay respects to the victims of the Brixton rail bomb before proceeding to Clapham Common. Thousands more headed straight for the Common to hear a multitude of speakers including author and cannabis smuggler Howard Marks and alternative comic-satirist Mark Thomas. A last minute objection to an entertainment licence by local police meant rapid alterations to the scale of the proposed stages and sound systems. However, these readjustments failed to dampen either the spirit or the size of the event. Free party sound systems represented on the day included Oops (drum and bass) from Reading, Exodus (jungle techno and reggae) from Luton, and SQUALL (funky house and drum and bass) and Chimeria (drum and bass and trance) from London. Continental Drifts also set up out the back of a lorry and presented a number of live acts from its eclectic roster of festival bands. Other attractions included a medical Marijuana Clinic, a hemp fashion expo and the Ecotrip poets.

New home office figures released a couple of days prior to the Festival revealed another rise in the annual conviction rate for cannabis offences: Three quarters of all drug convictions in the UK last year were for Cannabis, with around 10% of the UK prison population presently incarcerated for

Cannabis offences. Using Home Office figures, it is now estimated that nearly a £1 billion a year is spent on legal aid, policing, court costs and prison expenditure as a direct result of Cannabis remaining illegal.

Mayday Cannabis demonstrations and events also took place in 36 cities around the world including New York, Auckland, Sydney and Tel Aviv. Check the Cannabis coalition's web-site at [www.schmoo.co.uk/mayday](http://www.schmoo.co.uk/mayday) for more info.

*....A new Britain ... but yet irrefutably ...  
the same old Britain...*







**"Excuse me Sir, have you dropped something?" Cannabis Mayday, Clapham Common**

## **SQUOTES** 31/3/00

"The sizeable community who use soft drugs recreationally....want a change in the law which reflects what is already happening at social gatherings, small and large, every night of the week. It is dismal that this reality, reflected in the report [Police Foundation report recommending a different approach to drugs], carries no weight with the government and it's disappointing drugs tsar, who....appears to be performing a huge u-turn on the more enlightened approach he adopted as a senior officer."

**POLICE REVIEW**



**"Tick-a-teenth, Miss?"**

**Pics: Ian Hunter**



# SMOKE SIGNALS

## Pot debate comes to the boil

What a breath of fresh air it was when Alex Salmond, head of the Scottish Nationalist Party, stirred the political stagnancy last year when asked by an interviewer whether he'd ever smoked Cannabis. "Yes," he replied. "But I never exhaled."

Until recently, truthful or even topically humorous comment about drugs has been an endangered species on the political circuit. Besides the odd wry comment from the likes of Salmond, very few politicians have been prepared to utter what the majority refuse to publicly acknowledge; that the UK's tortuously out of touch drug policy is both fallacious and entirely unsuccessful.

The only air circulating amidst this parliamentary stagnancy has been from Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West, an ardent campaigner for the legalisation of Cannabis and a wider overhaul of the drug policy. Evidently more interested in public health than in career promotion (a rare creature in public circles!), Flynn is to present a private members bill before parliament later this year advocating a radical overhaul of the UK's national drug policy. It has little chance of reaching the statute books without government support, but there's no stopping Flynn's efforts to provoke a more relevant debate. In March he announced he would ask British MPs to support the licensing of Amsterdam style cafes where users can buy and smoke their joints legally.

His familiarity with the issue Europe-wide has led to his selection as a rapporteur to the Council of Europe's Social Policy and Health Committee which is currently examining drug policy in the two European countries it considers to have the most "repressive" drug policies, the UK and Switzerland. There's little doubt that Flynn stands out a mile from the rest of his cowering colleagues who shy in the shadows fearful of the kind of management reprimand which has imprisoned the tongues of intelligent political voices for years.

Until recently this dearth of decent debate has been punctuated only by the odd medical expert or senior police officer who, frustrated by the obvious lack of policy success, have stepped out of line to advocate a different approach to the zero tolerance policy inherited and championed by Uncle Jack Straw and Labour's lackey drugs czar, Keith Hellawell.

And yet seventy six per cent of those imprisoned for drug offences in the UK are incarcerated for Cannabis offences, and according to a recent Europe-wide survey, more people smoke Cannabis in the UK than anywhere else in Europe. So there was little doubt that the pot debate definitely needed a stir and at the end of March it finally got one.

Two years ago, the Police Foundation appointed an eleven strong team of high level academics and social professionals to conduct an independent inquiry into certain aspects of UK drug policy.

The committee - part sponsored by the Princes Trust - included a chief constable, an assistant chief constable, a barrister, a headmistress and four professors in Neuropharmacology, Moral Philosophy, Economics and Social Work.

Their lengthy investigation included a visit to Amsterdam, a European city much maligned by right-wing hysterics but one which boasts an impressive record on dealing with hard drug abuse. Committee member John Hamilton, Chief Constable of Fife, described Amsterdam as having a "relaxed and unthreatening atmosphere". You

might imagine he'd wish the same of Fife.

When General

Barry McCaffrey, the current US drugs czar, castigated Holland for the social consequences of its liberal drug policy, the Dutch responded by publishing a series of comparative statistics on their US embassy website. In everyone of them, from incidence of drug use in minors to murders related to drug offences, the Dutch fared far better than the US.

McCaffrey muttered a retraction of his accusation when pressed on the subject during a press conference he conducted on a recent UK visit but in the midst of our painfully muted public debate, his retraction went entirely unreported in the mainstream press.

At long last however, the Independent Inquiry into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 published its media splashed report on March 28 2000 and prized the gag from the mouth of the debate.

The Inquiry concentrated specifically on the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and therefore did not take in all aspects of drug policy. But its recommendations include significant shifts in the legal classification of drugs, the wider implications of which will prove difficult for the Home Office to ignore.

According to the committee's chairperson, Viscountess Runciman: "We have concluded that the most dangerous message of all is the message that all drugs are equally dangerous. When young people know that the advice they are being given is either exaggerated or untrue in relation to less harmful drugs, there is a real risk they will discount everything else they are told."

In response, the report recommends that drugs should be legally reclassified in order to reflect their social impact. That Ecstasy and LSD are not as harmful as Crack and Heroin and therefore should be relegated to Class B status rather than class A. And that Cannabis should be reduced to a Class C drug, with police officer's directed to only fine or caution those found in possession.

The provocative nature of the committee's recommendations compounded a similarly radical report published recently by Cleveland Police. Backed by Cleveland's Chief Constable, Barry Shaw, the report notes: "There is overwhelming evidence to show that the prohibition-based policy in place in this country since 1971 has not been effective in controlling the availability of, or use of, proscribed drugs. If there is indeed a 'war on drugs' it is not being won; drugs are demonstrably cheaper and more easily available than ever before. If prohibition does not work, then either the consequences of this have to be accepted or an alternative approach must be found. The most obvious alternative approach is the legalisation and subsequent regulation of some or all drugs."

However, in the first few days after the publication of the Inquiry report, the Home Office issued flat rejections of its recommendations and chose to ignore altogether the strong suggestions put forward by Cleveland Police.

But then something unusual happened in the land of

# SQUALL

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From Our Correspondence



Britain; something which Jack Straw's playsafe to the grey galleries could not ignore. The media supported the Inquiry's recommendations to an extent hitherto unwitnessed in the UK. Unbelievable though it may seem, the official newspaper of the right wing old boy network, the Daily Telegraph, published an editorial headlined "An experiment with Cannabis" which called .....wait for it....for cannabis to be legalised!

"People like substances that alter their mood," its editorial observed. "And only strict puritans believe that they should never use any of them. A cup of coffee, a glass of wine or beer, even the odd cigarette are among the legitimate pleasures of life. Are drugs fundamentally different?.....The government should draw up plans to legalise cannabis - generally accepted as the least dangerous of the drugs that are widely used - both for its consumption and for its supply."

The Police Review was equally emphatic: "The sizeable community who use soft drugs recreationally...want a change in the law which reflects what is already happening at social gatherings, small and large, every night of the week. It is dismal that this reality, reflected in the report, carries no weight with the government and its disappointing drugs czar, who...appears to be performing a huge U-turn on the more enlightened approach he adopted as a senior police officer."

When the Daily Mail joined both the Telegraph and the Police Review in proposing a wider debate, Jack Straw was left like a beached whale. The following day he admitted for the first time publicly that there was, after all, a "coherent argument" in favour of the legalisation of cannabis. However without explanation or further discussion he is still electing not to agree with the argument, however coherent or well informed.

Nevertheless, the fact that the traditional right wing media are criticising the government's misplaced puritanism on drugs is a sea-change indeed. Jack Straw, who once ran for student union presidency with the laughable election slogan "Not respectable but respected", looks increasingly isolated from the very media he's been pandering to in a fervent quest to be indistinguishable from his Tory predecessors.

And what's more his attitude seems to rub off on anyone associated with him. Take the very disappointing drug czar, Keith Hellawell. As a chief constable back in 1994 he observed: "The present policies are not working. We seize more drugs, we arrest more people but when you look at the availability of drugs, the use of drugs, the crime committed because of and through people who use drugs, the violence associated with drugs, it's on the increase. It can't be working."

These days, however, he draws a salary greater the prime minister's and paid for by all of us, and what we get for our money is a man who'll who is prepared to belie his own experience in order to play along with Straw's pitiful ministry. Neither respectable nor respected. And certainly not by his fellow MP, Paul Flynn, whose humourfully astute website at [www.paulflynnmp.co.uk](http://www.paulflynnmp.co.uk) makes clear what he thinks of his party colleague at the Home Office:

*"My spy in the Home Office has revealed the truth of Jack Straw's agonising over Pinochet."*

*'He tortured thousands, Home Secretary,' his advisers told him. 'Serious stuff,' said Jack. 'But he's an old man and it was a long time ago.'*

*They said, 'He killed hundreds of thousands of people.' 'Nobody's perfect,' said Jack. 'In government you have to take some hard decisions.'*

*The advisers played their ace. 'We think that here in Britain he took some medicinal cannabis for his back pain'*

*'That's dreadful,' screamed Jack. 'Pack him off to a Spanish dungeon.'"*







WAKE UP! IT'S YER LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT YER PASSPORT

# SchNEWS

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<http://www.schnews.org.uk/>

Issue 211 Free/Donation

## NO ROOM AT THE INN

*The theme of abuse runs through the whole bill*

Statewatch  
As the Kosovan refugee crisis continues, New Labour's draconian plans for asylum seekers are finally out in the open.

Kosovans arriving on our shores can rightly expect decent treatment after the nightmares they have had to endure. They won't have to go through years of asylum-seeking hell to prove they are genuine victims of persecution or locked up in detention centres on arrival because they haven't got the right papers (always an easy one to get the right papers when you're fleeing a conflict or escaping political persecution). They'll get full Income support payments, be able to take jobs and be free to travel and live wherever they choose in the country. Which is only fair surely.

But woe betide any asylum seeker who arrives in the UK from an obscure country trying to escape an unheard of war or dodgy dictatorship once the Immigration and Asylum Bill becomes law.

Hope Hanlon, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:

*"It is one of the worst Bills ever brought before the House of Commons"* (that's saying something!)

Forget Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (*"Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy asylum"*). Measures outlined in the 138 clauses of the bill include:

- \* The abolition of welfare benefits for asylum seekers is to be replaced with a voucher system, plus a 'cor blimey what shall I do with a whole' £1 a day cash for adults and 50p per child. This will put asylum seekers 80% below the official poverty line. Maybe the Home Office have conveniently forgotten evidence from the Refugee Council about the effect of withdrawing cash benefits. Of 200 asylum-seekers recently surveyed, three quarters were utterly penniless and had to walk everywhere, and 60% did not have enough to eat on a daily basis.

- \* They will have no say in where they can live and instead be dispersed all over the country to "reception zones", away from relatives, community networks and specialist services.

- \* Immigration officers will be given powers of arrest without warrant, of breaking into premises, of searching arrested persons both on the street and (including strip-search) in custody, and powers to seize material.

- \* Lorry drivers who carry illegal entrants will be fined £2,000 per person - including babies. When it was pointed out that many lorries are sealed and impossible to open from

the inside, and that many asylum-seekers had died from suffocation, one minister dismissed the accounts as "tedious"

- \* Children of asylum-seekers will be exempt from the provisions of the Children Act.

- \* Airline liaison officers to examine and refuse passengers as they board.

The government reckon they can get away with all this because by 2001 all new asylum cases will be dealt with in six months.

So what about this - the Immigration and Nationality Department that deals with refugees, already have a backlog of 80,000 cases at its headquarters in Croydon and its computers essential for tracking files are in a state of near collapse. Their web-site asks people not to call and claims are currently taking 17 months to process. The staff who are leaving in droves will, if the bill is made law, be asked to deal with the administration of the new voucher system as well. A new computer system, due to be delivered next month, is unlikely to be ready in time. Doesn't exactly inspire confidence now does it.

So SchNEWS asks why is such a draconian bill going through parliament?

This bill will cut costs and make life so unpleasant that others will be deterred from coming. But surely wanting to live in the UK is not a crime? Fleeing repression and war certainly isn't. Yet Britain has adopted the Fortress Europe mentality where every asylum seeker is seen as a bogus criminal. Where refugees are a visible and unwelcome reminder of the precarious balance of the new world order and of the human consequences of International Monetary Fund structural adjustment programmes, of arm sales to repressive regimes and of corrupt aid deals. The politicians pandering to the right wing press reckon that cracking down is seen as a vote winner.

Yet the positive reception that the Kosovar refugees have received from the people of this country shows that when people can see others suffering on our screens rather than

### CRAP TRIAL OF THE WEEK

Last summer Gill Emerson had the cheek to sit on a wall while Prince Charles visited Gravesend, Kent. Before the Prince arrived, police swooped on her saying she held anti-monarchist views. During the arrest, 43 year old Gill sustained facial injuries including a broken nose and was later sprayed in her cell with CS Gas - then strip-searched on the grounds of maybe "concealing a weapon". None was found. Hours later she was charged with criminal damage to a police video camera. Gill is up in Gravesend Magistrates Court, Old Town Hall, High St. next Monday (19th) 9.45 am. SchNEWS would like to point out that the fact Gill Emerson successfully sued Kent Police a few years back, is a member of the Kent Socialist Alliance and local organiser of the Anti Nazi League has nothing to do with the case. Tel 01474 566701

the hysterical shoutings of the tabloid press they can extend a warm welcome.

### THE REALITY

A total of 34,775 persons were kicked out of the UK in 1998 - 668 persons per week - 4 persons per hour.

A 25 year old Kosovan student arrived at Heathrow en route for Canada in February. She was pregnant with her first child and still traumatised by seeing the Serbs destroy her home. Although she was with her husband, she had been forced to leave the rest of her family behind and had no idea whether they were alive. However, the couple had made the mistake of becoming Kosovan refugees before the war with Serbia had made them politically fashionable.

When they were caught at Heathrow using false Greek passports, they said they wished to claim asylum, but instead were arrested for using false documents in transit, separated and sent to prison. She has just been released from Holloway, where the insanitary conditions made her ill and the isolation made her depressed. Her husband was sent to Wormwood Scrubs where he remains, although he may be released with an electronic tag this month.

- \* 'Crimes of arrival: immigrants and asylum-seekers in the new Europe' by Frances Webber. Essential reading on the European wide criminalisation of asylum seekers. Available from Statewatch, PO Box 1516, London N16 0EW. Tel 0181 802 1882 [www.statewatch.org](http://www.statewatch.org)

- \* National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, 101 Villa Rd., Birmingham, B19 1NH. Tel 0121 554 6947 [www.ncade.demon.co.uk/](http://www.ncade.demon.co.uk/)

### SchNews

Book Launch

HEADMIX COLLECTIVE

GROUND ZERO

Wednesday 19th May

Bar Centro, Ship St

7 - 11pm £2

Raffle, Video, MegaMash & FAF Decor, Cheap beer



## SMARTIE-ARSES

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) criticised Nestlé on Wednesday for its irresponsible promotion of their milk products in the developing world. The ASA upheld a complaint brought by Baby Milk Action, about a newspaper advert in which Nestlé claimed that it had marketed its infant formula "ethically and responsibly" both before and since the introduction of the international code of the marketing of breast milk substitutes in 1981. After two years of consideration, the ASA ruled that Nestlé's claims "went too far", the ruling cannot be published as Nestlé has lodged an appeal.

The World Health Organisation estimates that more than a million babies die every year from diarrhoea picked up through unhygienic bottle feeding.

For years now, Nestlé have promoted their product in underdeveloped countries, relying heavily on the misconception that 'West is best' to convince mothers that their babies will grow bigger and stronger if they feed them with a western product rather than their own breast milk. Of course, after a short period of bottle feeding a mother's breast milk dries up and another consumer is born. Reversing the decline in breastfeeding could save the lives of 1.5 million infants every year according to United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF states that in areas with unsafe water, a bottle-fed baby is 25 times more likely to die from diarrhoea than a breastfed one.

Baby milks are over-diluted to make them last longer, while breastmilk is free, safe and best for all babies - but Nestlé know that if they don't get babies hooked on the bottle, they don't do business.

One of their dodgier promotional practices was the use of free supplies which had a significant effect in convincing health workers and mothers to favour artificial milk over breastmilk.

\*\*Nestlé provides information to mothers which promotes bottle feeding and discourages breastfeeding.

\*\*Donates free samples and supplies to health facilities to encourage bottle feeding

\*\*Gives inducements to health workers for promoting its products

\*\*Does not provide clear warnings on labels of the benefits of breastfeeding and dangers of artificial feeding. In some cases the labels are in a language that mothers are unlikely to understand. Nestlé, makes a profit while others count the cost. The Baby Milk Action (BMA) group is a small organisation waging a big battle against a powerful multinational - they need your support. For a start, stop consuming Nestlé products and that includes Nescafé. The BMA have information to help and advise you how to protest effectively against these unscrupulous bastards. After dropping sales their worst nightmare is public opinion turning against them so your voice is important and your cash even more - don't buy their products.

Contact the BMA Tel: 01223 464420 Fax: 01223 464417 E-mail: baby milkact@gn.apc.org Nestlé UK Ltd., St George's House, Croydon, Surrey. CR9 1NR.

\* When Marketing Week magazine asked Marjorie Thompson of Saatchi & Saatchi how Nestlé should respond to the bad publicity surrounding its baby food marketing activities. "She suggests the way to counteract the bad publicity is to go on the offensive by using advertising showing the benefits of Nestlé financial contributions to charities."

DON'T FORGET NATIONAL BREAST-FEEDING WEEK SUN 17TH-21ST MAY. Freephone: 0800 555 777

HELP!!-Don't be shy - please come in on a Friday and help with some envelope stuffing - if it doesn't get to our subscribers we don't get any cash - you don't get any SchNEWS!

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

## SchNEWS in brief

June 18th benefits: Tues 18th May @ the Cuba 9-2, funky techno from Cristian Vogel, Counterattack, Da Void, direct action films £2/1 Thurs 20th May @ the Volks Tavern 9-2, Mr. Night & Mr. Day, Blatantly, Touchpaper, DJ tha Funky Gheek, £2 / £5 tickets for both gigs + SchNews book launch from the Peace Centre.

The A Spire social centre, is a squatted church left empty for over 4 years by Leeds university, now turned into an autonomous zone www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/3344 \*\*Could any of the original Weymouth Road Protesters contact Chris on 01270 526 244 asap. \*\* Stammer Organics Open Day Sat 22 May 10am-4pm Bring a picnic. Tel: (01273) 388673 \*\* Moulsecoomb Forest Garden & Wildlife Project Open Day Sun 23rd May 12 noon 'till 4pm. Visit the weird and wonderful forest garden. The whole site is organic and may soon be designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. Tel: Kate (01273) 628535 \*\* Anyone lose a small blue, pink and yellow rucksack on the circle line tube, containing skates and a jumper during the reclaim the streets tube party? It's at the Angel Station lost property. \*\* This Sunday (16) there's an open day for the Native American Educational Trust at Evolution Arts Centre, Silwood Terrace, Brighton 12 noon \*\*

## TARRED TO THE MAX

The construction firm Tarmac has been breaking such different sorts of records-Roy Castle would be proud. They recently scooped four of the government and construction industry's 1999 'Quality in Construction' major awards, including that in the environment category. Which may raise hollow laughs from people in the Bestwood area of Nottinghamshire, if not as hollow as the yawning quarry Tarmac intends to inflict on the forest there. The judges displayed an even more finely honed sense of irony in awarding a Tarmac subsidiary the Safety award, lauding their 'degree of absolute commitment [which] is fantastic', and reflecting the 10(!) awards Tarmac companies have this week received from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Now, this ain't going to raise even a hollow laugh (or much else) from any of the 13 Tarmac employees killed at work over the last decade. And that's not just a rogue statistic; to place it in context, note that Tarmac was convicted in that time of more Health and Safety offences than any other UK firm, almost twice as many as the next worst offender. (Let's take a quick glance at the cost benefit analysis: the company received fines of, on average, just over 3 grand for a seriously injured employee, just over 11 grand for a death; while such skimping on H&S considerations may have contributed to their truly fantastic average annual profits of £184 million). That is a serious record. Perhaps just as well they didn't employ Roy Castle, who died before Tarmac could get their hands on him.

## GIVEN A GOOD SEEING TOO

At last eight test sites growing genetically modified oil seed rape got a good kicking last Friday. The action could well have set the commercialisation of genetic oil rape back 12 months. The Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) learned of this unprecedented removal from a group calling themselves "Ambridge Against Genetix". According to GEN this takes the number of sites that have been decontaminated this year is 14. And as the Ambridge crew point out "this is only the start of the summer"

\* A total of 37 genetic sites were destroyed in 1998 according to GEN, PO Box 9656, London, N4 Tel 0181 374 9516 email genetics@gn.apc.org

## Inside SchNEWS

U.S. class struggle anarchist prisoner Harold Thompson is having a rough time at the moment. Due to a corrupt prison librarian official working hand in glove with White Aryan Brotherhood scum, Harold has been brutally assaulted, robbed and placed in segregation for his 'own safety'. Because of his work as prison house lawyer, officials seem to be colluding with white supremacists to halt his good work. If you can please write protesting (civilly) to: Warden Jack Morgan, Turney Centre Industrial Prison, Route 1, Only, Tennessee 37140-9709, USA, in order that Harold might get a transfer avoiding further White Aryan Brotherhood victimisation. You can write to Harold at the same address. Harold H. Thompson #93992.

## BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

The Ministry of Defence have completed the new Trident Submarine at a cost of a mere £1000 million to the taxpayer and in keeping with their general sensitivity they have named their latest toy - VENGEANCE. What kind of minds are at work here? Despite overwhelming opposition-80% of Scots say 'NO' to Trident - all nuclear submarines are kept at Faslane in Scotland.

Meanwhile, as SchNEWS went to press 3 Swedish activists, arrested inside the Marconi Marine shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria in September last year were awaiting the outcome of their trial. They were carrying rope ladders, crowbars and hammers emblazoned with the slogans, "All life is sacred", "Violence ends where love begins" and "For global justice". Their intention - to prevent a serious crime against humanity. For this they were locked up until late January when they were unexpectedly released. After a brief period of freedom they returned to the Barrow shipyard with 20 other activists to ask the workers and security to help continue the disarmament of the Trident. They were nicked again.

Vengeance was moved to Coulport missile depot on April 30th and then last week it went to the Isle of Bute. Seems the MOD are keeping their weapon out of harm's way!

Contact: Trident Ploughshares 2000, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich, NR2 1NR, Britain.

\* Faslane Peace Camp 01436 820901

\* Time to abolish war - a citizens' assembly Sat 22nd May 11 am Central Hall, Westminster Ticken from Hague Appeal for Peace, 11 Venetia Rd, London, N4 1EJ www.hagueappeal.org

TRAINING DAY-SchNEWS needs some more hands on deck, so why not come along to our next training day: Wednesday 26th May 12 noon. Limited spaces, so book yer place now.

## ...and finally...

Radioactive boy-scouts may soon be roaming the countryside! The Scout Association, being seriously strapped for cash have accepted a £30,000 sponsorship from British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL). BNFL have invested in this dodgy bit of PR in an attempt to enhance their image by connecting themselves to the wholesome Kumbaya crew. The BNFL logo will be proudly worn by scouts on their proficiency badges. SchNEWS wonders if the badge is for proficiency in nuclear-bomb making? At least this could serve as a method for identifying which scouts have been exposed to the questionable benefits of access to BNFL's laboratories at Sellafield in Cumbria. Alternatively you could just watch to see which of them start to glow in the dark!

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to be the wrong colour, come from the wrong country and have the gall to want to make the UK your home. Look just cos this country invaded half the world, colonised, stole resources, and generally didn't act very nice, doesn't mean that just cos you and your family have been tortured you can come here. Bloody cheek... Whatever next?



The Original  
and still the best.

NESCAFÉ

AT KILLING BABIES WORLD WIDE



Pic: Alec Smart

Newbury reunion rally inspect a road full of holes

## Juxtaposing

Ask the good people of Newbury. Having lived in congestion hell for years, the recent opening of the much-maligned by-pass there solved their pollution and congestion problem overnight."

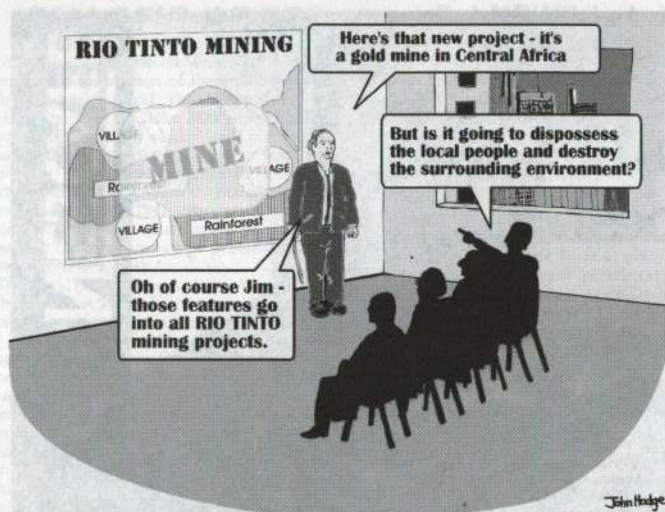
Lord Hanson. Sunday Business 18/7/99

with

"It can be seen that there is no consistent pattern of traffic change over the Newbury network as a whole. In many cases local factors are responsible for discrete changes to traffic flows, with the by-pass and pedestrianisation [of Newbury town centre] only having a marginal influence in some cases."

West Berkshire Council Report on affects of By-pass published July 1999





## SQUOTES 2/2/99

"The reality is that wealth creation is now more important than wealth redistribution."

*Secretary of State for Trade and Industry -  
Stephen Byers - in a speech to the city.*



On 28th April (Workers Memorial Day) 50 people shut down Southwark Bridge for an hour to protest against the continued failure of the Health and Safety Executive to bring Simon Jones' killers to justice (SchNEWS 210)





HUNGOVER? WHO'S IDEA WAS IT TO HOLD A BOOK LAUNCH ON A WEDNESDAY?



# SchNEWS

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Issue 212

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## GOLDFINGERED

*Rio Tinto is the world's biggest profiteer from mineral exploitation. And the majority of these profits are gained at the expense of indigenous land owners who have never given consent to the company's operations?*

PARTIZANS

Last Thursday Rio Tinto Zinc (RT), the world's biggest and baddest mining company faced more protests at its annual general meeting.

The board faced nearly two hours of angry questioning from the floor, as shareholders concerned with their dividends were joined by people, more concerned with the communities and eco-systems across the planet that have been smashed to pieces by the corporation's mining operations. In an at-a-glance quick fire fact rundown, here's some of their activities that they didn't boast about in their annual report...

\* A senior RT exec was one of the chief drafters of an Australian labour law which breaches International Labour Organisation conventions on the rights to organise, collectively bargain, and freely associate.

In West Papua, they've been assisting the military brutally to crush indigenous opposition - where they jointly own one of the world's biggest gold and copper mines.

\* Trespassing on Western Shoshone Treaty land in Nevada, US. This gold mine increased production 180% during 1998, and has established itself as the world's lowest cost commercial producer of this (almost) useless metal.

\* The recent - and devastating - report on their obsolete Capper Pas tin smelt on Humberside, England, showed that the plant is a major health and environmental disaster, spewing out an impressive range of poisonous heavy metals for the local kids to play around.

\* The lack of consultations with the Wayuu people of Colombia during the recent huge expansion of coal operations in Guajira.

To be fair, the company have acted with with near perfect consistency, as every time it descends upon another area of wilderness, an ecological nightmare unfolds in its wake. And RT have their green-wash public relations down to a fine art. Like the rest of big business, they see the advantages of talking to environmental groups, as why do battle when you can co-opt the activists? You wouldn't make any real concessions to the greens, as even a token deal can do so much to foster a green'n'caring image. James Harris, vice president of PR consultants Hill and

Knowlton, put it this way "For corporations, environmental groups offer the opportunity to obtain positive publicity...they also provide credibility, which can be particularly valuable." Stauber and Rampton, who edit PR Watch put it more bluntly - hiring activists is a "crude but effective way to derail potentially meddlesome activists."

In the UK RT are also one of the main providers of information to schools from primary to post-graduate. They even fund two colleges - Atlantic and United World in Wales, while last year they chucked \$30 million at charities to make the world a better place (sic).

All of which helps to compensate of course, for the negative publicity that tends to come from systematically polluting the earth and fucking over the locals. Time to hire yourself a credible greenie. Someone like Tom Burke, one time director of Friends of the Earth, who now works for Rio Tinto, helping them pull the wool over the public's eyes. Burke is a well connected man, working for the last 3 environment ministers and setting up the Green Alliance, the people behind Rio Tinto's new forums. These forums are classic examples of greenwash gimmicks - talking shops where groups like Amnesty International, Save The Children Fund and Oxfam help Rio Tinto clean up their image. There seems to be one small oversight at the Forums - no indigenous people whose lands are being destroyed by the company are ever invited.

So do we really need all this gold, copper, and titanium oxide (the stuff that makes toothpaste white)?

In 1998 Rio Tinto had to face one of its biggest-ever financial crises thanks to the fall in virtually all metal prices. But as economists point out prices have been falling for nearly thirty years. Good for consumers as everyone gets cheaper cars, microwaves, fridges etc. But not so good for the miners who face deteriorating conditions.

So will this article get you all scurrying down

to the local tin recycling bank? Maybe, but it should be pointed out that the biggest consumers of Rio Tinto's metals is the European armaments industry. Not only are those Hawk jets and missiles a bit tricky to fit in the old recycling bin, the arms connection may help explain why our European leaders might not want to put RT's back up too much.

\* **Rio Tinto Behind The Facade** - report by the International Chemical, Energy and Mine-workers Union £1 postage from PARTIZANS

\* **PARTIZANS**, (who campaign specifically against Rio Tinto) 41A Thornhill Square, London, N1 1BE Tel 0171 700 6189 email [partizans@mole-gn.apc.org](mailto:partizans@mole-gn.apc.org)

Not wanting to miss out on the image-enhancing potential of a few co-opted indigenous people, Rio Tinto Australia has sponsored a new exhibition 'New Directions - Aboriginal Australia and Business'. According to its website, the exhibition presents "clear signs of a new direction in relationships between the Rio Tinto Group and Aboriginal people based on respect, listening and negotiation for mutual benefit."

It gets better: apparently "Rio Tinto has 'relationships' with Indigenous peoples in many parts of communities along a sometimes uncertain path. There have been misunderstandings and setbacks as each party has learned one another's ways."

"Not a creature on this planet needs a single further ounce of commercially mined gold" PARTIZANS

**GoldBusters**, is a coalition of groups fighting, appropriately, the gold industry, hoping to make the wearing of the sparkling stuff as unattractive as wearing fur. 80% of new gold being mined worldwide is for jewellery - people wearing it are probably unaware of the true costs.

The mining of gold is one of the most environmentally destructive industrial activities, wreaking havoc on indigenous communities on every continent. In dozens of countries mercury-laced tailings, eroded land and acid mine drainage stand as visible and toxic legacies of gold rushes from days gone by.

Unfortunately in the 1990s, the gold mining industry has experienced a boom due to new technologies, principally using cyanide to leech the gold from its parent rock.

The two-pronged campaign is aimed at jewellery consumers, and nations' gold reserves. Depressing its price would lead to the decommissioning of many mines, and the dumping of exploration stocks by investors. For example, 20 gold mines in Australia have been postponed or closed recently because it wasn't cost effective. [www.moles.org/projectunderground/](http://www.moles.org/projectunderground/)

**small bit:** Sorry if you've been e-mailing us, our mail has been down for 2 weeks-we're not ignoring you, we love you really and are on the case sorting it

### SchNews Survival Handbook

The new SchNEWS book is out now  
Featuring issues 151-200 plus cartoons, photos, and other articles to help you protest and survive as well as a comprehensive database of over 500 grass-roots organisations.

Yours for £7 (incl. p+p from the usual address. (Cheers to Headmix and everyone for Wednesdays bash - more cabaret party politics fun on the horizon)



## NO BAD WOMEN ONLY BAD LAWS

*"These measures will only serve to further criminalise women whose choice of profession is the result of a lack of viable economic alternatives."* Cari Mitchell, English Collection of Prostitutes.

The incorrigible Jack Straw is the man behind the master plan to rid Britain of so called 'tattcards' in 'phone boxes and push prostitution back on to the streets. It's incredible that the Government refuse to acknowledge prostitution as an established industry, regardless of the various scandals involving politicians, exposed over the years. So, are we to surmise that those with power to protect through legislation are content to exploit women surreptitiously but refuse to offer the same women any degree of protection? And now, in the name of 'decency' they intend to destroy one means which the women have found of making their work a little safer.

A spokeswoman from the ECP, told SchNEWS "The impact will be very serious. Working in premises and advertising in this way enables women to work independently. Some women will be forced out onto the street where it is 10 times more dangerous to work and where women will face increased arrests and hostility from residents. Black and immigrant women will be particularly targeted and vulnerable." Girls who tout for work using cards operate from flats, places of relative safety where they have control over who they allow on the premises. The Well Woman clinic visits the flats once a fortnight. There are facilities for the girls and the clients to wash, the whole environment is cleaner and better controlled than street prostitution. This is not intended to imply that women working on the street are less aware of the necessity of cleanliness, in fact they have given a lot of leadership to all sex industry workers on the issue of using condoms. In Britain it has been left to the prostitutes themselves to organise their industry and make it as safe and clean as possible. It would seem obvious that if the girls are forced back onto the streets there will be a marked increase in violence and pimp-related crime. Carole, an 'ex-working girl', explained "I used to work on the streets in the freezing cold and you never know who is going to rob you or rape you. I was so severely raped it traumatised me for nearly 30 years. There is less chance of someone coming into a flat and doing that."

The girls suggest that the cards are allowed to remain with no images. Discreet cards which offer a specialised service without using explicit pictures or language would be preferable to a total ban on 'carding'.

The government has decided against giving BT the power to invoke criminal sanctions for offenders. Instead, local authorities will decide what advertisements should be allowed in 'phoneboxes. BT announced yesterday that it had cut off all incoming calls to 600 numbers being used by prostitutes which serves to emphasise the lack of rights suffered by these women. SchNews detects a hint of 'double-standards', after all, since when has BT been so conscientious in clamping down on immoral uses of their phone lines-they don't seem so swift to close down the 0898 sex lines which bring them revenue whilst incidentally encouraging the exploitation of women. To quote a spokeswoman for ECP, "B.T.'s main objection to women advertising seems to be that BT does not profit from it....Workers on a prostitution project have also been told by BT that they were prepared to negotiate an advertising fee for their cards."

If Jack Straw is serious about dealing with prostitution he needs to address women's poverty. Prostitutes and the people who put up cards for them are struggling to support themselves and their families in the face of poverty, unemployment and cuts in benefits and resources. De-criminalisation of prostitution is essential if these women are to achieve basic human rights and an acceptable level of safety in their work.

\*A book about violence against prostitute's can be obtained from Crossroads Womens Centre, PO Box 187, Brighton BN1 1JF. Tel: 01273 482 2496

## SchNEWS in brief

**Cambridge Reclaim the Streets.** Sat 12th June @ railway station 1pm Bring your party toys, banners, strawberries and cream. A coach will be going up on the day from Brighton. Tickets cost £5; available soon from the Peace Centre, Gardner Street \*\*How about a summer of mass trespass for the right to roam? Meet 10.30 am Sun. 30th May at Brighton Station for a 6 mile walk, bring a packed lunch - sorry no dogs. Contact Brighton The Land Is Ours 01273 620815 \*\*Be Tranceformed - massive five roomed party featuring everything from funk to trance to drum'n'bass at The Drome, Stainer St, London Bridge on Saturday 12th June. It's £10 and all profits go to Guilfin magazine. 0956 250 108 \*\* Friends and Families of Travelers: Health and Safety workshops available. 01426 218424 \*\* Animal Freedom Gathering, at The Miners Welfare Recreational Ground, Moira, nr Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 28th-31st May various workshops, transport available 0171 278 3068 \*\*Next demonstration against Hillgrove Cat vivisection farm nr Oxford on June 12th, coaches from London as usual 0121 632 6460 \*\*Is Anarchism a Religion? For a riveting discussion turn up at Conway hall, 25 red Lion Square, London WC1 on 4th June 8pm. It's organised by the London Anarchist Forum who put on talks same time same place every Friday. List of events ring 0181 847 0203 \*\*SchNEWS is looking for someone to print yer favourite news-sheet every Friday 9 am (yes, the morning). Any reliable people out there interested should ring the office \*\* Everybody's favourite cheeky geezer Mark Thomas(perhaps excepting New Labour bods) has done a documentary about the nasty new Immigration and Asylum Bill (see last weeks SchNEWS). It will be on C4 27th May. Don't know a time yet

## SICK AS A DOG

A week of intensive campaigning against the sport(?) of greyhound racing is happening from May 22nd to 29th. In case you were under the impression that this is a fairly innocent, cruelty free form of amusement, let us put the record straight here.....

\* Every year in Britain 30,000 greyhounds that are surplus to the industry are drowned, poisoned, beaten to death, starved, dumped on the streets or impounded and destroyed.

\*Greyhound pups are killed if they fail to reach racing standards-1/3 are put to death before they reach a year old.

\*Many greyhounds are exported to Spain for exhibition racing. Kennel conditions are appalling with animals kept locked up 23 hours a day.

\*Many exported dogs are used for hunting and coursing. Greyhounds do not have the stamina for this work & many are being hanged (some have been found burned and skinned)as a cheap means of disposal

\*\*Greyhounds naturally live about 14 years but racing dogs generally only live two.

Greyhound action are working to change this appalling situation. As it is not possible to re-home the vast number of greyhounds disposed of every year by the racing industry, the total abolition of greyhound racing seems to be the only real solution. For once SchNews can say "gawd bless America" without a trace of irony as greyhound racing has been illegal in the States since 1993.

Greyhound Action, PO Box 127, Kilderminster, Worcs. DY10 3UZ 01562 745778.

### TRAINING DAY

SchNews needs some more hands on decks, so stop sunbathing down the beach, and get over to the office for our Training Day next Wednesday (26th) 12 noon. Limited places so give the office a ring now.

## Happy Campers

After loads of hassle from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Inter-Continental Caravan (ICC) have finally got their visas. There are 600 activists in the caravans, from as many countries as you can think of (well, almost), including shedloads from the Indian subcontinent. They're coming over to bring the concerns of the South (such as those about being fucked over by western companies) directly to the heart of the North. Their visit will coincide with the G8 summit on (wait for it) June 18th whose date has surely now been etched into all our readers' hearts.

On Friday 28 May, 150 'caravanners' will come to London. There'll be a public meeting, with first-hand accounts from Indian farmers of the REAL effects of free trade. And its free!! Anarchist Teaport will be doing the catering! What more could you ask for? (well, an end to global capitalism would be nice)\*\*12.00 till 4.30ish at the Friends House, Euston Road (opp Euston station) London NW1. For info, call 0181 357 8504. Friday 7.30pm, there's a public seminar on the World Trade Organisation and the International Monetary Fund. Oxford House community centre, Derbyshire Street, London E2 (Bethnal Green tube). And there's more!! Sat 29 May - genetic crop squat with the caravan crew- meet @ Lincoln Station 10am, or call 07971 755 823 Squall / Strike PARTY Sat. 11-29 Fashion Street. Contact ICC London Committee: 07801 708 4966 / 0171 375 3596. www.stalk.net/caravan.

On June 18th leaders of the 8 most powerful nations will meet for the G8 summit in Germany. On their agenda will be more economic growth, more free trade and more power for corporations. Some people don't think this is a very good idea - so across the globe on June 18th, people will be organising demonstrations. In the UK there will be a massive carnival in the city of London "replacing the roar of profit and plunder with the sounds and rhythms of party, carnival and pleasure." (SchNews likes the sound of that) Meet 12 noon Liverpool Street Station, London.\* If you want posters, flyers, stickers for J18 contact Reclaim the Streets 0171 281 4621 rts@gn.apc.org

\* Get yer tickets now for coaches up to London from Brighton on sale at the Peace Centre, Gardner St. £4.\* The Legal Defence & Monitoring Group will be watching the cops and offering legal support on J18, but need volunteers. Full training provided, no legal knowledge necessary. Contact LDMG c/o PO Box 2474, London N8, P/F 0181 374 5027.\* If you want a Crap Night Out get to the Free Butt, Sat. 22nd feat. Flammé, Tragic Roundabout, the Borg (famous anarchist tennis players) for yet another bloody J18th benefit.

\* Squaring up to the Square Mile - a rough guide to the City of London. For a free copy send a SAE (31p) to June 18 Info, Box E, 11, Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RO

## ...and finally...

### WHICH? MERCENARY SPECIAL

Your Third World regime wants to profit from the nation's rich mineral reserves, but first you have to stave off the indigenous populace and others with competing power claims. Who ya gonna call - Tribesmen-and-Peasant-and-Rebel-Army-Bustun? I don't think you'll find them in the Yellow Pages. Try reading 'The Privatisation of Violence - New Mercenaries and the State' a new special report by Campaign Against the Arms Trade. See here which of the corporate military firms on the market have delivered the best performance in areas as diverse as Sierra Leone and Bougainville - and which have been rubbish! In a new easy-to-read format, with loads of pop pix n' fax. CAAT: 11 Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ. Tel. 0171 281 0181

**Disclaimer\*** SchNews warns all readers not to prostitute themselves to multinationals as they'll fuck you over and leave you holding the baby. Honest.

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# BOYZ IN THE HOOD

The recent Home Office recommendation that all members of the criminal justice system should declare Masonic affiliations opened a can of worms in public. Peter Panatone reviews the evidence and the significant rift the issue has caused amongst the British police force.

Weird isn't it? To think that policemen, judges, MPs, council officers and a multitude of other public servants go through such bizarre rituals.

Wearing a shoe on one foot and a slipper on the other, they roll up their trouser leg, bear their chest, are blindfolded and tied with a hangman's noose and, whilst standing on a marble chess board with a dagger pressed to their heart, swear oaths of secrecy, allegiance and mutual aid. And yet this ritual is performed by every one of the 350,000 masons in England and Wales, the 30,000 in Scotland and the estimated six million world-wide.

Such occult practices would normally be easy fodder for tabloid derision but one look at the kind of names known to be Freemasons explains why public criticism has up until now remained so scant. In Britain, aristocratic members of the 'brotherhood' - for they are all men - include the Duke of Edinburgh; the Earl of Cadogan; the Marquess of Northampton and the Duke of Kent. Among the political figures known to be 'on the square' are Willie Whitelaw, Cecil Parkinson and the current head of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, Sir Frederick Crawford.

Whilst a few high profile 'brethren' break cover to perform a public relations role and a few others are 'outed' by tenacious researchers, most Masons in public positions, including those populating the two Masonic lodges thought to operate in the Houses of Parliament, remain clandestine. When author and researcher Martin Short wrote to Willie Whitelaw asking him if he was a Freemason, the ex-Home Secretary replied: "I have never been an active Mason since I entered the House of Commons in 1955." However, the 1987 yearbook for the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland - not publicly available but shown to SQUALL - reveals that he is still an active Freemason and a Scottish representative of Australia's Grand Lodge of New South Wales. The casual ease with which such an influential political figure was prepared to lie about his Masonic affiliations casts further doubt upon Masonic integrity. It is a doubt many see will only be assuaged by enforced public declaration of Masonic membership by all public officials.

According to Sir Maurice Drake, a top ranking Royal Arch Mason and the High Courts' principal libel lawyer before retiring in 1996, the public's concern is misplaced: "It involves play-acting. An outsider might say it is a lot of grown men behaving like children. I can understand that but it is fun. The secrecy was always silly and I think the majority of people think that it is not very important." His fellow judicial Mason, Lord Justice Millett, records: "It involves a certain amount of learning and performing which is quite fun. We claim to have secrets but they are harmless. There is nothing in the slightest bit sinister."

However, the oaths of secrecy sworn by Freemasons sound anything but innocuous. Upon entering the first level of Masonry, an initiate promises to guard its secrets upon pain of "having my throat cut out by the root and buried in the sand of the sea at low water mark... or the more effective punishment of being branded as a wilfully perjured individual, void of all moral worth." This so-called "harmless play-acting" seems remarkably effective in ensuring secrecy. Even those who have ceased to be Masons refuse to speak of its ceremonies and practices, whilst the very few people with experience of Masonry who have dared to speak to researchers have done so anonymously. There is little doubt that retribution for public disclosure is a real threat in the minds of all those who have ever been initiated.



Pic: Nick Cobbing

## SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--

I Wanna Go Home  
Underground Update

Features

Squall Pics  
Frontline Communique  
The State Its In  
Quotes  
Resources  
Links  
From Our Correspondence

Commander Michael Higham wriggled in his chair in visible discomfort. In front of a packed press gallery, his pallor grew ever more pale as he sat cornered by questions thrown at him with increasing frustration by members of the Home Affairs Select Committee. As grand secretary to the United Grand Lodge of Freemasonry, the governing body for English and Welsh Masons, he had been requested to provide the committee with the names of Masonic police officers involved with units responsible for several miscarriages of justice. Despite indicating to the committee in November 1997 that the United Grand Lodge would reveal these names, a 50-strong meeting of the Masonic Board of General Purposes had ordered Higham not to reveal them after all. The miscarriages of justice in question were major ones: the scurrilous ruining of John Stalker, the ex-Chief Constable of Manchester who got too close to the truth in his investigations into the Royal Ulster Constabulary's shoot to kill policy in Northern Ireland; the disgraced West Midlands Serious Crime Squad which, after 30 charges of misconduct, was closed down in 1986, and the discredited police investigation into the Birmingham pub bombings which led to the malicious prosecution and imprisonment of the now pardoned Birmingham Six.

Ex-police officers had made allegations that Freemason officers in the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad had operated a "firm within a firm". Serious allegations of malign Masonic manipulation extended to police officers in the John Stalker affair and to both journalists and police officers implicated in the Birmingham Six scandal. The Home Affairs Select Committee, which had been considering the influence of Freemasonry on the judiciary and police since 1995, wanted to know which of the 161 names under suspicion in these cases were Masons so that it could assess the validity of these allegations. But now, Commander Higham - who once gave a speech asserting "there is very little secret about Freemasonry" - was refusing to comply with one of the most powerful select committees in parlia-



ment. "I hope you will accept that is 'no', but not with contempt," he whimpered in his impossible situation as public fall guy for the clandestine Masonic hierarchy.

For a while a constitutional crisis looked on the cards. The Serjeant at Arms issued an order giving the United Grand Lodge 14 days to comply with the request of the Committee or else..... what? No one had ever defied parliament in this way before but now the Freemasons thought themselves powerful enough to try. Both parliament and the press held its breath. Finally, as the deadline approached, a deal was made. The United Grand Lodge agreed to provide Chris Mullin, the Chairman of the Select Committee, with the requested names on condition that only he and the clerk to the

committee would see them. Not even the other members of the Committee would be allowed to see them and many argued that the necessity to strike a deal at all provided further evidence of the extant political power still wielded by Masons. The hap-



Pic: Mick Cobbing

less Commander Michael Higham, who many view as a relatively harmless Mason occupying a public relations role, informed the Committee that the United Grand Lodge was to retire him early for reasons that he did not know.

The persistent public impression that masonry provides a conduit of perniciously manipulative influence in the police force finally found direct evidence to back up its concerns in the 1960's,

when 12 officers from Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad were jailed for taking bribes from pomographers. All 12 were found to be Freemasons, with one of them, Chief Superintendent Bill Moody, discovered to have helped one of the pomographers to become a fellow Freemason. The integrity of the police force in general took a serious denting from the scandal and non-Masonic police



officers weren't keen to take the rap. Public condemnation of freemasonic influence was, however, slow to appear.

In a pamphlet entitled "The Principles of Policing and Guidance for Professional Behaviour" published in April 1985, the then Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Kenneth Newman concluded: "The discerning officer will probably consider it wise to forego the prospect of pleasure and social advantage in Freemasonry so as to enjoy the unreserved regard of all those around him. It follows from this that one who is already a Freemason would also be wise to ponder, from time to time, whether he should continue as a Freemason; that it would probably be prudent in the light of the way that our force is striving in these critical days, to present to the public a more open and wholehearted image of itself, to show a greater readiness to be invigilated and to be free of any unnecessary concealment or secrecy." Despite this call, the Manor of St James Lodge No9179 was set up exclusively for Metropolitan Police officers in 1989.

At least two Deputy Assistant Commissioners and 12 commanders, including the heads of the Anti-Terrorist Squad and the head of Scotland Yard's intelligence service, are known to have joined this lodge. The present Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul Condon, reiterated Sir Kenneth Newman's call with a similar degree of unsuccess: "Because of the public's concern surrounding this issue I would advise my colleagues that it is better that they are not involved in Freemasonry."

Condon is presently being sued by a former metropolitan police officer for several malicious prosecutions brought after a Masonic dispute. Graham Peacock, a police constable for 26 years and a member of Masonic lodges in both London and Surrey, claims to have been victimised after a "bitter dispute" with a fellow Masonic police officer in 1992. Since that time he is alleged to have been maliciously prosecuted on three separate occasions for cannabis cultivation, murder and the illegal possession of firearms. He was acquitted of all these charges but spent time in prison on remand. He also claims that his wife has been phoned up and threatened, and that his cat went missing only to be found dead later with "horrific injuries", thrown in the neighbour's garden. If such exchanges go on between fellow Masonic police officers, what happens to others who have run-ins with Freemasonic officers? Two Leicester businessmen found out when they decided to have a late night drink at the Goat Moat House Hotel in Blackburn where they were staying in April 1988. Sidney and Shaun Callis (father and son) were unaware they had walked into the 'Ladies night' organised by the Victory Lodge of Blackburn. Two Masonic Lancashire police officers approached the pair and ordered them out of the hotel bar. After refusing to leave, the couple were beaten up and then charged with assault by other Masonic police officers also present. When the two men were released on bail the following morning, they found that the hotel management had seized the Callis' belongings demanding compensation for damage to the bar. The Hotel manager was later found to be a Mason and a member of the Victory Lodge. The Callis' also found that the tyres of their car had been drained of air and the hub caps removed.

When their assault charge reached court the following year, the jury rejected police evidence and acquitted the pair. The Callis' subsequently sued Lancashire Police for malicious prosecution and won £85,000 in compensation. The total pay out, including court costs, came to £170,000. However, the retribution did not stop there. Since 1989, unknown police officers put phoney criminal records for Sidney and Shaun Callis on the police national computer. Another unnamed person wrote to police suggesting that Sidney Callis was responsible for murdering two people, shot dead on the Pembrokeshire Coast in 1989. He was arrested for murder and interrogated at Hinchley Police Station before being released. Leicestershire Police also made efforts to revoke Sidney Callis's 12-bore shotgun licence. As Callis told Private Eye magazine in April: "I've never had so much as a parking fine."

The Home Affairs Select Committee was told that the Victory Lodge in Blackburn, whose members triggered this catalogue of retribution, is a lodge set up for police Masons.

According to Martin Short, author of 'Inside the Brotherhood' and a major testifier before the Home Affairs Select Committee, an estimated 25 per cent of Metropolitan Police officers and 20 per cent of national police officers still belong to Masonic lodges. The United Grand Lodge of England estimate that membership of freemasonry has declined by an estimated 200,000 over the last 30 years. Partly as a result of this diminution of power, more non-masonic public service officials have felt braver about publicly criticising the masonic network's influence on promotion prospects within their profession.

The pace of this dissent in the police force picked up considerably when the powerful Home Affairs Select Committee instigated its inquiry into the influence of Freemasonry on the police



and the judiciary in 1995, an event which immediately split the police force in two. Whilst the Police Complaints Authority and the Association of Chief Police Officers called for public declaration, the Police Federation and the Police Superintendents' Association were vehemently against. The rift reached public airing after the 1995 Police Complaints Authority (PCA) annual report called for compulsory public declaration of Masonic membership by all police officers. Its chairman, Sir Leonard Peach, told the Home Affairs Select Committee that the PCA wanted to allay public fears that Masonry was being used to influence the outcome of its investigations.

The Police Superintendents' Association's backlash was remarkable. They told the committee: "Over the past two years our confidence in the impartiality of the PCA has been shaken. Many of our members no longer see the PCA as being truly independent."

Indeed, public confidence in the PCA, whose investigations are predominantly staffed by members of the police force, has never been that strong. As the body responsible for investigating malpractice in the police force, many have pointed out the questionable validity of having the police investigate the police. However, for the Police Superintendents' Association to criticise the PCA's impartiality was unheard of, and provided further indication of the tenacity with which Masonry would fight to avoid public exposure.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), which acknowledged in the Committee that between five and ten Chief Constables

(out of 43) are Masons, were nevertheless in favour of a declaration of membership in order to restore public confidence. This caused an internal rift within ACPO itself. Paul Whitehouse, ACPO's vice chairman and Chief Constable of Sussex, asserted that "It's the secrecy that is cause for concern", whilst David Wilmott, Chief Constable of Manchester and presumably one of the five to ten Masons in ACPO, called it "an infringement of personal liberty".

The Police Federation, which represents the rank and file of the police service, acknowledged to the committee that "there may well be a significant number" of their members who were Masons and were critical of ACPO's pro-declaration stance: "It is

for those who allege that Freemasonry does have such harmful consequences to establish a case, and so far such persons or bodies that take this view, have totally failed to furnish such evidence. Rumour and innuendo are not enough to make the case." The paradox of the Federation's position was there for all to see. Which policeman, for instance, could hope to firmly establish any case if the identity of all potential suspects was kept secret from them?

Indeed, the Home Affairs Select Committee received a number of submissions from individual police officers who remained anonymous in the Committee's subsequent report. Whilst six of these submissions were from Masonic policemen insisting their membership had no adverse affect on their professional conduct, ten submissions were from policemen who claimed malign Masonic influence at work. The allegations they cited included suppression of serious criminal and disciplinary allegations, promotion preferment for Freemasons; cheating in promotion exams facilitated by Masonic connections and falsifying blood test results for Freemasons charged with drink driving. A constituent of Chris Mullin's (the current chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee) wrote to the MP saying: "I am a retired Chief Superintendent who commanded the Commercial Fraud Squad and Complaints and Discipline Department in a big metropolitan force and, as such, I conducted many enquiries in various parts of this country and abroad. I have frequently experienced interference from Masonic sources calculated to impede the progress of an enquiry and do not doubt that improper decisions have been made along the way." Mullin was charged with not revealing any details of his case in order to protect the ex-police officer. From what?

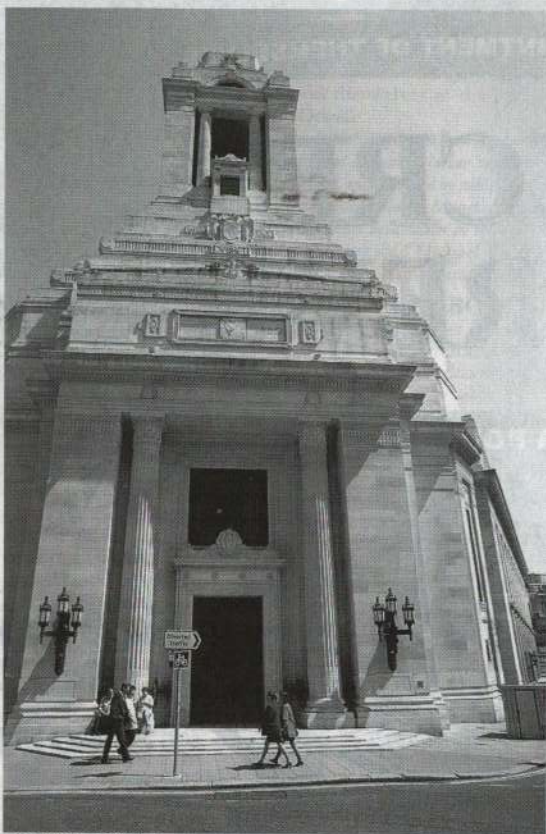
More fearless was PC Kitt Gordhandas, from West Yorkshire Police, who wrote to the Police Review saying: "I feel that Freemasonry stands for white, male, middle-class members working for the advancement of themselves and their fellow Masons."

After a two year enquiry, the Home Affairs Select Committee published their report in 1997: "We believe that nothing so much undermines public confidence in public institutions as the knowledge that some public servants are members of a secret society one of whose aims is mutual self-advancement." The report recommended that "police officers, magistrates, judges and crown prosecutors should be required to register membership of any secret society and that the record should be available publicly."

Home Secretary Jack Straw has acknowledged this recommendation and looks set to insist it covers the entire criminal justice system. Earlier this year, Straw told the House of Commons:

"The Freemasons have said they are not a secret society but a society with secrets. I think it is widely accepted that one secret they should not be keeping is who their members are in the criminal justice system."

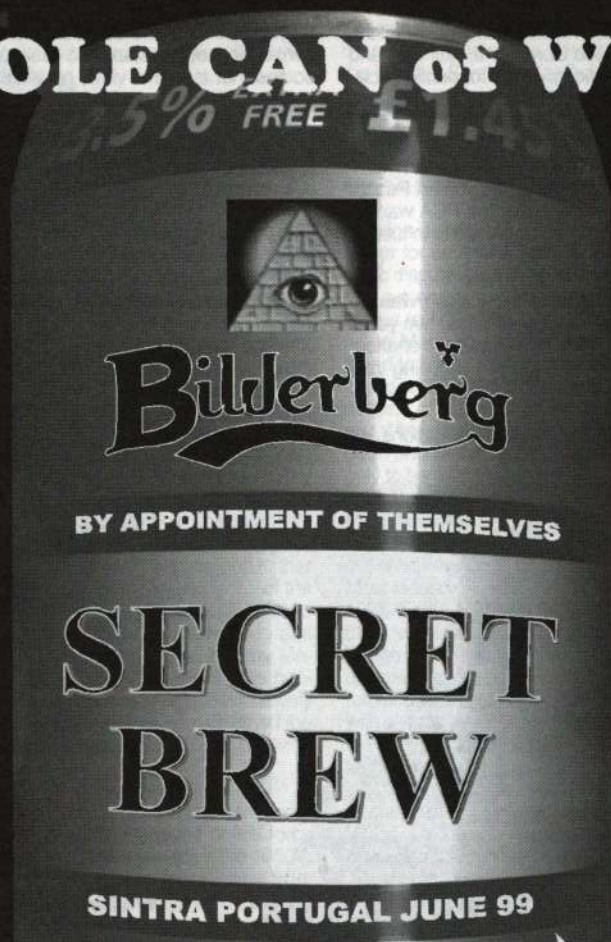
Exactly how this is to be implemented is not yet known or indeed whether such public declaration might be extended to public servants both national and local. Certainly the clandestine leviathan of Freemasonry still has a multitude of friends in high places and has had to be dragged kicking and screaming to this point. The battle against the malignant opportunities for political and social manipulation offered by the extensive and secret network of Masonic influence is far from over.



Pic: Nick Cobbing



A WHOLE CAN of WORMS



**Bilderberg**

**Brewing  
Up A  
Storm**

**SECRET BREW**

Where's it made? Who's making it?  
It's a badly kept **SECRET**





# SchNEWS

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## World Domination & Bondage

"Bilderberg, reputedly the most secretive organisation in the world" The News, Portugal

The Famous Five. The Brady Bunch. The Red Hand Gang. The Bilderberg Group. What is it about these collectives of spirited youths that make them prone to so many thrilling adventures?

But - hang on a minute - that last one doesn't sound so familiar. Apparently the Bilderberg Group, rather than enriching our cultural lives through the world of children's literature and television, is actually a sinister, and all-too-real, global power elite. One moment you're being entertained by the exploits of another group of out-of-control youngsters; the next, you're witnessing the continued onset of world corporate domination. What's going on?

Why not ask staff at the Caesar Park Penha Lusa resort in Sintra, Portugal, who from June 2nd to 7th will be playing host to this shadowy group, for its annual meeting. A Portuguese newspaper reporter did, but that all they got from the resort was that an organisation 'wishing for the utmost privacy' would be staying. And you won't learn much more from the Portuguese authorities, whose military forces are reportedly being deployed to safeguard privacy at the hotel, fully and exclusively booked by the Bilderberg Group for that time.

Another hotel, this time in Osterbeek, Holland, gave the group its name after the latter was there for the first time in 1954. The Bilderberg Group is said to have been established as a secret support wing of NATO as part of its Marshall plan, launched in the 1940s. Since then, its membership has comprised some truly high-powered figures; not only government ministers, but industrial leaders, royals, press barons and presidents. In 1977 the *Times* described Bilderberg thus: "a clique of the richest, economically and politically most powerful and influential men in the Western world."

Their mission? Strategic planning to hasten the pace of globalisation; not only economic, but political - "the principal feature of Bilderberg is that it seeks one global government," reports Portugal's main English language newspaper. Yet they meet entirely in secret,

shun all publicity, and don't disclose their agenda to the public. The Famous Five have just found themselves in the middle of a plot by Orwell.

"If the Bilderbergers seem more publicity shy than ever, that is, among other reasons, because their proposals, implemented by subservient agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, have caused more mass devastation in recent years than World War II ever did." Michael Thomas Wall Street investment banker and author.

### READ ALL ABOUT IT

"The Bilderbergers have been removed from our assignment list years ago by executive order... Our policy seems to be that if the Bilderbergers want to parley in private, leave them alone." Anthony Holder former UN correspondent for the Economist, now working for the European.

"We are barely aware of the [Bilderbergers'] existence, and we don't report on their activities."

William Glasgow, 'Business Week'.

"The Bilderbergers are too powerful and omnipresent to be exposed," French broadcaster Thierry de Segonzac

No wonder David Rockefeller congratulated the world's press for keeping "their project" secret for so long!

\* 'Bilderberg Group - The Global Manipulators' by Robert Eringer (Pentacle Books 1980) [www.Bilderberg.org](http://www.Bilderberg.org)

### YOUR NAME'S NOT DOWN, YOU'RE NOT COMING IN...

People who've attended previous Bilderberg parties include: Henry Kissinger, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown (chancellor), David Rockefeller, Edward Heath (former Conservative PM), Kenneth Clark (former Tory Chancellor), Niall Fitzgerald (Executive Unilever), George Soros (international financier), William Hague (charisma-bypass tory boy), Peter Carrington (former chairman of the Board, Christies International PLC) Former Secretary General, NATO), Leon Brittan - Vice President of the European Commission, John Browne (Group Chief Executive, British Petroleum Company plc), George Robertson Minister for Defence D.Sutherland - (Chairman, Goldman Sachs International)

rich and powerful tastes catered for at [www.Bilderberg.org](http://www.Bilderberg.org)

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

Four years ago, Frank and Monica Victorio began feeding the homeless and needy on their block. They also took in at-risk kids, providing them with a home and encouraging them to go to school. "We wanted to feed our neighbors, because there is a lot of need here," said Frank Victorio.

However, Police officers have cited the Victorios as a public nuisance for operating without a permit. Rodney Arnold, senior officer for the city told them, "Hey, you can't do this out here". The procedure against them ran up nearly \$700 in administrative costs that the Victorios will have to pay no matter what the outcome. The Victorios have been mystified by their fight with the city. Frank said "We're not a food locker, we just give food to our neighbors. How can you turn your back on people?"

If the Victorios don't stop indiscriminately and persistently helping people, they could incur anywhere between several thousand dollars and \$25,000 in fines as well as risking losing their home. Well that's Justice? for you isn't it?

### SOLAR (SUNNY DELIGHT?)

Energy companies are notoriously resistant to such subversive ideas as generating power from renewable sources, preferring to stick to old favourites like fossil fuels and nuclear power.

To highlight this, activists in America have started generating power from small-scale solar panels and giving it away, a shamelessly anti-commercial practice which is sure to enrage the corporate monsters of the energy industry... The snag is that they're giving it to the national grid itself. Will the leccy companies complain about such disgraceful generosity? Watch this space... For practical info on renewable energy check out [www.homepower.com](http://www.homepower.com)

### Brighton June 18th Action Group Affinity Groups Training Day

Monday 31st May - 1.30pm  
Community Base, Queen's Road  
This day will include a brief introduction to June 18th, legal briefing and workshops to get people into affinity groups to take action on the day.  
More info: 01273 298 192



## ENGLISH HERETICS

English Heritage started work on Wednesday on their latest scheme to trash - sorry, preserve - one of our sacred sites. Holmeheenge consists of an 18 foot circle of 54 trees enclosing an inverted oak tree, planted over 4,000 years ago. The tree has been named after the legendary Scandinavian tree Yggdrasil - the tree of life, traditionally considered a portal to the underworld. It marks the end of 'Pedars Way', an ancient walkway, forming a linear triangle with Stonehenge and a group of monuments in Essex. The site would have originally been deep in the forest before the land was claimed by the sea. A local expert in tree circles, Buster, told SchNEWS, "This sacred site would have been built as a place of burial and sacrifice, the centre of the circle is a magical space, the tree is symbolic of Godspace in traditional beliefs and the ancient word for oak is *Dur* meaning 'door', derived from *gaelic* and *sanskrit*. The name *Druid* is derived from *Dur*." The people who built this monument over 4,000 years ago worked with great precision aligning the four exposed roots to the points of the compass, the site was obviously chosen with equal care for it's sacred significance, the gateway to one side of the tree marking a gateway between the worlds. When English Heritage move the henge it will no longer retain any significance.

English Heritage are concerned that the site will be damaged by erosion, yet when SchNews spoke to local geographer Miss Ellis she assured us "Due to the alignment of the coast at this point there is a constant build up of sand banks. Also, it is thanks to the sea that the monument has survived for so long, wood does not decay as long as it stays saturated and the tide times on this stretch of the coast ensure that the monument is revealed only rarely and for short periods of time."

In their preliminary attempts to carbon date the tree E. H. have gouged out a 6 inch wedge passing through the heart of the tree and completely chopping off both the East and West points. This precise incision was made with a chainsaw!!! It seems safe to surmise that their primary criteria has little to do with respect for our ancient heritage so what are they trying to do? Blatantly they're not going to make any money from the henge where it is now, but in a museum on the other hand....there are also rumours that someone is aiming to achieve a PhD through all this, well you can surely see that the furtherance of one man's career is far more important than a sacred henge that has survived for a mere 4,000 years fulfilling the purpose it's makers intended.

Basically, someone should remind British Heretics that our sacred sites are not theirs to mess with. We have not sanctioned their interference any more than they have listened to the pleas of those who want the henge to be left alone. As work is already in progress anyone who wants to experience the Henge should get down to Holme as quick as you can. For info: [www.talkingtrees.org.uk](http://www.talkingtrees.org.uk) E.H 0171 9733000

## Earth Die, But We Still Fight!!!!

Says our Polish Correspondent, One-Day Action 7-8 June in memory of thousands trees cut by Techocrats, which building motorway inside "Mountain St. Anna" in Poland. One year ago was 40 days action against this motorway. Unfortunately, police and private security broken our bodies but NOT HEARTS !!! We meet on squat Rozbrat in Poznan - Poland, 6 June about 6 pm. We will play football on motorway, some sit-in, much of fun. Probably will be necessity of using U-locks, chains and another things. (police and private security agency try stop our fun) Please take sleeping bags, candles, black wear and smile. More info [akcia@zpw.most.org.pl](mailto:akcia@zpw.most.org.pl)

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## SchNEWS in brief

**Music And Dance (MAD) for Humanity Ltd** are putting on a party Sat 5th June at the Pleasure Rooms in Tottenham, proceeds to humanitarian aid for Kosovan refugees. Including Trance Orbital, Irreverent Ink and ARC-i. Tickets £10/£12 from usual outlets. **\*\*Legalize! Streetparty June 5 10 AM until 22 PM** on against the War on Drugs Meet-De Dam Sq. Amsterdam. Live entertainment. FREE! **\*\*Acme TaT Supplies** have decided to call it a day - but are keen to pass to any sorted people with a list of their suppliers 0113 262 9365 email [acme-tat@iname.com](mailto:acme-tat@iname.com) \*\*

**The Right to Protest Forum** is setting up an organisation to provide legal observers and legal observer training to defend protestors and demonstrators. Meeting/discussion Weds. 23rd June in the Bertrand Russell Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Sq, London 0171 727 0590 [jb1@netlane.com](mailto:jb1@netlane.com) **\*\* Rally For Socialism**, in Birmingham on Mon 7th June with Jeremy Hardy & Mark Thomas 01203 229311 **\*\* Claiming Compensation for Police Misconduct: A Guide to Your Rights** booklet available from Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, Sheffield 0114 276 7777/273 9011 **\*\* Get a brand new fridge for £25 from Fridgesavers** 0131 554 2532 **\*\* Reclaim the Streets** preview, a video screening of past Reclaim the Street carnivals, is being shown at 7.30 pm, June 1st, at Portsmouth's Spithead Housing CO-OP meeting room **\*\* The Wanstead stretch of the M11 link is the next green space of the capital due for a splash of concrete and tarmac.** Shoppers may soon be able to drive over where the Independent Free Area of Wanstonia was and the old chestnut tree, site of the country's first officially recognised tree house. Then again they could park the 'old lady' in a skip and join the No M11 Link Road Campaign which will open with a "music and gathering" event on 7 June. Meet 9.30am George Green, Wanstead **\*\* Sunday 13 June King Arthur** will lead a **MASS TRESPASS** at the proposed Avon Ring Road. Meet at the site 12.00 noon. Bring Banners, Instruments, & Creativity. A Samba Band will accompany the march. Cyclists will set off as groups from either end of the Railway Path. Meet Brassmill lane in Bath and Trinty street in Bristol at 10.30 am. Overnight accommodation available at the camp, bring your sleeping gear. FFI phone 0797-999-0389

## TORY ROADS PROGRAM CAUGHT CLIMBING OUT OF GRAVE

Just when you thought the 'Torys' roadbuilding program was dead and buried, it has been seen wandering around Essex, mumbling about smearing the countryside with more sticky black shit.

The Gorse Wood Campaign has been founded in order to bury any hopes New Labour have of reviving the Torys roads policy. During the last week a camp has been set up in woods on route of the proposed new stretch of the A130 between Basildon and Chelmsford. Undoubtedly something needs to be done about the congested state of the present stretch of road; however, a new road is not the answer. The road is being funded through the Private Finance Initiative, the same scheme that brought us the A30 extension. This road, like all roads, will further fragment what is left of our indigenous ecosystems, i.e. it will basically be another nail in the coffin of our already destroyed native wilderness by agriculture. Apparently this road could be the beginning of a new London orbital motorway. Just what we need - another ring of death , great, top one !!, sorted !!!, won-

derful !!!!, fantastic!!!! Top banana. Anyway, you want to get yourself down there, the site near the village of Rettendon, between Basildon and Chelmsford. The nearest reference point Rettendon church; by the time of writing, signs may have been put up to direct folk to the site. Phone the site mobile for more detailed directions, 07957 915977.

## GET OFF YOUR LAND

"Relocation is a word that does not exist in a Dinah language. To be relocated is to disappear and never be seen again" Pauline Whitesinger, Din Elder and relocation resister

The ancestral homeland of the Navajo and Hopi people is being transformed into a "National Sacrifice Area" because of the vast quantities of uranium and natural gas found beneath the homes of these indigenous people. Since 1974 when Congress passed a law to let the Peabody Coal Company open the largest coal reserve in North America, over 14,000 Navajo have been pressured into moving, and now just 83 families remain. The United Nations has described the relocation a serious violation of indigenous peoples' human rights. Many of those left face imminent eviction and constant harassment. Since February farmers have had livestock impounded (their central food and cash source) by armed Federal agents as well as restricted wood gathering, stopping the building, even repair of homes, destroying wells, capping springs, bulldozing homes and ceremonial structures, and had to put up with F-16 fighter jets flying 100 feet above the ground.

Most of those that have been relocated have been sent to the Sanders, New Mexico, downstream from one of the worst radioactive waste spills in the world second only to Chernobyl. Since moving there about 25% of the people have died from cancer.

A few years back when NASA was preparing for the Apollo project, they did some astronaut training on a Navajo Indian reservation. When the Navajo Indians found out about it, they asked if they could send a message to the moon on the Apollo. NASA's indoctrinators happily agreed (dreaming sweetly about the free propaganda), and quickly arranged to record a message of an elder. With the recording completed, NASA asked what the message said. The Navajo elder smiled and said nothing. Intrigued, the NASA men played the recording to several Navajo elders in an attempt to find out what the message said, but the Indians would only laugh and refuse to translate the elder's message to the moon. Finally, NASA called in an official government translator. He reported that the moon message was "Watch out for these guys; they've come to take your land." Black Mesa Indigenous Support, P.O. Box 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002, USA [www.netmanor.com/unity/unity](http://www.netmanor.com/unity/unity).

## ...and finally

"Big Mamma is watching you, kid". In Copenhagen there is a new surveillance facility available working parents, letting them watch their children and child minders from the office computer. The surveillance cameras will link to parents' workplaces via the internet. This experiment poses a serious threat to the right to privacy for both child and minder. SchNEWS wonders about the effect of constant surveillance on children and on their interaction with one another and their teachers. The experiment has been welcomed enthusiastically by officials and parents and the model will be followed by other institutions as an alternate way of getting a suntan.

### disclaimer

SchNEWS warns readers not to get into bed with capitalist pigs, coz you'll only regret it in the morning. Honest!



# SchNEWS

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Friday 4th June 1999

<http://www.schnews.org.uk/>

Issue 214

Free/Donation

## Carn'ival

**n. 1. An explosion of freedom involving laughter, mockery, dancing, masquerade and revelry 2. Occupation of the streets in which the symbols and ideals of authority are subverted 3. You cannot watch carnival, you take part**

"We will not bow to these people. We have money to make here" City professional

"Banks and financial houses being urged by the City of London Police to tighten security" ... "shadowy organisations" with plans "to bring Britain's financial centre to a standstill" What's going on?

In August last year a call to action was issued around the world to any groups and individuals who recognised that, "the global capitalist system, based on the exploitation of people and the planet for the profit of a few, is at the root of all our social and ecological troubles".

June 18th was the day picked for international action - the day when the world's seven most industrialised countries and Russia (G8) will meet in Kohn, Germany. On their agenda will be more economic growth, more free trade and more power for corporations (for a few down on why these things are bad read previous SchNEWS #1-213)

Last year the G8 met in May in Birmingham. Their meeting was intended to pass unnoticed and unopposed but across the globe people rose up in opposition. 30 Reclaim the Streets parties took place in over 20 countries, whilst 200,000 protested in Hyderabad, India and 50,000 landless peasants and unemployed workers took to the streets in Brasilia.

This year's party and protests promise to be even bigger and more effective.

From radical ecologists in Zimbabwe, Poland, Israel and Portugal, the Auto-workers in Canada, the North Sumatra Peasant's Union, the Bangladesh Garment Worker's Union, the Fisherfolk's Union in India and the Independent Unionists of Austria, the unemployed of France, indigenous groups fighting oil companies in Nigeria and Peasant groups in Senegal are all gonna take part in the day's events.

Groups involved are based in each continent, as the Earth spins and the sun rises on June 18th, actions will start in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, through Indonesia, India and Bangladesh, moving on to simultaneous actions in Senegal and Nigeria in concert with many European states from Czech Republic in Ireland and Italy to Greece, with June 18th finishing with events in almost 20 US states together with actions in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay.

"The roar of profit and plunder will be replaced by the sounds and rhythms of party and pleasure as a massive carnival of resistance snakes its way through the square mile." Reclaim The Streets

In the UK people are targeting the City of London, because as a June 18th flyer explains

"If a road or dam is built or an eco-system destroyed it is because an investment has been made in the City. When the factories closing in Liverpool or sweatshops opening in Jakarta, it is because the City is making millions from the misery it creates."

And that's getting the powers that be all hot under the collar. As an article in the The Sunday Telegraph explained, "City insiders say the police are taking the protest threat seriously and expect to see at least 10,000 demonstrators take to the streets. One insider close to the discussions said that the police are even concerned about reports of a huge surge in the sales of second-hand suits in Oxfam and other Charity shops ... the feeling is that the City could face considerable disruption."

**See ya there!**

\* SchNEWS rang up a local OXFAM shop to ask if sales of suits had been soaring. A confused shopworker confessed she hadn't noticed adding "They do make up some silly things those journalists". Meanwhile other City-types reckon the suit-plan is seriously flawed "no banker would be seen dead in an Oxfam suit... everyone in the City dresses in Ermengildo Zegna chinos". Security men have apparently been told to wrestle to the ground anyone in a moth-eaten suit.

**Here's a quick run down on some of the events taking place in the City on the 18th.**

**7:30am Critical Mass** - Huge cycle action to jam the City streets - bring your bike! Meet West Smithfield, EC1, (near City Thameslink)

**10 am Picket of Reed Employment Agency**, 87 Moorgate, EC2 - resisting "New Deal" harassment of Claimants. Haringey Solidarity Group 0181 374 5027

**10:30am Animal Abuse is as Transnational as Capital** - meet Farringdon tube to demonstrate against the City's role in animal abuse. Tel 0171 278 3068

**11am Anti-McDonalds picket** - meet Liverpool Street McDonalds. Tel 0171 713 1269

**11am Global Chain Reaction** - human chain around Whitehall. Bring banners + whistles.

**12 noon Carnival Against Capital** - a Reclaim the Streets style carnival and parade through the City. Bring things to make music and noise with, radios, food to share, banners etc... Consider dressing as a City worker or a cycle courier. Meet Liverpool Street Station. Tel 0171 281 4621.

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For trying to have a pee!

At Kingston train station after last Monday's Fair some guy asked to use the station loos but was refused by station staff as it was deemed 'too late' to unlock it even though there were 4 staff on duty and they'd just let somebody else use it. The passenger shouted that he was diabetic but the staff started pushing him around and lashing out with their fists. Within minutes 3 patrol cars and a van turned up spewing out 8 officers. Behind the waiting room amid shouts and screams the old bill restrained and removed the not-so-happy customer. Are privatised train companies taking the piss or what?

\* Did you see this man get arrested? Do you know who he is? Ring the SchNEWS miscarriages of justice hotline NOW

**1:30 pm Association of Autonomous Astronauts** - protest against the militarisation of space. Assemble Green Park Tube

**4:00pm Picket of Aroma**, McDonalds brought the Aroma cafe chain earlier this year. Meet Bishopsgate entrance of Liverpool Street BR Station Tel 0171 713 1269

**7:00pm EuroBunk** - meet at Waterloo International for the 19:27 Eurostar to Brussels, for an overnight stay in Brussels (accommodation provided - bring a sleeping bag), then meet with Belgian and French activists to catch the 08:25 train to Cologne at 10:57 in time for a huge demo against the G8 summit. e-mail: eurobunk01@hotmail.com

**Campaign Against Arms Trade** will be taking action against an arms trade related financial institution. Bring smart clothes and D-locks. Tel 0171 281 0297. They will also be coordinating a "Bread Not Bombs" free food distribution on the day. Give them a ring if you wanna help cook.

\* Protest against Vodaphone, the multi-billion pound company who recently managed to twist the arms of (ie bribe) Lib Dem councillors to build a giant HQ on a greenfield site north of the town, close to surprise, surprise, the new bypass. Meet 8 am Newbury train station

**Accommodation:** If people require crash space call Reclaim The Streets 0171 281 4621 / e-mail: rts@gn.apc.org

**Legal info:** If you are arrested on the day call 0171 837 7557. If the line has been blocked call Bindmans and Co. 0171 833 4433. A defendants and witnesses meeting will be held on June 19th in Marchmont Community Center, 62, Marchmont Street, WC1. Nearest tube: Russell Square

Global street party Glasgow Friday 18th June. Meet 1pm at Kelvinbridge or Kinning Park undergrounds.

\* Squating up to the Square Mile - a rough guide to the City. Send a SAE (31p) to June 18 info, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RQ

For more info about actions happening in the UK and the rest of the world visit: [www.j18.org](http://www.j18.org)

\* Transport to the City leaves Brighton 9am on June 18th. Tickets are available from Brighton Peace and Environment Center. £4 each. If people want to guarantee a place in the transport get yer tickets now.

It's strawberries and cream at **Cambridge Reclaim the Streets Saturday 12 June**. meet Cambridge train station, 1pm Coach from Brighton: tickets £5 @ Peace Centre



## CARAVAN CREW

*"I am here to 'Kill Monsanto' before it kills families like mine"*

**Kumud Chowdhary, Gujarat, India**  
About 500 farmers from S.Asia are on a whistle-stop tour of Europe as part of the Inter-Continental Caravan, against globalisation, free trade and corporate rule. For many women, like Kumud, joining the caravan meant leaving their homes, family and village for the first time.

During the tour, they plan to hassle the World Trade Organisation, the European Commission in Brussels and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, before converging at the G-8 summit in Cologne, Germany.

Last weekend some of them came to the UK and got involved in a genetic crop-squat in Essex. The site was turned into an organic, permaculture garden with an info centre focusing on the global dangers of genetic engineering.

Lapshanka Upadia, a Caravan delegate rejected claims made by the Nuffield Council that biotech companies have a "moral imperative" to experiment with the world's ecosystems in an effort to feed the world. "The farmers of India can produce more than enough food for the whole country."

So who are the 'moral' people behind the Nuffield Council's 'independent' report that reckon genetic food will help to feed the world? Er, reputable authorities such as the Department of Trade and Industry and many of the biotech companies. Oh, nearly forgot, Nuffield is also funded partly by Wellcome Trust, strong supporters of biotech research.

\* The Caravanners are ending their jaunt of Europe with a Laugh Parade outside the G8 summit on June 18th.

\* The Caravan crew were also part of the 35,000 crowd gathered in Cologne last weekend to protest about the EU summit.

\* Genetic Engineering, Food, and Our Environment: A Brief Guide by Luke Anderson, £3.95 from Green Books, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EB [www.greenbooks.co.uk](http://www.greenbooks.co.uk)

\* Another 'shadowy' organisation have published a comprehensive guide for people to find out where all the UK's genetically engineered test sites are. Check out the Friends of the Earth web-site [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

## NOTHING TO CROW ABOUT

Police surrounded a farm in Bedfordshire last week after a member of the public said that shots had been fired and a gang of youths had been spotted in a field (an ominous combination of circumstances if ever we heard one!) A helicopter using it's 'sky shout' broadcast "stay where you are. We are armed". Mr Cooper who owns the land said "I couldn't believe my eyes. The helicopter was over my house, telling me to stay indoors. Police were crawling everywhere". The 'shots' came from a crow scarer that Mr Cooper has been using for 30 years. The surprised 'yoofs' were sitting down 'minding their own business' (yeah - and enjoying the natural high of communing with nature no doubt) when armed police surrounded them, barking orders as the helicopter hovered overhead. SchNEWS can just imagine the resulting mild panic - like one of yer more extreme paranoids ain't it!

## THE ELECTORAL KOOL-AID ACID TEST

Following a new rule for the European elections the Green Party are urging voters to indicate their choice using a smiley face symbol 'synonymous with the drug ecstasy'. SchNEWS reckons it will take more than a smiley face to impart a loved-up vibe to the whole elections farce. Apparently almost any sort of drawing including a flying pig is acceptable!

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## SchNEWS in (well) brief

What with the publication of CJ Stone's new book 'Last of the Hippies' are even the organisers of the Earth Spirit festie taking the hint? Dave Morris of McLibel fame was there to give his view of multinationals, then later after a debate about Kosovo one man is invited back next time to talk about class struggle! \*\* Talking of Kosovo, there's a public meeting next Wednesday 9th at Cock Tavern, Between Euston and Kings Cross 7.15 pm \*\* Next Demo against Hillgrove cat viciation Farm, Sat. 12th June 12 noon, Dry Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire. 0121 6326460 \*\* Demo/support for 10 arrested in 'mini Reclaim The Streets', Mon 7th June, 10.30am Manchester Magistrates Court. 0161 226 6814 \*\* Save Our World Festival. Brockwell Park, Lambeth, Sun 20 June Three music stages and an interactive and performance area. Tel: 0171 6400 492. \*\* Reclaim The Streets Party! Sat 12 June 1999, Newcastle upon Tyne - Meet Monument Metro or Central station, 1pm Tel 07091135047.

## TIANANMEN :TEN YEARS ON

"It seemed as if (the tank's) gun barrel was within inches of my face. The treads rolled over my legs...and I was dragged for a distance." Fang Zheng's legs were amputated in hospital. Police told him, 'keep quiet' about it but he refused. The Chinese government still denies that anyone was crushed.

Ten years ago today, the Chinese government staged a full scale massacre of peaceful protesters occupying Tiananmen square killing thousands of people, followed by intense repression throughout the country; arresting and beating thousands and throwing many into jail for such heinous crimes as egg-throwing. The carnage and injustice is widely remembered, but what happened to the ordinary folk, the students and workers, who dared to speak out for democracy? Beijing signed a UN covenant last October, raising hopes of a human-rights thaw. Not a chance. Latest events show that there is still zero tolerance of individual expression which may be construed as a threat to Communist Party rule. At least 241 Tiananmen prisoners are still incarcerated in squalid conditions in China's prisons experiencing a continued denial by the Chinese government of basic human rights. People who just threw eggs are still serving sentences of up to 20 years. Many others still inside were jailed simply for making speeches, putting up posters, or writing pamphlets. Their sentences range from ten years to life.

Others have been locked up in mental institutions. A Chinese textbook on criminal investigation, published for the police, lists "writing reactionary letters or posters" among symptoms of illness. Most people are unaware of the continuing plight of the dissidents as the majority of cases go unreported and often relatives can't find out where they're being held. China denies the existence of political prisoners, stating that everyone has been sentenced according to law. This does not account for those sent to the detention camps by "administrative decision" without a trial. Following a depressingly similar pattern the Chinese authorities were in full-on control freak mode yesterday as the nation celebrated the Qing Ming festival in which families honour their dead. Human rights campaigners were detained in a security sweep aimed at preventing protests in the run-up to the 10th anniversary Tiananmen. In Hangzhou, a group of activists were detained by police when they tried to lay flowers for victims of the 1989 massacre, being warned to cease such political(!) activities. The square, in the heart of Beijing, has been fenced off since the end of last year and will remain closed - conveniently - for renovation work until after the June 4 anniversary.

Support the prisoners. Contact Amnesty International 0171 413 5500

## Inside SchNEWS

June 8th 1994

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

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

June 8th is an international day of action solidarity of Mark. In the UK there will be protests outside Sheffield Crown Court 12.30 - 2.30 pm and the Star newspaper, York St. 3.30 - 5pm in protest at the papers campaign of lies against Mark.

Public meeting at the SADACAA Centre, The Wicker, Sheffield 7.30 pm speakers include Paddy Hill of the Birmingham 6.

Contact Justice for Mark Barnsley c/o 14 149 Cardigan Rd., Leeds, LS6 1LJ email [snide@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:snide@globalnet.co.uk)

Write letters of support (recorded delivery make sure they get there) Mark Barnsley WA28 HMP Full Sutton, York, YO41 1PS

## ...and finally.

"Only those who attempt the impossible will achieve the absurd"

So say the Association of Autonomous Astronauts, a global network of those who 'want to build their own spaceships and leave this world behind'. And so they're organising the Festival of Independent and Community-Based Space Exploration, in 'London, Earth'. Those of you wondering what community based space exploration is, come to the Intergalactic Conference, where you can hear lectures on 'the everythingisation of stuff and catch some Extraterrestrial Cinema; play the sided football; take part in the 'debate of the millennium' (that's Star Trek vs Babylon 5 of course) and protest against SpaceShip Licensing Laws and the militarisation of space. For the practically minded, there's training on how to build your own rocket, star navigation, low level gravity practice and astral projection. If you haven't had your nut after all this, you'll probably manage it at the All-Night Rave in Space (venue TBA) at the end of the week, which promises to make stumbling around the M25 at 3am look like a walk in the park. Contact: AA 0181 9859981 web: [ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/infoc](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/infoc)

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to stay in work dressed-up in silly costumes but to go and commit carnival sin. Then you will be content. Honest.

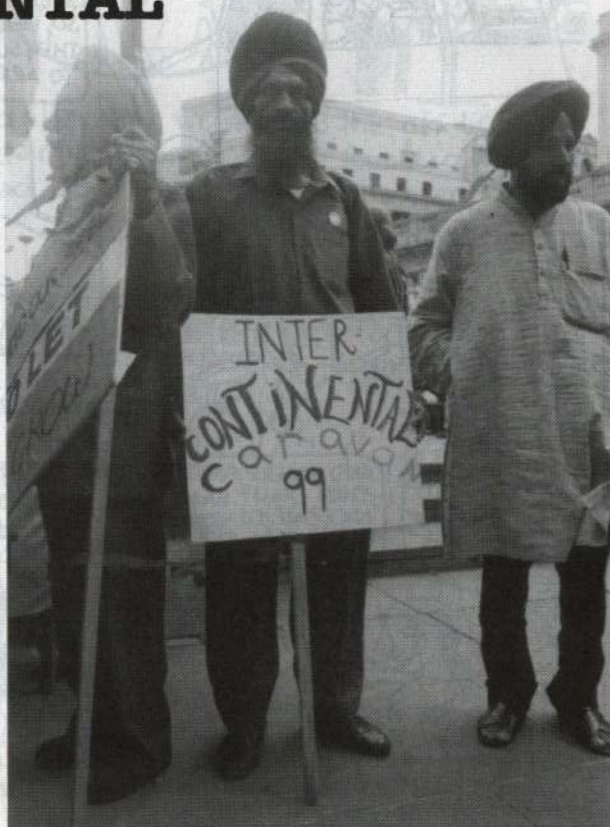
[schnews@brighton.co.uk](mailto:schnews@brighton.co.uk)





## INTERCONTINENTAL CARAVAN

June 99: Representatives of some of the poorest farmers from India and the developing world brought their protest to the City of London as part of the 'Inter Continental Caravan' (ICC). This saw 400 farmers travel through Europe and India protesting against the increase in globalisation and free trade which benefits multinational companies at the expense of the livelihoods of the poorest people on the land.





# The Intercontinental Caravan... and us...

So there was going to be a tour of Third World activists, mainly Indian Farmers, around Europe in June. And we were asked, as the Anarchist Teapot mobile kitchen, to cook for their stay of 4 days in the UK. Fine, we thought, could be interesting...



So we drove an overloaded van to London, to Kingsley Hall where the caravan was to be accommodated.



No one knew what had been planned, so we arranged a Get together in the main hall to sort it out. The organisation seemed increasingly flawed...



2 out of 3 coaches were turned away at the border, so there were only 40.

and we had way too much bread and veg. doh!





There was this big conference at the Friends meeting House the next day and we set up lunch there



Cause a report had just come out about how Genetic engineering is solving all the problems of the Third World, a spontaneous action happened where the farmers occupied the offices of those who commissioned the report (or something) to say "No it's fucking us over in fact"



but we couldn't all join in. Some of us had to go back and cook dinner..



and after that, we went to the off license (again). The only pub we found in the area had Union Jacks hanging in every window. Not a very inviting place.

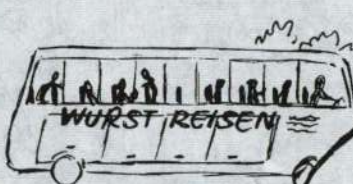
On Saturday we went to a squatted Genetics test site.

ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW BEFORE WE GO?

YES.. CAN WE SHOUT SLOGANS?



Only the sikhs and the two nepalese came along. The rather Grumpy Gujarats stayed in London.

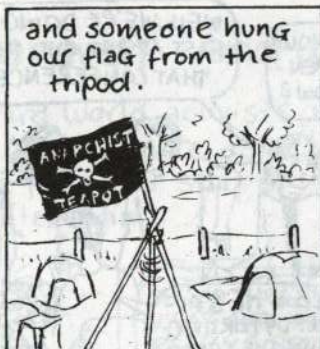


The coach couldn't get through the country lanes so we had to walk a bit providing an odd sight in the Essex countryside!





It was very sunny and we spent a few hours there in which we made a stew for everyone.



It was a nice day out.

back in London...



Some 'evening entertainment' was planned for the last night. We had discovered a snooker table upstairs and had been playing and drinking beer, but jumped onto the coach when it finally left to go where ever the party was.



and we got very drunk & obnoxious. On the way back the coach did a 'tour' of the City...



The next morning they were off to France...

I GUESS THIS ISN'T THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE MOBILE KITCHEN. YES, WE ARE GRUMPY BASTARDS BUT WE ARE UP FOR & ABLE TO TAKE OVER ALL FEEDING ASPECTS OF A RADICAL EVENT. \*BOX B. 21 LITTLE PRESTON STREET, BRIGHTON...





## SQUOTES

"The direct action movement is an organic network of people taking responsibility for their own lives, expressed through local interventions, chaotic global connections and friendships. Reclaim the Streets spontaneously and temporarily emerges from a shared dissatisfaction with the way our lives are run for us, with the rat-race and a society based on exclusion and enclosure, profit and control. As a dis-organisation, RTS is mobile and furtive. It is there when people decide to intervene in public spaces, evoking the utopia of a better society.

What RTS is becoming, where it will go from now, relies on your ideas, your dreams and desires."

*'MAYBE' May 1st, 2000.*

## NEWCASTLE RTS

A car reclaimed and decorated to advertise the Newcastle Reclaim the Streets and the annual Newcastle Green Festival. The RTS, on 12th June, attracted several hundred people to reclaim a central city street for the day. Seven people were arrested.





# NEW DEALS DOWN ON THE FARM

The Exodus Collective of Luton have been making a name for themselves as a movement for people-led social regeneration over the last eight years. Now a multi-ethnic housing estate, on which many of them were born and live, is coming together in a New Deal for Communities partnership which could secure £50 million of government money. Jim Carey and Tim Malyon catch up with the Collective.

"It is ordered that the defendants must not do any of the following acts: holding, causing to be held, organising or permitting the holding of, or participating in, or otherwise assisting in any manner whatsoever, any entertainment, party, concert or other gathering....at any time between 9pm 31 December 1999 and 11am on 3 January 2000 (inclusive)."

Sandwiched between the M1 and the main London to Bedford railway line, the farm was once used as a rubbish tip during its years of dereliction.

"You can grow plants that will take the pollutants out of the air and the soil," says long time Exodus member, Arms. "You've gotta extract positives out of negatives. If we can do it here, we can do it anywhere." Arms embodies this principle, having served 9 months for being "pissed and fucking angry" during the Marsh Farm riots. He's now in the forefront of planning for the farm and has built a home with his partner and two children at HAZ Manor.

Constructive planning is also being put into effect at Housing Action Zone (HAZ) Manor, a former derelict old people's home rebuilt by Exodus, initially using money from the dances then by pooling housing benefit. Squatted in 1994 then licensed from Luton Borough Council, HAZ Manor now houses forty people, with a communal creche, workshops and permaculture garden.

Most recently a New Deal work placement was being planned for the Manor. Exodus went through an extensive process of certification involving the Employment Service, Luton's Barnfield College, the County Training Group and The Training Network, all of whom supported the idea.

Then on September 18 1999, the Collective took part in an

So read the message of millennium goodwill sent to three key members of the Exodus Collective by South Bedfordshire District Council. But, with entry prices going through the roof for millennium new year events, Exodus persevered with their annual free party festivities in a disused warehouse near Luton. Thousands of local people danced in the next millennium, without being fleeced.

As regular SQUALL readers will be aware, the Exodus Collective have claimed headlines for reasons far wider than their well attended raves. Throughout their eight year history they have also attracted a reputation for the stance they make on behalf of human rights and community regeneration. Tenants since December 1992, Exodus bought Long Meadow Community Free Farm on the outskirts of Luton in December 1999, all 17 acres. The Collective were loaned £105,000 by Triodos Bank and £50,000 by ICOM, the Industrial Common Ownership Movement, interest to be paid from the housing benefit of those living on the land.

## SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--  
I Wanna Go Home  
Underground Update

Features

Squall Pics  
Frontline Communiqué  
The State Its In  
Squotes  
Resources  
Links  
From Our Correspondence

Pic: Tim Malyon





episode of BBC 2's 'Living With The Enemy'. The theme of the programme was cannabis legalisation, which Exodus supports as an essential first step in establishing a realistic national drugs policy. With BBC cameras recording the exchanges, former Chairman of Cambridge University Conservatives, James Hellyer, came to live at HAZ Manor and debate drug issues. He lasted just three days before disappearing to inform local police of the cannabis smoking he'd witnessed. Although Luton Police took no action, on 26 September Bedfordshire Chief Constable Michael O'Byrne used Exodus' position on cannabis to question the Collective's application for "the use of public funds or public resources."

On September 27, the Employment Service's district manager, Dave Sutherland, sent Exodus a letter terminating "plans for providing New Deal Options on sites occupied by the Exodus Collective" because of their "open support for the legalisation of cannabis" and press reports "alleging widespread smoking of cannabis at HAZ Manor." Replying to the ban, Exodus pointed out that there was no smoking in the workplace and "the personal use of marijuana at home by some residents at HAZ Manor does not represent a Health and Safety risk to the project."

A regional Employment Services spokesperson told **QUALITY**: "Exodus had quite clearly come out as being a group of people that were supporting the legalisation of cannabis...if they're actively promoting and supporting something which the government doesn't agree with, for us to give public money to that organisation to deliver a contract would have been a problem."

The confrontational obstacles were mounting.

Then out of the blue it came. Almost by chance, residents of the Marsh Farm Estate discovered that Government regeneration funding under the New Deal for Communities (NDC) scheme had been earmarked for Luton. An area of between 1000-4000 households would be selected to receive up to £60 million over the next ten years and the criteria for securing the money strongly stressed the visions and decisions should be resident-led.

The estate was an obvious choice, with 31% of its available workforce unemployed (national average 4%) and a recent history of riot and social unrest. On the positive side, twenty two per cent of the 9430 residents come from ethnic minorities although, as rastafarian and long-standing resident, Levi, observes: "I've seen lots of graffiti here, but never racist graffiti."

With Xmas and Millennium celebrations cluttering an already tight deadline, an embryonic umbrella group of Marsh Farm residents and community groups, including local churches, tenants associations, sports societies and the Exodus Collective, went into overdrive to develop the estate's presentation and succeeded in securing the bid.

Now, with a potential £50 million to facilitate their visions, the

residents and community groups of Marsh Farm are already coming out with radical proposals which may yet change the face of community regeneration in the UK. One suggestion includes the purchase of a 120,000 sq ft disused industrial warehouse situated in the middle of the estate with a view to converting it into a multifunctional community centre run by the Trust. Also, at the beginning of February, representatives of the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales visited the estate to conduct a feasibility study into the use of wind turbines and solar panels to provide low cost electricity for estate residents; free for pensioners. "Windpower for the people" trumpeted the local paper.

Having only won the right to bid for the money, Marsh Farm now enters the crucial phase one of the scheme. By April 14, the estate's residents and community groups are required to have established a fully representative Marsh Farm Community Development Trust capable of interfacing with local authorities, business and service providers. It's no small task for an area of some 4000 households, neither formally defined by pre-existing council wards nor previously represented as a whole, working to a tight, some might say ridiculous deadline.

However, using a small part of the £10,000 made available by the NDC for the initial consensus building process, Marsh Farm residents have opened a community office in the old Co-op supermarket which had long stood idle with its grey steel shutters down. This vital component is designed to address a common problem of excluding residents unfamiliar or uncomfortable with formal meetings. To counter such community 'turn-offs', the old Co-op is now a drop-in centre where residents - young and old - can come in their own time to present their visions for their estate's regeneration or to view ideas already under consideration. The people they will be talking with won't be bureaucrats but fellow Marsh Farm residents staffing the office on a voluntary basis. The office is now buzzing with activity.

Exodus plan to transfer Long Meadow Community Free Farm



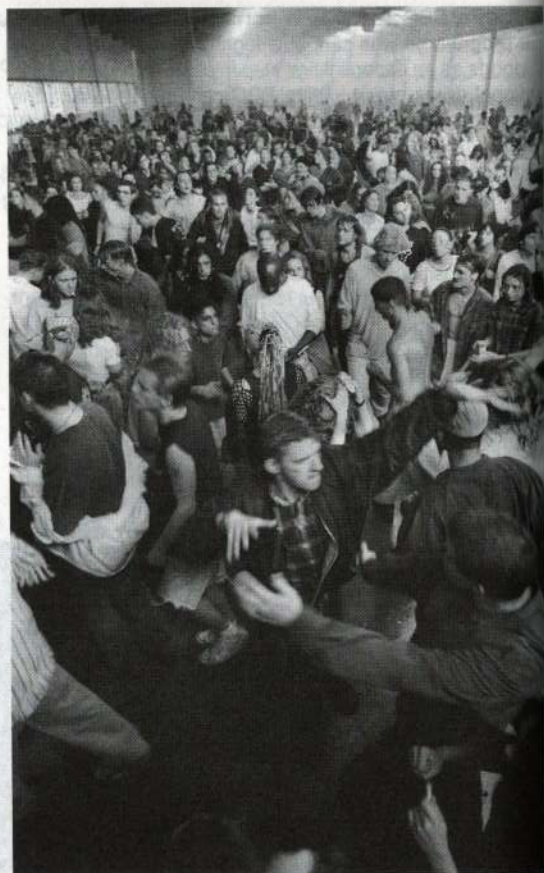
**Pic: Ian Hunter**

and HAZ Manor housing schemes to the jurisdiction of the Marsh Farm Community Development Trust. "We're trying to find a way to give it back to the people so that it stays



that way for eternity," explained Steve Sovereign, an Exodus Collective member and Long Meadow Farm's representative on the emerging Development Trust. The Collective have already part raised and part attracted £11,000 of separate funding to open a recording studio in a youth club on the estate. Management of the studio will be passed over to the Development Trust once it is up and running.

Meanwhile Lord Andrew Howland is currently negotiating with Exodus over the selection of a suitable piece of his 135,000 acre Bedfordshire estate to be freely loaned for their outdoor raves: "Certainly if someone said to me, do you have a problem dealing with Exodus, I would say we had problems when we didn't talk," Lord Howland told SQUALL. "But they are very easy to talk to, they talk perfectly good sense and I would recommend someone talking to them rather than doing it on a confrontational basis."



It has been a long hard road for Exodus to reach this point. The possibility that they will promptly transfer their hard won assets over to the emerging Marsh Farm Community Development Trust is one which may surprise many. But Exodus support for the new initiative is unequivocal.

"We didn't struggle to take land to make it private to us," affirms Exodus spokesperson, Marsh Farm resident and father of four, Glenn Jenkins. "We've had 'community free' on the name from day one. Long Meadow Community Free Farm will be an autonomous unit serving the estate and owned by the Marsh Farm Community Development Trust. All the early indications are that bottom up, do it ourselves, is gonna work on Marsh Farm. And when it works on Marsh Farm it's gonna glow like a candle in a dark place so other estates can emulate the same way."

Additional information on the Exodus Collective can be found at [www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk)







## PARTY ANIMALS

*"I'm from the other country. We are bored in the city, there is no longer any temple of the Sun....And you, Exodus....without music and without geography, no longer setting out for the hacienda where the roots think of the child and where the wine is finished off with fables from an old almanac. Now that's finished. It's never see the hacienda. It doesn't exist. The hacienda must be built."*

Formulary for a New Urbanism (1953)  
Two weeks in the wake of police impounding the Exodus Collective's soundsystem, which had provided sounds at dozens of their renowned free parties, last weekend just one party rocked the North. The Hacienda, the epicentre of the country's burgeoning dance culture, revered 'international' dance venue, and mecca for those of the 'acid house' generation, was squatted last weekend for one final blow-out bash.

For the thousand or so party-goers inside were surrounded by almost as many again outside, as they moved in at midnight to prevent any more people from gaining entrance to the building, squatted since the previous day. When their cheeky attempt at storming the building was repelled by vigilant party people, the cops went wild outside, randomly detaining anyone who seemed most lively. The particularly excited six and a half foot tall officer struck someone straight across the back, before this plain clothes guy said out "I'm a copper you idiot!"

The soundsystem eventually was negotiated out at 8am. Until then overhead, the police helicopter spotlight swept over determined party-heads getting hauled up into the air, or shuffling along ledges, and all the while still circling the building.

Following how things turn full circle. The Hacienda, whose name came from an obscure colonial tract written in the 1950s (quoted here, and, where unattributed, elsewhere in this article) was so-called by the club's original owners Factory Records and the band New Order, to echo those no-compromise anarchist ideals of untrammelled desire and personal pleasure.

*"There will be rooms more conducive to dreams than any drug, and houses where one cannot help but dream."*

Pioneering in playing imported Chicago house music, in its 1988 heyday the club stood at the heart of the acid house scene, and fresh to the world of dance culture - the second 'summer of love'. Venue for Madonna's first UK concert, and for a brief time the Hacienda was

the world's most famous club, featuring on the front page of Time magazine. But things fell apart. The profit motive cut in as gangsters sought to control the drug trade; guns and fear, threats of closure. Then the demons took our space: after Factory records spectacularly crashed, the Hacienda closed in '97 as that same profit motive put it in the hands of property developers. The word is they are planning to turn the building into luxury flats. Ever felt the hardcore dance energy rush in a luxury apartment?

Not so luxurious, anyhow, as the Marquess of Tavistock's gaff, holed up as he is in one of Britain's largest stately homes, Woburn Abbey. We might be content to let him fester there for the time being, but that when the Exodus Collective came to put on their last big 'do' on a out-of-the-way bit of his land last May 29, the police turned nasty. After their strategically-planned operation seized the Collective's vehicles and rig at the tail-end of the party, and nicked seven, one senior Bedfordshire officer was unusually honest; "It is unfortunate that a telephone call from the Marquess of Tavistock receives more attention from high up than a complaint from a member of the general public. But that's the way it goes."

Exodus continued to receive plenty of attention the following day when, securing the release of their rig from a compound in Leighton Buzzard, they were trailed by two police helicopters and an armed response unit(!), while another helicopter buzzed over Exodus' HAZ Manor. Spokesperson for Exodus, Glenn Jenkins commented "Once again, improper political pressure on the police at a high level has made them jump like grasshoppers. Previous to this incident, we were in a situation of dialogue, discussion and no confrontation with the police...but when there are dodgy attempts to stop the dances then the consensus of the Exodus Collective and the people who come to the dances is that the frequency of the events should step up."

"Games are forbidden in the labyrinth."  
For what would be the alternative to Exodus' exemplary determination? On the same bank holiday as Exodus got busted, Homeland's 'pay-rave' took place in Hampshire. 17 hours of corporate entertainment, yours for a mere £44 + booking fee (then pints £3 a go; burgers £4). Part-sponsored by the Mean Fiddler, the event's seven dance stages were all sponsored by such dance culture devotees as Ericson mobile phone company, Bud Ice and Strongbow. Meanwhile on the hill outside the triple fencing compound, a blacked out police van carried out surveillance to watch

out for any 'dodgy looking geezers.' SchNEWS has learned they had instructions to move in if people hadn't spent enough money in the past hour (OK that last sentence we made up, but you get the picture).

### The hacienda must be built.

\* Anyone who was arrested at the Hacienda party, knows anyone who was or witnessed an arrest, please call the Manchester Hacienda legal hotline - 0161 2266814

\* For a survival guide to free parties (including gems like 'Wherever you party, cleaning up afterwards is essential. Why should we fuck up the countryside for a party - after all, industry and roads do it much more effectively') check out the latest SchNews book. The 260 page Survival Guide includes issues 151 - 200 and a whole lot more. Yours for £7.20 inc p + p from the usual address.

\* Watch out, there's some dodgy pills about!(no, really?) White, hard gloss finish, domed, with identical obverse & reverse, no logo, no score, some have blue flecks inside, 7mm wide x 4.3mm thick in centre, 3.1mm thick at edge. These contain dangerous amounts of a chemical which has killed 2 people recently in the US: [www.ecstasy.org](http://www.ecstasy.org)

### JUNE 18th

#### CARNIVAL AGAINST CAPITAL

*"The roar of profit and plunder will be replaced by the sounds and rhythms of party and pleasure as a massive carnival of resistance snakes its way through the square mile."*

Transport from Brighton leaves 9 am.  
Tickets: Peace Centre Gardner St. £4

\* There's a prop making day for the carnival this Sunday(13)at Brighton Unemployed Centre off Carlton Hill 12 noon - 6 pm. Everyone welcome - bring materials if you can. The June 18th legal group now have a web-site [blagged.freemove.co.uk/j18law](http://blagged.freemove.co.uk/j18law)

### Spot the odd one out!

The army, navy, R-AF and royal marines, British Nuclear Fuels, British Aerospace, Defense Evaluation Research Association, Ferranti, Glaxo Wellcome, SchNEWS, John Lewis, McDonald's, Rolls Royce.

Yep, all of them except SchNEWS are dodgy enterprises who take an active role in killing people, animals or the planet. What's more, they will all be participating in the "Manchester Graduate Recruitment Fair" run by the universities and The Guardian. So, if you're interested in clarifying the options for job-seekers to promote more ethical employment, there'll be a large demo outside the main entrance on Thursday 24 June 9:45am.

\* A recent careers fair in Norwich saw the Huntingdon Life Sciences (vivisectionists extraordinaire) stall occupied and the company's propaganda replaced with leaflets explaining the true nature of the company's work.



## MORE PRIVITISATION BY THE BACK DOOR...

"Council housing was originally championed as a method of providing decent affordable housing to millions of people. Local councils were accountable through elections and could use cheap rates of interest available to local authorities to finance investment programs, squeezing out the profiteers who were making so much money out of people's desperate housing needs". Defend Council Housing

In March this year New Labour, following in Thatcher's foot-steps announced plans to privatise over 140,000 council houses over the coming year, thus continuing a policy that has seen 250,000 council homes sold over the past 10 years.

Of course, tenants have to be balloted first to see if they want a change in landlord - but unless there is a strong tenants group opposed to the sell-off, aggressive sales techniques such as glossy pamphlets, paid door to door canvassers and the promise of doing up run-down estates puts the pressure on people to switch.

The Tories hated council houses (rents have increased by over 50% in the last ten years), and building came to a standstill. Councils weren't even allowed to spend the money they received from selling their houses! To cap it all in the past 10 years over £8 billion has been taxed from council rents, thus starving councils of the cash to spend on carrying out desperately needed repairs. And whereas housing associations are able to borrow money to invest in decaying stock - local councils can't.

So does it matter who your landlord is? The people behind Defend Council Housing (DCH) obviously think so. "Rents are higher in the private sector and in housing associations and tenants have much less security. "Even the Housing Corporation - the housing associations' own governing body - have slammed Associations for deteriorating tenant services!"

Defend Council Housing are having a National Conference on Saturday 19th June at the Friends Meeting House, Mount St, Manchester City Centre

Contact them at DCH, c/o Haggerston Community Centre, Haggerston Rd, London E8 4JA Tel 0171 254 2312

\* Are you concerned about proposals for 4.4 million new homes in England over the next two decades? The fact that all the homes being built in the countryside seem to be executive homes? Then you need to get along to The Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Environment Network (URGENT) Conference on Sustainable Housing Sunday 10th July 10 am - 9 pm Ruskin College, Walton St, Oxford

Contact URGENT, Box HN, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ Tel 07000 785202 www.urgent.org.uk

## FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

The Government is telling us that killing people at a distance is sorted behaviour, but deciding to take care of our health isn't. So next time you feel a bit rough and think some herbs used for thousands of years might help, don't bother going down to a health food shop and getting some supplements! As reported in SchNEWS 205, a Govt proposal will attempt to reclassify herbal remedies and vitamin/mineral supplements as medicines, potentially putting loads of small businesses out on their collective ears and paving the path to a toxic corporate future. For those balanced individuals whose ears can still hear what's going on there's a March for the Freedom To Choose on Sunday 20th June, 11.45 am from Hyde Park (Cumberland Gate) to Trafalgar Square. Coaches from Brighton leave at 8.30 am from St. Peter's Church, tickets £5. 01273 276648/0171 385 0012. if you feel like some direct action, 22nd June, 6 pm Jubilee Room, Houses of Parliament, Consumers For Health Choice are lobbying 200 MPs at a meeting not open to the public.

## Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 issues) or donations payable to Justice? Ask for "Originals" you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DN Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

## SchNEWS in brief

Gill Emerson, featured in a recent **crap arrest** after being nicked for sitting on a wall during a visit by Prince Charles, beaten up in a cell, given a broken nose, sprayed with CS Gas then charged for criminal damage to a police camcorder, has had her case thrown out of court \*\* **The Porkbolter** - Worthing's premier monthly newsletter - are claiming victory at last month's local elections with their Don't Vote campaign. The final score was Pork-bolter 69%, All the political parties 31% "many thanks to all of you who actually got off your back-sides and stayed at home." The Tories now control the town with the backing of just 16.8% of the electorate! For copies of their excellent newsletter send an SAE to PO Box 4144, Worthing, BN14 7NZ www.worthing.eco-action.org/porkbolter\*\*

**Naughty students** occupied the National Union of Students HQ this week to demand that they support a campaign for non-payment of tuition fees. An NUS spokesman told SchNEWS they were against students paying tuition fees, but - eh, refused to support students who didn't pay them! This was because it was apparently against the law, (although he couldn't think of which law it was against), and not what students wanted (because they all can't wait to cough up an extra grand a year). Nice to see the NUS is sticking up for students' interests with such clear, well thought out policies. \*\* On Wednesday 3rd of June a group of activists squatted the building previously known as **Bishopston Community Centre**, in solidarity with the previous community workers who were forced to leave after a long battle with their religious owners. The church want to turn the space into - another church. There's all sorts of activities happening. Tel. 0117 9444401 \*\* **Party in protest against UCI Cinemas** outside the Empire Cinema Leicester Square, London WC2 on June 18th at 6pm This is the company who want to build the multiscreen shopping car-park nightmare at **Crystal Palace** (SchNEWS 203) \*\* GM whistle-blower **Dr Pusztai** will be one of the special guests at a debate on GM farm animal feed @ The Oxford Union, St Michael Street, Oxford. 8.30pm, Mon June 14th Tel: 01865 513224 http://millennium-debate.org \*\* **Camden Green Fair** is on Sunday 20th June 12 - 6 pm at Kilburn Grange Park Tel 0171 911 0959 \*\* **Brighton Urban Design and Development (BUDD)** the people who organised the protests against the Sainsburys superstore in Brighton, are holding a public meeting to find out what people want on the station site. It's at St. Peter's Memorial Hall, London Rd on Thursday June 17th 7.30 pm Tel 01273 681166 \*\* There's also a public meeting on the **Fur Trade** on June 18th at the Woodlands Centre, Woodlands Ave, Rustington 7.30 pm \*\* **Haringey Against Privatisation** have organised a public meeting about the councils plans to privatise the schools in the area under the **Private Finance Initiative** (SchNEWS 210) It's on Wed. 16th June at the Sixth Form Centre, White Hart Lane Secondary School, N22 7.45 pm Tel 0181 211 0558 \*\* **The London to Stonehenge Walk** will arrive in Winchester on 18th June. If you want to join them on their way to the stones for the solstice call 07979 013795 \*\* **A GM oil-seed rape trial** was destroyed this week by sneaky Wiltshire landowner Capt. Fred Barker. The huntman was growing the crop for Agrevo with 8 organic farms within a six-mile radius, there's even an organic plot on his own farm. With the Soil Association threatening to revoke his and the surrounding farms' organic growers licenses, legal actions would have flown. If only more farmers opted for an easy life.

## INSIDE SchNEWS SPECIAL

"The flowers are all dying in the heat. They desperately need help."

These were the emotional words from Johnathan Aitken's mum as she revealed she had to sell the story of her son's fall from grace so that she could pay for a water sprinkler system at her house in Ibiza. SchNews is gutted to report the deplorable incarceration of the former Tory hot-shot. The once prime minister who secured arms deals with the royals was given 18 months free accommodation courtesy of HM govt. (will he declare an interest?) this week. It all began when he promised to use the sword of truth to expose the terrible lies that the Guardian printed, concerning who paid his hotel bills in Paris. This was just one teensy problem - they were right his libel case against them collapsed, and he done for perverting the course of justice amongst other things, getting his teenage daughter to lie to cover for him. So poor little John ended up getting shafted by his own swag. SchNews feel it is wrong to gloat over the demise, and are organising an appeal to raise money for his mum's sprinkler system. We can also write to him at Belmarsh prison, where he is currently residing, but he will soon be moved to Ford Prison. Please send only genuine letters of condolence, and definitely not anything in the lines of, "you deserve everything you got you tory bastard!"

Please donate generously to the Johnathan Aitken golden shower campaign, we may also be organising trips to visit him if there is enough demand.

## Wild in the city

Typical, a bit of wilderness manages to flourish in an inner-city park in Liverpool long enough that even the Council recognise an informal footpath that has become a right of way. Then suddenly it's sold off for development. It needs owls, foxes, rabbits, pipistrel bats and wildlife not to mention many different species of trees when you can have two three-storey blocks of luxury flats, a new road and a car park? The council think again, local residents have moved into the area occupying the site. This area has few wild spaces, yet lots of old buildings and waste land. So why was planning permission given on this site? The Council's Nature Conservation Strategy states that "it will be to provide the people of Liverpool with a network of wildlife sites throughout the city which are an integral part of their everyday lives - and provide a living national facility". How exactly do they suppose this planning permission will achieve that? Friends of Princes Park 0403 176 2791

## ...and finally

Curators at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum Sydney, Australia, have had a hard time curbing their exhibits' sexual appetites. "We've never had that every time we went past Bill Clinton, his zipper undone," says manager Vicky Brown. The wax reproductions "are very accessible, unlike the real people she said (that's not what we've heard!) "People get up close to get their photographs taken." The museum staff has therefore sewn the President's zipper shut. Shame they can't do that to the thing and maybe sew up his mouth too while he's at it and do us all a real favour!

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to attend any illegal gathering or part in any criminal activities. Always stay within the law. In fact, sit in, watch tv and go on endless shopping sprees filling your lives with endless consumer crap...you will then feel content.

SchNEWS mailout crew needed every Friday





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SUITED AND BOOTED



# SchNews

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Friday 18th June 1999

<http://www.schnews.org.uk/>

Issue 216 Free/Donation

## A KICK IN THE BALKANS

**"The economy shall function in accordance with free market principles."**

Rambouillet accord Feb 99

**"There will be a new deal for financial institutions"**

These were the words of the UK's Foreign Secretary Robin Cook last week after Nato's victory against Serbia. Where Nato's troops and multinational corporations will surely follow in their never ending pursuit of oil, fossil-fuels and cheap labour.

But the bombing was never a humanitarian mission, but a war not only about Nato expansion, but about resources; it's a resource to which, as former head of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, said will define the 21st Century.

Kosovo is rich in nickel, lead, zinc, copper, lignite and kaolin. It also has vast areas of wild chestnut, oak and beech all ripe for multinational pickings.

Another field is the question of oil under the Adriatic Sea. As environmental journalist Helen Allen points out "For some time now the world has been up for grabs and the US corporations have been desperate to get their hands on them."

The problem is access. In the winter of 1990 the American oil boys began seriously lobbying Washington politicians to loosen the restrictions on doing business in that part of the world. The best route for a pipeline is through Iran, a country which nicknamed the US 'the Great Satan'. Maybe not the best route. An alternative is via the Balkans, but this would require a US military and permanent presence to 'stabilise' the region.

Enter Nato. On 12 August 1998, the US House Republican Policy Committee claimed that a US led Nato intervention in Kosovo was long in place. The only missing element was to be an event - with suitably vivid media coverage - that would make the intervention politically palatable. That Clinton is waiting for a 'trigger' in the Balkans is increasingly obvious.

That trigger was Serbia's failure to sign the Rambouillet accord. The accords would have given a US force occupying Kosovo complete and uncontested political power, immunity from prosecution to go where they want, when they

want, and "upon simple request" to be given all telecommunications services completely free. As the author John Pilger commented, "The peace negotiations were stage-managed, and the Serbs were told: surrender and be occupied, or don't surrender and be destroyed... No government anywhere could accept this."

### Hey, we won the war!

SchNews aren't apologists for Serbian atrocities but what about some of 'our boys' antics.

\*1,500 is the number of Yugoslavian soldiers Serbia admit have been killed in the bombing campaign. That's also the number of 'collateral damage', sorry - civilians casualties Nato admit have been killed by their bombs.

\*Professor Nikos Katsaros, head of the Union of Greek Chemists reckons "an ecological catastrophe" has taken place in Serbia. Nikos Charalambides, of Greenpeace Athens adds "When pharmaceutical plants, oil refineries, fertiliser depots and transformers are bombed you create the conditions for the production of dioxin." Dioxin is the industrialised world's most toxic product, a carcinogen that can exist in the atmosphere for up to 50 years, it has been linked to foetal death, immune deficiencies and skin diseases.

\*Depleted uranium shells were being used, as they were in Iraq, where the incidence of leukaemia and rare cancers has multiplied seven fold since the 1991 Gulf War. Depleted uranium is also the most likely cause of "Gulf War Syndrome", which has crippled thousands of veterans.

\*There's nothing like a war for improving arms sales. On the first day of the bombing shares at British Aerospace rose faster than any other company in the FTSE index. Meanwhile, when President Clinton gave a speech in May refusing to rule out a ground war the Janes Defence Weekly Index shares rose 24 points.

But it is after the conflict that the real arms bonanza begins. Planes unable to fly because of cloud cover, rain and cruise missiles missing targets, will result in a race to supply high-tech more accurate weapons. The B2 Stealth Bomber, can bomb in any weather, even at night, but costs \$2 billion a throw so only a few have been built. Post conflict, Clinton has promised to pay for a whole lot more.

\*The expansion of Nato report by the campaign Against the Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St., Finsbury Park, London, N4 3HQ Tel 0171 281 0297 [www.caat.demon.co.uk](http://www.caat.demon.co.uk)

### HYPOCRITE OF THE WEEK

"We must hammer home to our children...that violence is wrong...We must teach them to...resolve their conflicts with words not weapons." Bill Clinton, in the wake of the Columbine High school shootings

### GLOBILISATION BAD FOR YOU SHOCKER

After salmonella in eggs, BSE and the Belgian dioxin scare, the latest threat to our health is, wait for it, the globalised economy. Despite being the favourite project of western governments and businesses, the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation reckon that shifting production to developing countries where it's easier to kill workers without fear of prosecution might, amazingly enough, increase the number of deaths and injuries at work. Work accidents and diseases kill 1.1 million people a year as many as malaria. In the US alone, occupational deaths and injuries cost \$171bn a year, which makes work as costly as cancer. This suggests yet another reason for business' love affair with globalisation - western employees are expensive, what with inconveniences like pensions, national security and work place safety measures. If you poison and maim third world workers, however, it won't cost a penny and there's always more where the last one came from.

### WOTTA LOADA BULL

Under Rio de Janeiro's new arms legislation, pit bull terriers are labelled as "dangerous weapons". Apparently the animals are popular with teenagers, who roam the streets in packs, terrorising the rich. The authorities have banned pit bulls from Rio's streets between 10pm and 5am, thus thwarting the young scamps who will, of course, all be tucked in bed at that time. Pit bull owners have promised a dogged non-compliance campaign.

### OUT NOW!

### SchNews Survival Handbook

Featuring issues 151-200 with cartoons, photos and a whole lot more to help you protest and survive as well as a comprehensive database of over 500 grassroots organisations. Yours for a mere £7.20 inc. p+p from the usual address.



## STONED AGAIN

This Summer Solstice we truly have something to celebrate when the sun rises over Stonehenge, the Exclusion zone has been lifted for the first time since the Battle of the Beanfield in 1985. Stonehenge has traditionally been a gathering place for people to celebrate the Solstice. From '74 onwards the Stonehenge People's Free Festival grew to be a massive annual event, celebrating the solstice in style until 1985 when the police resorted to violence to stop the party. A shocked ITN reporter who witnessed the scene described it, "we saw police tactics which seemed to break new ground in the scale and intensity of their 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 hippies' coaches." Although 4200 people were arrested that day, every case was thrown out of court, with the police ending up paying damages. Then, in March this year, Margaret Jones and Richard Lloyd won a historic victory in The House of Lords which allows them and others the right to peaceful protest in the area. In gleeful celebration during the spring equinox, various pagans and druids were joined by the Mutant Dance sound system at the stones where they partied through the night.

This weekend the annual walk by the Free Stonehenge Campaign from London arrives at the Stones where they hope to join up with like-minded individuals for a peaceful party within the exclusion zone. The aim is to play it cool this year 'cos y' know those Wiltshire Police are easily aroused! Superintendent Andy Hollingshead promises to use his powers "vigorously" to stop any free-parties from happening. Hmmm. [www.mutant-dance.org.uk](http://www.mutant-dance.org.uk)

**Solstice:** The sun will set at 8.49pm on Mon 21st and rise at 4.59 am BST on Tues 22nd. Stonehenge Campaign c/o 99 Torrian Ave., London, NW5 2RX. For a copy of their quarterly newsletter send an SAE

\* The Last of the Hippies - booklet about Wally Hope, one of the main people who got the Stonehenge Festival going and what happened to him at the hands of the authorities. £1 + SAE from DS4A, Box 8, Colston St., Bristol, BS1 5BB

## GLOOMY WEATHER

While you were out sunbathing, you didn't see a couple of islands disappear did you? SchNEWS asks this because two Pacific islands in Kiribati are gone, disappeared, sunk without a trace, down the plug-hole. This follows record storms and floods across the planet over the last few years. And why? The real reason is that global warming is taking place even faster than scientists previously thought.

Global warming causes the level of the ocean to rise, due largely to increased levels of greenhouse gas emissions (CFCs, carbon dioxide etc). As the overall temperature of this planet is raised, bits of Antarctica break off and melt, there is more evaporation and rainfall then it's goodbye to land masses, leaving people scrambling from their homes for higher ground.

As global warming continues, small low-lying islands will be the first to go, but not the last. A one metre rise in sea level - easily possible within a century - would affect up to 5 million square kilometres - 3% of the planet's land area - including New York, London, Bangkok, not to mention 30% of total cropland. The statistical facts are staggering, we haven't the space or anti-depressants to list 'em all here.

Read the 'Climate Crisis' issue of The Ecologist £3.50 inc p+p, c/o Cissbury House, Furze View, Five Oaks Road, Slinfold, W Sussex RH13 7RH 01403 786726.

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

## SchNEWS in brief

A Danish army officer really got on the tits of his female colleagues when he ordered 500 uniform brassieres - all the same size. When they complained, he resorted to vital statistics, claiming the manufacturer had told him a C-cup size 100 bra would fit 90% of Danish women. \*\*The government is preparing to scrap restrictions on huge new supermarkets. By a peculiar coincidence, the news comes days after Wal-Mart, that's the world's biggest retailer to you, took over ASDA. Apparently Tony Blair met Wal-Mart bosses in March, and presumably promised to bend over backwards to accommodate them. \*\*Behind a banner reading *Global capital can bank on Global Resistance* around 100 demonstrators occupied two banks, blockaded a third and staged an unauthorised march along Princes Street, Edinburgh, last Saturday. The protests were part of co-ordinated world protests to highlight the links between economic globalisation, poverty, and the destruction of the Earth's environment. \*\*Tommy Sheridan, Scottish Socialist Party MSP, and Ian Page, new Socialist Party Lewisham councillor, are speaking at a Socialist Party rally. Thurs 24th June 7:30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Tube: Holborn. \*\*The new copy of *Green Pepper* is out now with lots of dirt on the European Union and resistance to nasty bureaucrats and greedy corporations. Send £2.50 inc p+p to eyfa, P.O. Box 94115, 1090 GC Amsterdam, The Netherlands email [greenpep@eyfa.org](mailto:greenpep@eyfa.org) \*\*Brighton Lifeline for Kosovo meeting upstairs at the Hobgoblin, Monday 21st 7:00pm, arranging convoys out to the Balkans. Come along or phone 234 788 ext 234 or 0780 864 3523.

**RIP.** Our thoughts go out to the friends and family of Joseph Glover, one of the survivors of the Hillsborough football disaster (SchNEWS 208). Joseph, a founder member of the Hillsborough Justice Campaign, lost a brother at the ground. He died last month after pushing his friend out of the way of a five-tonne marble load and taking the weight himself.

## NUKEM, COWBOY

These days it can be nearly impossible to get a train where you want to go, so here's a SchNEWS top tip to ease those transport blues...strap a load of nuclear waste to yourself, and watch the rail network open up before you. Well, it works for British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, who transport 50 tons of radioactive waste across the country this way every week, exposing communities miles from nuclear power stations to the delights of radioactive dust and the risks of serious disaster if one of the trains derailed. When BNFL decided to re-route trains through Cricklewood, parking nuclear waste there for fifteen hour periods, the locals weren't happy. In response, the government ordered an 'independent survey', appointing the appropriately named company, Nukem to carry it out. The report was published on May 4th and according to the transport minister John Reid it proved that the nuclear wagon trains present 'no threat to public health'. So, who are these defenders of public health and safety? Well, CND have revealed that 'independent' Nukem have nearly £100m of contracts with...BNFL and both companies own chunks of Urenco, a uranium enrichment firm. Nukem also has a long record of corruption and lying - they're being sued in the US for trying to stitch up Kazakhstan's uranium deposits, and have been done by the German government for bribery, corruption, falsifying documents and illegally dumping nuclear waste into the north sea. SchNEWS reckons Nukem is doing a great job and calls on all winging residents and eco-freaks to lay off them and get proper jobs themselves.

Contact: Communities Against Nuclear Trains (at CND) 0171-700-2393

## Not So Natty NATO

Over 300 peace activists from 31 countries took part in a 10-day march from the International Court of Justice in the Hague to NATO HQ in Brussels the end of last month.

Their aim was to see 'NATO's plans for the weapons of mass destruction/crimes against humanity' which they said they had 'a right and duty' to under the Nuremberg principles. These state every citizen must act to prevent such crimes.

After being received by local politicians and delivering anti-nuclear speeches and flyers in towns and villages along the way, the marchers were received by the Mayor. The NATO HQ was sealed with barbed wire, and the notorious unpleasant Belgian riot police were out in force.

NATO allowed 5 representatives into the HQ for talks, but showed them no nuclear plans. Activists then climbed and cut through fences, carry out 'citizens' war crime inspections'. It did not go down well at the high-security headquarters, with riot police throwing protesters over the fence, hitting them with batons and tear gas water cannon. 130 protesters were arrested, though all were later released without charge.

Two days later protesters were back again, making the antematter spiral to the dizzy heights of 100m. This time one activist managed to get inside the main building and 'borrow' a military uniform. Whilst wearing it, he 'confiscated' some floppy discs, but lost them again during his subsequent arrest. The events received good media coverage being reported across the world by CNN, surprisingly, not in the US.

Contact the Hague Appeal for Peace, 11 Vredendijk, London N4 1EJ, Tel/Fax 0181 347 6101

## HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE

On the 28th May a Sudanese refugee was murdered during deportation from Frankfurt airport. The police put a motor bike helmet on him, his hands and feet were tied and he was dropped onto the plane where he died from heart failure.

Two weeks ago refugees and their support were losing patience with this kind of abuse from Fort Europe, occupied the Green Party office in Cologne. Protesters were still on Hunger Strike the G8 met in Cologne. 'We are not only exposing racist reality we face in Germany but also the racist regimes that exist in the countries where we came from. Germany and other G7 countries prop up these regimes to maximise their profits.' International Human Rights Association 00-49-421-5571 [www.humanrights.de/](http://www.humanrights.de/)

## ...and finally

There were a few interesting names on the guestlist at the recent meeting of international buddies, the Bilderberg Group (see SchNEWS 213). The 120 delegates met in Portugal to discuss 'Nato, Genetics, Emerging Markets, and International Financial Architecture' and how great they all were that doesn't get your paranoia flowing, two of the guests were none other than the prince of darkness himself Peter Mandelson, and housewife's favourite environmentalist Jonathan Porritt.

Mandelson is due to make a comeback in 2001 and with the backing of SPECTRE we're sure all those nasty rumours about him will be dispelled, and that bodies of rebellious MPs will be turning up in the Thames. Equally worrying the presence of Porritt's name (see SchNEWS 213) on greenwash and co-opting ecologists). What Porritt doing there? We shall never know, of course the Bilderbergers never reveal what they said, and anyway Porritt's PA reckons he has been to Portugal for years. The plot thickens.

**Disclaimer:** SchNEWS recommends all readers to free gatherings and stop being such a bunch of merchant bankers. Then you'll feel relieved. Ho



# THE SCHNEWS GUIDE TO PUTTING ON A BENEFIT GIG...

Your campaign group's skint, but you're game for a laugh and you've decided to put on a benefit gig. You turn up about nine o'clock on the night only to find one of the bands has pulled out, the compere's arguing with the DJ about running orders, the soundman's got the wrong gear, the venue owner's demanding money with menaces and no-one turned up cos someone forgot to sort the advertising out!!! Hopefully this isn't a familiar scenario to y'awl, dear readers, but just to make sure YOUR fundraising extravaganza goes with a bang not a whimper, your hip-to-the-groove-SchNEWS massive brings you... *The SchNEWS Guide To Putting on a Benefit Gig.*

**REQUIRED.** 1 up-for-it posse, 1 phone, a supply of the oft-neglected art of delegation and shitloads of that attitude stuff....

**STEP ONE - GETTING YOUR ACT TOGETHER...** Bands and DJs are an obvious starting point. Local acts that have just started out will have lots of mates that they'll bring along. But why not have a bit of poetry, caberet, theatre, comedy, circus.....? UK readers can check out the Continental Drifts agency (see contacts) for performers on this sort of tip. Most performers are up for doing benefits for free, but the rule of thumb is you stomp up for expenses, usually transport. It's a nice touch on the night to chuck in a bit of food and booze too, (the so-called 'rider' - wot no chudle!!). How about contacting an artist with a large national/international profile, and have a local act for support? Your local library will have a copy of the White Book, a directory of all UK-based artists and agents, in the reference section.

**STEP TWO - FIND A VENUE...** Needs to be co-ordinated with the availability of your acts. You'll need to book one at least two weeks in advance to get publicity sorted. Many places are booked up well in advance, so all round it's good to give yourself plenty of time. You might need to stomp up for the hire fee and/or a deposit, (get them to waive it - it's a benefit!!!). Does the fee include the hire of any PA/mics/lighting and technical backup you might need? (See STEP 4, below). If you have access to a place that doesn't have a Public Entertainments License, you won't be able to have more than two performers at any one time. Squatting a venue for a night can be a good plan, (see 'How to have a free party' - SchNEWS Survival Handbook, 1999), but DON'T RELY ON DONATIONS to raise cash!!! Sell booze or food, (a mere trip down the Cash and Carry)!!! Or another way around this is to have a 'private party' in a local hall or wherever, invite only, and sell booze using a raffle system, i.e. sell raffle tickets that 'mysteriously' allow the holder to win a can of lager!! This keeps things semi legal, but these methods are skirting the limits of the law, so think about how this will affect your campaign if you're banned or you wind the wrong sort of people up.

**STEP 3 - PUBLICITY...** Flyers, posters, listing guides, local papers, the net, radio, Cable TV..... It could be good to get someone with a bit of experience with computers to get the flyer/poster funky 'n' everything!!! And it's easy to

forget little things on the flyer like the time, date, place and the name of your campaign.....Schwoops! Fly posting is good but don't name the venue cos the owner could get into trouble - beware negative publicity. And avoid CCTV - obviously! Finally, word of mouth is all important, so get a buzz going, mention it at campaign meetings, in the pub/khazi/bedroom ...

## STEP 4 - A BLAGGER'S GUIDE TO TECHNICAL STUFF...

Generally speaking, it's best to have someone on side with a bit of the ol' technical knowledge. These sorts of people can be blagged from local music shops or recording studios, especially if you've got a good bill together. Most venues will have a PA system and sound man but you might have to hire them in. Bands may be up for sharing amps, drum kits etc, (the 'backline'), but let them sort it out amongst themselves well in advance. DJs need decks and all the right connector leads!! And the venue may need special insurance if you have certain circus stuff (like fire-eating). IF ANYONE STARTS ON ABOUT MULTICORES, DI'S OR MONITORS, CALL FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE!!!! FAST!!

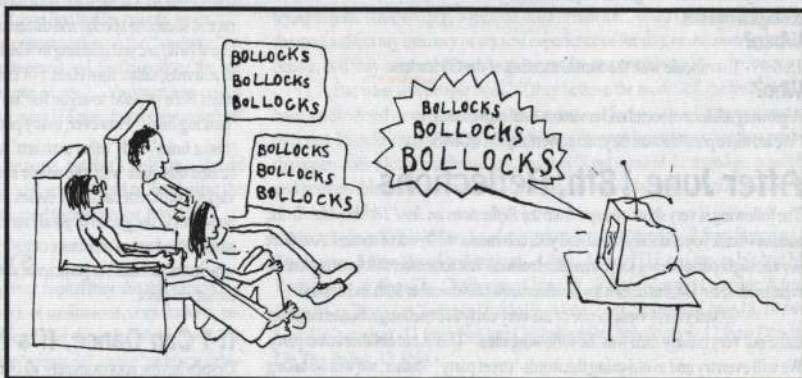
## STEP 5 - ON THE NIGHT...

Get everyone in as early as possible to set up. Bands soundcheck in the reverse order they're appearing in. Usually everyone will just get on with it as they arrive but it helps to have someone from your posse to co-ordinate things and welcome everyone in. Transport on hand is a good idea, cos things get lunched out and need buying at the last minute. MAKE THE PLACE LOOK BEAUTIFUL!! You're doing some consciousness-raising here, so a decor crew is a good move!! Or what about a video? And don't forget to put campaign related stall/posters/info around the place for easy info access. It also helps to have a right bastard working out the running order and making sure people stick to it. KEEP THOSE EGOS IN CHECK!! Remember, everyone's working for free and may have travelled a long way, so be cheerful and friendly and we're all only human and things can get stressful but it's all OK!!! RIGHT!!!

## STEP SIX - HAVE A RIGHT LAUGH INNIT...

If you've followed the first five steps, then you should be ready to have it large style by now. In between acts it can be a good idea to buy a bottle of something and have a raffle. And this is a party with a purpose, so get one of the acts to give it some on the mic about your campaign! (or get a speaker in, but not too late on, for fuck's sake, cos everyone will be far too lashed.)...

## RIGHT! SNORTED! SEE YOU DOWN THE FRONT!!!!







# Liverpool St Station

## Before June 18th: Visions

*Thousands of leaflets and stickers were circulated in the run-up to June 18th. These are some of the messages that were put out:*

**Imagine** Financial districts across the world filled not for profit and plunder but with the sounds and rhythms of party and pleasure.

**Imagine** A world where people have control of their lives and communities.

**Imagine** A society based on mutual aid, sharing and the respect of nature.

**Imagine** Taking your desires for reality.

**Imagine** Replacing the existing social order with a free and ecological society based upon mutual aid and voluntary co-operation.

### Involve Yourself

Dream up an amazing action.

Organise local planning meetings or come to the monthly London meetings.

Choose your favourite transnational company, bank or investment fund, find out as much as possible about them - location of HQs etc and prepare fun and games. Spread the word - print leaflets - talk to people - network.

Take a day off work or go sick on 18/6/99.

### What?

Demonstrations, protests, actions, pickets, stunts, shut-downs, sabotage, leafleting, blockades, games, hacktivism, parties & more.

Simultaneously transforming the city of London and other financial centres across the world.

### Why?

In recognition that the global capitalist system is at the root of our social and ecological troubles.

### When?

18/6/99 - To coincide with the annual meeting of the G8 leaders.

### Who?

A growing alliance of social and environmental movements.

"We are more possible than they can powerfully IMAGINE."

## After June 18th: Reflections

The following is very short excerpts from the *Reflections on June 18th* booklet. To the authors - thank you and sorry if you find your comments wildly out of context. And there is some slight paraphrasing for grammatical reasons. Just remember that these comments were made *after* J18, but *before* the developments of November 30th and beyond.

"...last year, I went to one of the very early J18 meetings. Something that came out very clearly then was the following idea: 'This is not another street party. We will even try and avoid using the words 'street party'. Rather, we will be taking

the fight against destruction and exploitation directly to the place where much of it is controlled. We will be targeting the Square Mile. Though a carnival did end up being part of the day, I feel the 'targeting the Mile' line carried right through all the J18 publicity and planning. I personally was well aware of the kind of things that might - and did - happen, in the way of such buildings as the LIFFE and banks being damaged and occupied, and accepted - okay hoped! - that this would just as much be part of the day as dancing, boys in sexy frocks, sound systems, and running into old friends. (And) from a personal point of view I am totally chuffed by what happened to the LIFFE and other such places - it will be a cheerful memory for a long time."

## An Activist Ghetto?

The tension between the form of 'activism' in which our political activity appears and its increasingly radical content has only been growing over the last few years. The background of a lot of the people involved in June 18th is of being 'activists' who 'campaign' on an 'issue'. The political progress that has been made in the activist scene over the last few years has resulted in a situation where many people have moved beyond single issue campaigns against specific companies or developments to a rather ill-defined yet nonetheless promising anti-capitalist perspective. Yet although the content of the campaigning activity has altered, the form of activism has not. So instead of taking on Monsanto and going to their headquarters and occupying it, we have now seen beyond the single facet of capital represented by Monsanto and develop a 'campaign' against capitalism. And where better to go and occupy that what is perceived as being the headquarters of capitalism - the City?

...It seems we have very little idea of what it might actually require to bring down capitalism. As if all it needed was some sort of critical mass of activists occupying offices to be reached and then we'd have a revolution..."

The activist role is a self-imposed isolation from all the people we should be connecting to. Taking the role of an activist separates you from the rest of the human race as someone special and different. People tend to think of their own first person plural (who are you referring to when you say 'we'?) as referring to some community of activists, rather than class. For example, for some time now in the activist milieu it has been popular to argue for 'no more single issues' and for the importance of 'making links'. However, many peoples' conception of what this involved was to 'make links' with 'other activists' and other campaign groups. June 18th demonstrated this quite well, the whole idea being to get all the representatives of all the various different causes or issues in one place at one time, voluntarily relegating ourselves to the ghetto of good causes. ... (But) part of our difficulty is articulating a sustainable form of resistance outside of activist ghettos, finding forms of engagement which enable others to participate and constructing networks which go beyond that already in place."

## If I Can Dance, It's Not My Revolution

Despite having approximately 10,000 people in the City of London, only a handful





Pic: John Hodge

# 12pm June 18th 1999

occupations took place on the morning of June 18th, and actions that were taken were generalised in the sense that they were organised in established fashion, CAAT actions involving locking on in banks, Critical Mass etc. Despite the notable attempts to block London Bridge most peoples' involvement was to choose to meet at Liverpool Street and await further instructions, rather than to plan their own autonomous actions.<sup>5</sup>

## Reaching Out To A Wider Range of People

There are times - such as in the campaign against genetics and in the later stages of the anti-roads movement - when by happy co-incidence we attract genuine popular support. This is bolstered by events which are both radical and genuinely inclusive - such as the rally at Watlington and the crop trashing that followed. It is then, and only then, that our battles are won. ... (We need the) sympathies and interests of a wider social base in England and beyond.

But what about all those who either out of dignity or necessity feel they must work for a living, and that they have some stake in the system that we're destroying? For me this is the crux of the issue. The key message is not to the capitalists, it is to us. It says this: 'If you have pretensions towards being a truly revolutionary movement, you must work with the people. You must listen, and not assume that you know best.'<sup>6</sup>

## Violence

Smashing windows ... piling up rubbish on the street ... throwing things at the police ... a buzz yes, but none of these things automatically imply the refusal of capitalist wage labour and commodities, the creation of common wealth and the building of world human community. The social revolutionary process we desire will sometimes involve a riot or two on its periphery, but a street riot does not a social revolution make. Nor does proletarian bargaining power come primarily from streetfighting. Proletarian bargaining power comes from collective withdrawal of labour, organising solidarity, sharing free goods in the community... If you lived in a part of the world where street fighting was a daily occurrence you'd soon find that the novelty wears off.<sup>7</sup>

We must be very clear that the media concentration on the "violence" on Friday is a deliberate attempt to discredit our movement and divide us along the line of whether we agree that "violence" is legitimate or not. ... Violence was only a minuscule portion of the global J18 project and most J18 manifestations passed off peacefully. I'm glad about that.<sup>8</sup>

Of course the police were more violent than we were - but that's their job... should we not ignore the fact that violence occurred and seek instead to emphasise the growing and diverse global movement which seemed to coalesce on June 18th?<sup>9</sup>

## Suggestions For The Future

If we are to hold further mass actions against finance capital they should be explicitly targeted against key nodal points in the network of institutions, corporations, and exchanges which facilitate the current globalisation of neo-liberal capitalism, not at its totality which despite our understandings of the 'spectacle', or the 'military/indus-

trial/entertainment complex' remains an abstract proposition for most people. This could involve a call to stop a particular institution working for a day... by the people whose lives are affected in the everyday by its operation... We could target a different institution every six months ... calling for actions against their offices or buildings globally. Instead of dissipating our energies rallying against something so big it disappears, we would be uniquely focused on the points at which their system is weakest. Imagine the police defending a sieged building of a major multinational or finance exchange when for weeks before local groups had distributed information about how it effects the lives of people in the region, before going to take part in the action. The police role as puppets of private capital would be increasingly revealed...

If we could stop them once it could be done again, and if they can be stopped once the utopia of stopping them permanently would appear almost in sight. Imagine five years from now when everyone knows how the City operates because they've seen it sieged, exchange after exchange, bank after bank, institution after institution. Imagine it permanently cut off from the rest of London - its own need for security strangling its operation - whilst its reputation as a key player in the global network of finance is devastated.<sup>10</sup>

How can we decentralise, strengthen and expand our networks? By next year's G8 summit, I don't know if I will be interested in repeating the strategy of targeting the financial centres. Perhaps to encourage greater local organising we should break from having a lot of organising happening in London, instead taking actions where we live all on the same day. Thirty actions across the country ... linking local concerns to the global system might have more impact than focussing on the financial centres.<sup>11</sup>

## Mainstream Media Response

We should know very well by now the role we are placed in by the media - regardless of what we actually do. If everyone at J18 had done nothing but dance, we still would have been 'eco-terrorists obstructing mums and kids needing to get to schools & hospitals' ... As well as putting effort into using our own alternative media, I am still trying to learn what we can do with the mainstream lot... (but) I will certainly not let the media affect my memory of my real experience of the day, or our own legitimate debate, as if they are something we are, or can be, responsible for.<sup>12</sup>

But what will people think? If they believe the media tell the truth, they'll have a ridiculously inaccurate angle on the day ... I feel we have little or no control over that. I would imagine a large proportion of the population take what they read in the papers with a lot of pinches of salt, and they'll get some of the message, possibly, and perhaps think a bit themselves about the day and what it was about. Maybe.<sup>13</sup>

*1 excerpts from RTS's 'Black Leaflet' reproduced in Appendix, 2 from Dancing On The Ruins, 3 from Give Up Activism, 4 ibid, 5 from If I Can Dance, It's Not My Revolution, 6 from The Challenge of June 18, 7 from Mustn't Grumble, 8 from Keep It Up, Don't Let Violence Divide Us, 9 from The Challenge of June 18, 10 from Give Up Activism, 11 from Not Just Capitalism Or Globalisation, 12 from Dancing On The Ruins, 13 ibid.*





**Horsing about!**

**Water laugh!**

**A critical mass of rozzers**

