



SchNEWS

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SUITS YOU, SIR!

Power-fuelled hardcore anarchists turn anti-capitalist protest into orgy of violence - Daily Star

It all started nicely enough- 500 cyclists staged a Critical Mass blockade of the streets, Lloyds and NatWest banks were occupied and animal rights activists shouted at an empty building. But one- least of all the police- could anticipate the mayhem to come.

Just heard that the boys at Tulleit and Tokyo when office overlooks London Bridge have been waving their gold cards and shouting 'Wankers' at the warriors going past'-E-mail circulating City

Liverpool St. Station, 12 noon: Ten thousand ungrateful, work-shy dole-scrangers gathered to bite both the hand that feeds them and the free sandwiches provided to lure them away from consumer Utopia; colour-coded party masks distributed amongst the crowd resulted in four separate columns of protesters winding their way through the city streets to converge on the belly of the beast- The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE). At this point the 'festival' organised by and for a coalition of peace, peaceful anarchists- was hijacked by the ungrateful, masked-up, beer-swilling, black-bell, cop-hating psychopaths that give anarchy a bad name.

And then the fun really began.

'I've been besieged by open-toed-sandalled hippy men. We have armed our doorman, Bernard, with a chainsaw' partner at Maclay, Murray and Spens (The Lawyer)

In the noise of pneumatic drill gabba from a ground-system, a trained Class War hate mob rampaged on the bare toes of decent liberal protesters and embarked on a systematic redefinition of the urban environment. *'Imagine London with its rivers unearthed and its valleys revealed'* they screamed as CCTV cameras were bagged up, revellers danced in a four-storey fountain of their own urine and the front door of LIFFE was bricked up with breeze-blocks and cement hauled in by crack-fuelled chaos junkies. Punk band P.A.I.N.- at least one member sporting an outrageous mobican haircut- baited rioters with angry hate music- with added percussion from boots going through the windows of a Mercedes showroom.

'The activists are reported to have shaved the head of a bearded City type, while pinning him against the building's wall' The Lawyer

Headlocked crusties disguised in Oxfam gear stormed their way into the reception of the LIFFE building, showering traders- cowering behind piles of photocopied tenners- with streams of diseased blood as bare feet demolished the plate-glass reception. The masked

middle-class mayhem mongers stormed the escalators in pitched battle with salt-of-the-earth Cockney dealers before being squirted back out on the street with champagne cannons.

"Bankers, traders and stockbrokers are the real working class" Daily Telegraph editorial

Other demonstrators attacked branches of McDonalds; kamikaze vegans hurled themselves through the windows and bombarded police with frozen burgers, urging customers to eat Edward and Sophie instead. Others covered themselves with ketchup and deceitfully claimed police brutality.

'Schroeders were attacked by climbing nuts, who attempted to scale the building with ropes and crampons, but were thwarted when traders urinated on their heads' E-mail circulating city traders

Thankfully, citizens, such spontaneity is unlikely to happen again. Assistant Chief Constable James Hart of City Police has stated: *"We may, if conditions call for it, be more assertive next time; we'll come in harder, at significant risk to innocent members of the public peaceful protesters and police officers."* Or maybe they'll just ban dissent altogether. Meanwhile...

'Next Friday will be the International City Day of Action. On this day, we ask you all to don your finest pinstripe, knot the italian silk tie, booted with British brogue, apply your monocles, glue mobile phone to ear and then head off down to Brighton to disrupt as many dreadlocked soap dodging men and women with dogs on string as possible.' E-mail circulating City traders (unfortunately everyone in Brighton will be at Glastonbury)

WHO WERE THE VIOLENT MINORITY?

The actions of a few hundred troublemakers clearly intent on causing mayhem and violence marred what was otherwise a great day out. This small, highly organised group, some of them wearing suits and sporting mobile phones, managed to get into buildings housing major financial institutions. One man who didn't want to be named told SchNews: "They had little or no connection with the thousands of ordinary protesters out on the streets and were clearly intent on causing serious violence. They used computer and comms equipment and were quite aware of what they were doing. We did all we could to stop them but by the end of the day they had killed 11,000 kids. That may sound shocking, but these people are responsible for that, through easily preventable poverty-related diseases, every day. They give protests like the one today a very bad name, because they own the newspapers that print complete crap about what's really going on. It is very important that the public supports our efforts to bring these people to justice".

SO WHY THE CITY?

June 18th was the day when the world's seven most industrialised countries and Russia (G8) met in Cologne, Germany. On their agenda was more economic growth, more 'free' trade and more power for corporations. (check back issues of SchNEWS to find out why these are bad things)

The city was chosen because it is the place, as Anthony Sampson described in the 'The Midas Touch' where "people buy and sell blips on an electronic screen. They deal with people they never see, they talk to people over the 'phone in rooms that have no windows. They sit and look at screens. It is almost like modern warfare where people sit in bunkers and look at screens and push buttons and make things happen."

It's a place where a small number of people play the world's largest and most risky video game - the money game. But the consequences of this game are very real: human lives, ecosystems, jobs and even entire economies are at the mercy of this reckless system. To the frenzied traders it's might be about just gambling with blips on a screen, but to the Peruvian coffee growers who's just had the value of their crop halved overnight, the game's for real.

As Business Week once observed "in this new market... billions can flow in or out of an economy in seconds. So powerful has this force of money become that some observers now see the hot-money set becoming a sort of shadow world government." Perhaps one demonstrator put it best *"the damage to property that happened today, is nothing compared to the misery these financial corporations create in their never ending quest for profits."* Are we all ready for a terrorist back-lash?

And now for a lesson on how multi-national companies bribe whole towns. One of the UK's biggest companies, Vodafone recently got planning permission to build a giant HQ on a greenfield site on the outskirts of Newbury. Vodafone refused to contemplate moving to other sites such as the vacated MOD site at Greenham Common (which they reckoned was a security risk because of the peace women there - all three of them!), they said to the town, give us permission or we'll pack our bags and go. Vodafone were also surprisingly enough supporters of the Newbury bypass, which was built, residents were told, to stop traffic congestion and infl development.

* Did you witness, photograph or video an arrest or injury at the J18 protests in London? If so please send details (location & time of incident) with your name, address & tel number to Legal Defence & Monitoring Grp, BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX.

* A discussion pamphlet on J 18 to be published soon. Send contributions, analysis, critiques and graphics etc to rts@gn.apc.org or RTS, PO Box 9656, Ldn N4 4JY, www.j18.org

Video screening of June 18th day of action at Glastonbury @ Groovy movie cinema, Green futures field 25-27 June 10pm every night

"Our resistance will be as Transnational as capital"

Hey, it's wasn't just about one day "it's about building a movement. From the global to the local it's about taking back control of our lives." Here's a quick round-up of what SchNEWS has heard so far about last Friday...

AUSTRALIA:

Kim Beazley, Opposition leader, was pried for speaking at an APEC/Global Trade meeting sponsored by Shell. Protestors harassed the Stock Exchange, McDonalds and Australian bank, Westpac who invest in the Jabiluka uranium mine. Elsewhere in Melbourne, bells were sounded to wake up the world to Third World Debt problems, a Critical Mass and a Food not Bombs breakfast were held. Protesters blockaded the stock exchange with dead wombats!

ARGENTINA:

Unfortunately the report we've received is all in Spanish.

BELARUS:

Pickers from Eco-resistance and Chyrvony Zhond gave out flyers and toilet paper to customers leaving McDonalds. Permission for a large demonstration wasn't granted.

BRAZIL:

In Desterro protesters defaced a city centre clock (built by an 'entertainment' corporation) symbolising the 500 years of "discovery" (invasion) of Brazil.

CANADA:

In Vancouver a hundred people blockaded the Stock Exchange. In Toronto the RTS was a fun celebration and reminder that public space is for public benefit, though it occurred very much within an imposed framework.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

350 people met in central Prague, disrupting banks and multinationals despite over a thousand police (probably due to the previous 7000-strong street party with people from the Intercontinental Caravan, where there were 114 arrests.)

GERMANY:

In Cologne, about 95 people were arrested, mainly from the Intercontinental Caravan, who have been making peaceful protests throughout Europe. People were beaten by police outside an art hall and 500 people protested outside the chemical transnational company Bayer in Leverkusen.

The Caravan members came to Cologne for the World Economic Summit to ridicule the Gang of Seven in a Gandhi-style "Laugh Parade", but 250 were prevented by police from entering the city centre. They were surrounded and some arrested, including Vijay JAWANDHIA, president of the Inter-State Co-ordination Committee of Farmers' Organisations, and his wife. Police used brute force, injuring at least two and making racist remarks, this despite an admission that there had been no violence on the side of the Caravan. On Saturday 19/6 estimates of the numbers still in custody ranged from 6 to 30 people.

ISRAEL:

In Tel Aviv, a street carnival was held, and torches lit for the victims of corporate human and animal rights abuse.

ITALY:

Demonstrators established night-long autonomous zones in the centre of Bologna. Similar actions took place in Milan, Rome, Siena, Florence, Ancona and Hamburg.

MEXICO:

On June 15, the Electronic Disturbance Theatre staged a virtual sit-in and clogged up the Internet pathways to the Mexican Embassy in the UK in protest at the continuing war in Chiapas.

NETHERLANDS:

Amsterdam protesters were not allowed any sound (not even a car radio) or an 8x6m banner. 50 people and lots of press showed up.

NIGERIA:

A 10 000 strong "carnival of the oppressed," brought Port Harcourt, Nigeria's petroleum capital to a standstill. Many were from the Niger Delta where oil corporations are destroying their environment. Shell and Agip had their offices blockaded and a street named after General Abacha was unofficially re-named after Ken Saro-Wiwa and the old signpost pulled out.

PAKISTAN:

In Gujrat, Pakistan there was an enthusiastic anti-nuclear procession. The leadership of the trade union association, Apfutu, which had gone underground on the 14th came out masked and veiled and joined the rally despite blockades by a local administration eager to arrest them. Angry protesters broke the police control circle. Women went on hunger strike outside the deputy commissioner's office.

During a protest gathering about 300-400 hundred police commandos arrested several of the leaders. They used baton charges and tear gas on innocent men, women and school children. 50 of the protesters were released on bail, and the rest were shifted to the district jail. A reliable source says they are charged with attempting to damage/harm the territorial integrity of the country. The punishment for this is death. Bail had now been granted to all but about 9 leaders, who are said to have been tortured and beaten.

Neither the defendants nor the trade union organisations can raise the money to hire lawyers to defend them in court, but they welcome any donations to the "International Solidarity Funds of APFUTU": title of account: International Solidarity Fund of APFUTU, bank account no: 1180 (U.S. Dollars), 1181 (German marks); Allied Bank of Pakistan Limited, main branch, Chowk Nawabsahib Gujrat (Pakistan).

Supporters may transfer cash direct to the above accounts or send cheques/bank drafts to the union address: All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions (APFUTU) Union House, Rang Pura, Sargodha Rd, Gujrat 50700, Pakistan Tel: + 92 4331 28736/26398 Fax: + 92 4331 525302 E-mail: union@grrt.space.net.pk

SPAIN

300 people spent a couple of hours with music, fireworks closing down streets and banks and Lladro's, the richest and most hated speculator in Valencia.

In Madrid seven days of action in the financial capital came to a head with a Reclaim The Streets smack bang in the commercial centre of the city. Other highlights of the week included 100 people occupying the Madrid Stock Exchange for more than an hour.

In Barcelona, two small groups of people closed two main streets in. One of them, in Sant Andreu Town, recreated a beach and they gave fried potatoes to commuters in cars. 100 people took part in action at the derelict site of a squatted house evicted and demolished by police two years ago, creating an organic vegetable and medicinal garden, with water features.

In Sant Cugat (20 km from Barcelona) a bike demonstration of just 13 people managed to close the motorway and get to Barcelona to join the main demonstration. Barcelona's Reclaim The Streets proper took place with up to 700 people dancing until 11pm.

SWITZERLAND:

In Zurich, 300 people occupied a construction site in an area currently being gentrified and held one of "the best parties for years". In Geneva, over 50 anarchists washed (!) major banks in the centre and 100 took part in a mobile carnival.

UK:

In Lancaster activists occupied Freshfields, a city law firm which boasts of representing nuclear, aviation, road transport, chemical, mining, asbestos companies, tobacco products and the drinks industry, this was followed by a critical mass.

500 people turned Glasgow's George Square into the site of an unofficial party with two sound systems, a critical mass bike ride and one old Ford Fiesta with a J18 RTS registration plate. The Bank of Scotland, the Job Centre, The Army Recruitment Office and Strathclyde Police HQ were targeted as demonstrators marched around the centre for about 2 hours then headed for the park for more partying.

In Edinburgh Reed Employment had painted and posters telling them what people thought about their involvement in New Deal plastered all their offices.

URUGUAY:

The Montevideo June 18th Network occupied the main square of the Old

Town (the financial centre). A trade fair was set up, with themes such as cheap labour, child labour, education, local culture, consumption and communication. Trade unions were also involved. There was also a parade, entering into the Stock Exchange, the Banco de Montevideo and passing in front of the Ministry of Housing and the Environment and McDonalds, where they stayed for a while singing and getting in the way.

USA:

37 people were arrested after people reclaimed the streets in New York's financial centre. For nearly 2 hours, 500 costume clad protesters took over, tying up traffic and rallying in front of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street. 2 People were nicked and equipment seized.

In San Francisco over 500 people came out to Reclaim the Streets, dancing through the Financial District, stopping outside the corporate headquarters of some of the world's largest and most vile transnational corporations and financial institutions. Stops also occurred at two of the city's giant retail chains.

In Los Angeles protesters played cat and mouse with the police as they tried to hold a party, blocking streets despite baton charges. Police were forcing people out of the park by pushing and hitting people with their batons.

More than 100 activists joined in a Carnival Against Capital in front of a Bank Boston in the city's financial district. Hundreds more workers watched, costing the bankers many thousands in lost "productivity." 600 demonstrators organised by Jubilee 2000 in Washington DC formed a human chain around the U.S. Treasury Department.

In Eugene, Oregon, a parade escalated into violence as police deployed tear gas and arrested 15 people for rioting, a felony, and other charges. Three officers suffered minor injuries in the rioting, as did an unknown number of protesters. As many as 200 protesters played cat-and-mouse with police for hours stopping long enough at intersections to disrupt rush-hour traffic and anger drivers, but paraded away when threatened with arrest and tear gas.

Around 50 demonstrators in Austin, Texas barricaded both ends of a street and took control of a section of road. The police arrived and arrested three of them.

PARTY AND PROTEST SUMMER GUIDE

JULY **Thur 1** onwards **Russian Rainbow Gathering**, near Moscow Tel +7 (812) 3146920 **Fri 2/4** **Bracknell Festival** £40 Tel: 01344 4241232
Fri 4 **Return To The Source** Open Air Festival, Tel:0181 674 6003 www.rts.com **Fri 2 - 4** **Winchester Hat Fair** Tel: 01962 849841 **Fri 2-3** **X72 End**
of the world (according to Nostradamus) **free party**, Spain Tel 0034 93 316 5763 **Sat 3** **Mardi Gras Gay Pride Festival**, Finsbury Park, London £10/
Sun 4 **Free Festival of Global Rights** (Hackney Marshes); Tel: 0181 808 9755 CANCELLED **Fri 9/11** **Larmer Tree Music Festival** nr. Shaftsbury
£30 Tel: 01722 415223 **Fri 9** **Education for Sustainable Communities** at Pearce Institute, Govan Rd., Glasgow 3 pm Tel 0141 332 8064 **Sat 10**
Conference on sustainable housing by the Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Environment Network (Urgent) Ruskin College, Walton St., Oxford Tel
01865 785202 www.urgent.org.uk **Sat 10** **Summer Animal Fair**, Hove Town Hall, E.Sussex 10 am-5 pm organised by Justice and Freedom for Animals, PO
Box 2279, Hove, BN3 5BY **Sat 10-11** **T in the park**, Kinross, Scotland £58 0115 912 9190 www.thepark.com **Sun 11** **Ambient Green Picnic**, Shalford
Park, Guildford 12 noon - 9 pm Michael Dog/Mandragora + lots more FREE/DONATION Tel 0956 319 692 www.guilfin.org **Sun 11** **Demonstration to**
commemorate the fourth anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica when 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were massacred when the UN 'safe area' was
allowed to fall to the Bosnian Serb and Yugoslav armies. Tel Women of Srebrenica 0171 465 5312 **Mon 19** **The three hunt sabs who were nabbed in December**
1997 and charged with Conspiracy to Commit Violent Disorder after a big day out at the Hursley Hambledon foxhunt are finally coming to court. Support them
on the first day of the trial, 1:00pm, at Portsmouth Crown Court. Portsmouth 3 Defence Campaign, c/o Box H, 167 Fawcett Rd, Southsea, Hants. **Fri 16**
Babymilk Scandal - London Anarchist Forum, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1 (Holborn) 8pm Tel 0181 847 0203 **Fri 16 - 18** **Severn**
Revels CANCELLED; Tel: 01452 505384 **Fri 17 - 18** **Ashton Court Free Festival**, Bristol Tel: 0117 904 2275 FREE **Fri 17 - 18** **Music In The Square**,
Parsmouth FREE Tel: 01705 357593; www.brinternet.com/~themagiccat/square/square.html **Sat 17** **National Day of Action** against Tarmac contact
Earth First 07971 755823 **Sat 17** **Derby Punx Picnic** Bass Recreation Ground, Derby 12 noon onwards + weekend of gigs **Sun 18** **Tolpuddle Rally** and
festival nr. Dorchester. South West TUC events Tel 0117 965 3394 **Sun 18** **NATIONAL GENETICS EVENT**: Stop the farm scale GE trial at Model Farm,
Waddington, Oxfordshire rally followed by walk to the site. Meeting place in Waddington the Contact GEN on 0181 374 9516 www.gene.ch/ * to find out what
genetic test crop sites are near you, check out the Friends of the Earth web-site www.foe.co.uk **Mon 19-20** **Organic Gardening Weekend** Contact Henry
Doubleday Research Association Tel 01203 303517 **Tue 20** - onwards **International anti-nuclear camp** near the Balakovo nuclear plant, one of the most
dangerous power stations in Russia. In 1990 protests stopped construction of the second part of the plant. Contact Ecodefense, Moskovsky Pr 120-34, 236006
Leningrad Tel +7 0112 437286 email ecodefense@glasnet.ru **Wed 21 - 25** **Buddhafield Festival**, Somerset Tel: 0117 967 9564 **Thurs 22 - 29** **Annual**
Congress of the European Civic Forum Stubbendorf @ Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany Tel +33 (0)4 92731818 email Longomai@ksatel.fr **Fri 23**
24 **Foothills Festival**, Wales 01558 823005 **Fri 23 - 25** **Womad**, Reading £65 Tel: 0118 939 0930 http://realworld.on.net/womad/ **Fri 23 - 25**
Guilford Live; Tel: 01483 454159 **Fri 23 - 25** **Music In The Sun**, Donvalley Grass Bowl Attercliffe, Sheffield £6 Tel: 0114 275 5424 **Sat 24** **Tissue! Tissue!**
we all fall down! Action against animal to human transplants with an attempt to break world record for largest ring-a-roses (currently 1,197 people) Jesus Green,
Leambridge 2 pm sharp Contact Uncaged, 14 Ridgeway Rd., Sheffield, S12 2SS Tel 0114 2530020 www.uncaged.co.uk **Tue 27 - Wed 4** **Aug** **Spiritual Women's**
Camp near Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Pay what you can afford Tel 0181 257 5028 **Weds 28 - 1 Aug** **Northern Green Gathering**, Pontefract, W.Yorks
£30 0113 224 9885 **Wed 28** **Protest** naked for the right to be naked in public 2 pm Royal Courts of Justice (Holborn tube) **Wed 28** **National Bog Day**
0131 312 7765 **Thur 29 - 1 Aug** **Greenbelt 99** Cheltenham Racecourse, Cotswolds, £60 0845 845 0021 www.greenbelt.org.uk **Fri 30 - 8 Aug** **The 4th**
Anarchist summercamp, nr.Hannover, Germany Tel 0049 501 82909 **Fri 30 - 1 Aug** **Organic Food and Wine Festival** at Royal Horticultural Halls, London,
0181 Tel 0181 746 2832 **Sat 31 - 1 Aug** **Brighton Festival**, Stanmer Park **Sat 31 - 2** **Setting up Ecological Communities** course at Stepping Stones Coop,
Wales 0870 7332538 **Sat 31** **Sexual Freedom Parade** 2pm Soho Sq., London, W1. Sexual Freedom Coalition 0171 460 1979 www.sfc.org.uk

AUGUST There's loads of eclipse events in the 'line of totality', all of which will see you seriously out of pocket, so keep your ears to the ground for
live events. The police have already promised to use the party-pooing 'five mile exclusion zone' powers contained in the Criminal Justice Act if they think a
crowd might take place, so use your wits - and respect the land. **Sun 1** **Sunplash 99** www.reggae.sunplash.co.uk **Sun 1-2** **Ecotopia** nr. Timisoara, Romania solar
eclipse info EYFA, Postbus 94115, 1090 GC Amsterdam, The Netherlands Tel +31 20 665 7743 **Sun 1 - 15** **Moonshadow Eclipse Family Camp**, Cornwall
0181 941 6277 **Sun 1 - 21** **Green Futures Eclipse Family Camp** - a snip at £200 01736 788926 **Fri 6** **Hiroshima Day** **Fri 6 - Sat 8** **The Big Chill**
Enchanted Garden 99, Salisbury £73 Tel: 0181 372 9735 www.bigchill.co.uk **Fri 6 - 13** **Zac's Tipi's Total Eclipse Camp** (family friendly) 01558
085082 **Fri 6 - 12** **Megadog Essential Total Eclipse Festival**, Plymouth £95 Tel:0181 806 6242 www.megadog.net **Fri 6 - 15** **Sunshadow Festival**,
Bampton, Cornwall £85 Tel: 01502 230387 www.sunshadow.com **Sat 7 - 12** **Eclipse Party**, Cornwall Tel: 0161 860 6472 £25 www.splintered.demon.co.uk/
eclipse/ **Sat 7 - 14** **Lizard Festival**, Goonhilly Down, Cornwall £125 Tel: 0906 2102376(25pp/m) www.lizard.net **Sat 7 - 14** **Cornish Eclipse Stone**
Festival, nr.Lostwithiel **Sat 7-8** **Organic Gardening Weekend** - Henry Doubleday Research Association 01203 303517 **Mon 9 - 16** **Solipse**; Tel: 0049 30
480 56263 www.solipse.com **Mon 9 Nagasaki Day** **Mon 9 - 16** **If i had a hammer**. Trident Ploughshares 2000 Disarmament Camp at Coulport Trident
missile base, Scotland Tel 01603 611953 www.gnapp.org/tp2000/ **Tue 10** **Prisoner Justice Day** This day has been commemorated in several countries since
1976. This year in the UK the focus is on the notorious Woodhill control unit in Milton Keynes. Opened last year, it consists of 3 units, where prisoners
considered too "subversive" to be contained in the mainstream of the prison system can be arbitrarily confined until they "progress" with the behaviour
modification programme. More details from Anarchist Black Cross (London), 27 Old Gloucester St., London, WC1N 3XX email londonabc@hotmail.com
Wed 11 **Total Solar Eclipse Devon/Cornwall** 11.11 am **Wed 11** **Tribal Gathering**, Men-an-Toll, Cornwall FREE **Thur 12** **Day of action against the**
glorious Twelfth (protest against the start of the grouse shooting season) Hunt Sabs Association 01273 622827 **Fri 13** **Abbey Park Festival** Leicester Tel:
0116 2673196 **Fri 13-14** **Cropledy** (Fairport Convention) Festival, Oxfordshire Tel: 01869 338853 **Sat 14** **Brighton Gay Pride** FREE 01273 730562 **Sun**
18 **National Vegan Festival**, Camden Centre, Bidborough St., London WC1 0181 670 9585 **Sun 15** **Smokey Bears Picnic**, 2 pm Southsea Common,
Parsmouth FREE **Wed 18 - 23** **Earth First! Summer Gathering** in East Anglia. Contact 0113 262 9365 www.eco-action.org/gathering **Sat 21 - 22** **V99**
Western Park, Staffs £70 Tel: 01142 554973 **Sat 21 - 22** **V99** Chelmsford £70 Tel: 01142 554973; **Mon 23 - 26** second conference of the **People's Global**
Action against 'free' trade and the World Trade Organisation. Hosted by the Karnataka State Farmers Association in Bangalore, India. www.agp.org **Tue 24**
Aug - 19 Sept **Apple** - a story of club culture The Etcetera Theatre (above the Oxford Arms), Camden Town, London NW1 **Fri 27 - 29** **Reading Festival**
£70 Tel 0181 961 5490 if you must **Fri 27 - 30** **Exodus festival**, Long Meadow Farm, Charlton, Beds FREE 01582 508936 **Sat 28 - 30** **Leeds Festival**
Tel 0181 961 5490 www.readingfestival.com/ **Sun 29-30** **Notting Hill Carnival**, FREE **Mon 30** **Sutton Green Fair**, Carshalton Park, Ruskin Rd.,
Carshalton, Surrey. 10.30 am - 8 pm 0181 647 7706

SEPTEMBER **Fri 3-5** **Building Sustainable Economies**, Centre for Alternative Technology/, Machynlleth, SY20 9AZ. ATA.co.uk www.cat.org.uk/
Sat 11 **Norwich Reclaim The Streets** 0793 1308091 **Sat 11** **National demo** at Wickham Research Laboratories 12 noon meet in Mill Lane car park Tel 01705
08516 **Tue14-17** **Demonstrations against the Defence Systems Equipment International**, Chertsey and London Docklands arms fair. Campaign Against
The Arms Trade 0171 281 0297

OCTOBER **Sat 16** **Anarchist Bookfair**, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London 0191 2479249 **Mon 18** **Marks the 15th anniversary of**
Veggies catering company to be celebrated with parties and picnics. The comprehensive Animal Contacts Directory is available for £4/3.50 from Veggies
catering Campaign. Tel: 0115 958 5666 E-mail: veggies@veggies.org.uk A book is to be published, if you've got any submissions should be sent to 180 Mansfield
Rd., Nottingham, NG1 3HW **Fri 15 23** **Aberdeen Alternative Festival** http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/abfest

NOVEMBER **Tue 2 - 4** **Shut down the Copex arms and equipment fair** at Sandown Park. This is the place to be if you are a dictator on the look out for the latest
in shock batons or other torture equipment. Campaign Against The Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St., London, N4 3HQ Tel 0171 281 0297 www.gnapp.co.uk/caat

DECEMBER **Wed 22nd** **Winter Solstice and Full Moon Sat 1/1/00** **Satanic orgy** Royston Parish Church. Please bring condoms and a partner
REGULAR; **Rebal Alliance** last Weds every mnth 7pm upstairs @ Hobgoblin Pub (next one 30 June) **London Reclaim The Streets** meet every Tuesday
7pm Cock Tavern pub, Phoenix Rd, Euston. Tel 0171 281 4621 rts@gnapp.org **SQUALL** Crew presents **COMMOTION** every alternate Friday (next one
Sat 1st July) **Pembury Tavern**, Amhurst Rd., Dalston Lane, London www.squall.co.uk/
London Anarchist Forum meet every Friday 8pm Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1r (Holborn tube) Tel 0181 847 0203 *
FOR MORE PARTY & PROTEST INFO CHECK OUT www.guilfin.org * www.bassdove.demon.co.uk * www.cobaltmagazine.demon.co.uk

YOU WHO MATE? IT AIN'T ALL OVER?

Unfortunately, global capitalism has obviously managed to survive June 18th and so the process of stripping away what minimal protection the inhabitants and environment of planet Earth currently enjoy continues.

After the big G8 shindig at Cologne, the next date on the calendar of the world's power elite is 29th November, when the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will start in Seattle, USA.

Here high ranking representatives of member states will continue shaping what has been called 'the constitution of a single global economy.' Feeling nervous? You should be - that quote was from ex WTO head Renato Ruggiero. Since its birth in 1995 the WTO has, surprise, surprise, become almost entirely dominated by the big economic powers, who have vast technical, political and economic resources deployed to ensure 'negotiations' go their way. Most 'agreements' are dreamed up in small, informal meetings of Western officials, and then forced onto developing nations, whose small, under-resourced and overworked delegations have little chance of getting a word in edgeways.

Even big powers like the EU can feel the wrath of the WTO's unelected globalising maniacs - which is why we are being forced to buy all our bananas from one of Clinton's funders, not just the 70% we already did buy from exploitative US firms in Latin America. It's also why we shall soon be importing US beef pumped full of carcinogenic hormones.

What can we expect from Seattle99? More of the same, of course. The Millennium Round of 'negotiations' will focus on amongst other things TRIPs. This one is unfortunately not about acid legalisation, but the sinister stitch-up which allows US agribusiness companies to patent plants that farmers and herbalists have been using of thousands of years, and then charge them for the right to continue using them. So, what are we gonna do about it? As SchNEWS went to press we were awaiting info on the plans for the resistance. We can tell you that there will be a second Inter-Continental Caravan from Latin America, and expect J18 style antics. Watch this space. PGA, Seattle99-subscribe@listbot.com

Gaviotas - a village to reinvent the world by Alan Weisman (Green Books) This is one of the most amazing, inspiring books you'll ever read. Over the past 30 years, the Gaviotas community have turned parched savannah into a sustainable forest of Eden, despite being surrounded by the violence of Colombia. But this isn't some hippie drop-out commune, Gaviotas have searched and come up with solutions - dreamers who put their words into practice, and for the most part got it right. "Surrounded by a land seen either as empty or plagued with misery, they had forged a way and a peace they believed could prosper long after the last drop of the earth's petroleum was burned away. They were so small, but their hope was great enough to brighten the planet turning beneath them, no matter how much their fellow humans seemed bent on wrecking it."

Order from Green Books Ltd, Foxhole, Darrington, Totness, Devon, TQ9 6EB Tel 01803 863260 www.greenbooks.co.uk £17.95 Or get yer library to stock it (ISBN 0 930031 95 4)

RADIO 4A, July 4th, 106.6 FM, Independence Day special, Analysis on Kosovo, June 18th, Britain's part in the arms trade + usual mayhem 11am - 7pm www.indifference.demon.co.uk/radio4a, email radio4a@hotmail.com

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CAMP ROUND UP

Want something to do this summer - why not get along to a protest camp?

GORSÉ WOOD, ESSEX A new anti-road camp set up to stop the A170 bypass from Chelmsford to Southend, to be built under the Private Finance Initiative Scheme. Directions - go round the back of All Saints Church in Rettendon, and follow the path round until you come to the camp. 07957 915977

ARTHURS/CEDARS WOOD The camps are in National Trust owned woodland, but despite that Manchester airport want the trees chopped cos they might block radar signals. Directions: near Oversley Lodge Farm, Altrincham R, Snyl, Wilmslow, Cheshire. Tel 0161 225 4863/07931 931850

Victory! Plans to trash a neglected woodland **HAGBOURNE COPSE** by junction 16 of the M4 have been dropped. The woodland was up for sale and the agents dealing with it just love industrial development. However, after the Rational Trust, threatened direct action, the sale was dropped. Rational Trust, c/o 21 Beaulieu Close, Swindon SN5 8AQ.

AVON RING ROAD The Camp to stop 'Bristol's answer to the M25' was recently evicted. A fun day and further actions are planned for 28th July. 0797 9990389

BIRMINGHAM RELIEF ROAD

The campaign to stop England's first toll motorway continues despite the camp being evicted last Friday. The road will be 27 miles long and will pave the way for greenbelt expansion along its route. A new camp is promised soon. 07931 161761

FASLANE PEACE CAMP

Still hassling the Trident nuclear base next door after 16 years! The latest is that there's a massive development under construction on the west bank of Loch Lomond. Trees have been cut down, a long-established swan's nest trashed, 2 lagoons filled in, so a golf course, hotel/lodges can be built. People are badly needed, a camp is planned and there's strong local support. 5th July there's a Reclaim the Loch meet Balloch train station 11am. 01436 820901

The Anti-Wicca War' is a new book out that covers the 3 years of the **Pressmannon Wood** campaign in Scotland exposing how the bureaucratic process was rigged, and also talks about the importance of ancient woods especially their use in alchemy. The woodland is still under threat despite ancient woodland covering a mere 1% of Scotland - over 300 of the trees are due to be felled in the autumn. To get involved email lothian@burn.ucsd.edu To buy the book send £5 (includes postage) to Potent Productions c/o PO Box 1021, Edinburgh. EH8 9PW

FREE PARTY GUIDELINES

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

- * Be prepared to be self-sufficient. Facilities will be minimal.
- * Park sensibly, keep site roads clear.
- * Be friendly to local residents, rambblers etc. Smile - you're at a free party!
- * Bury your shit!
- * Don't trash the site - take a bin bag.
- * Fires - use dead not live wood (it doesn't burn)
- * 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.

SchNEWS SURVIVAL GUIDE

If you like this piece of paper you have in your grubby Glastonbury hand, why not get a copy of our all new 260 page book. Includes issues 151-200 + photos, cartoons and other articles to help you survive the new millennium, & comprehensive database of over 500 grassroots organisations. Yours for £7.20 (inc.p+p). Don't forget our other books, **SchNEWS Annual** (issues 101 - 150), **SchNewsround** (issues 51 - 100) Both £5 inc. p+p. Or get all three books for just £15 inc postage

STONEHENGE

"Excuse me, Mr. Policeman, why are you in the gear, guarding a load of old stones."

Down came the fence, and in poured the people heading for the five thousand year old Stone circle. It was nearly two hours before the Cavalry started clearing people out. Private security swung punches and cops dragged people away while all the time a helicopter with spotlight buzzed noisily overhead. Not from the darkness came the riot cops, dog-handlers and the horses, their heads flashing with red-light pushing people back out over the fence.

The next few hours were a surreal stand-off. The sunrise began in earnest. Every now and then someone made a dash for it, there was the obligatory naked protest, while others who had managed to clamber onto the relative safety of the stones were joined by people who had been given tickets by English Heritage. About 500 people had gathered now, watching through the lines of riot cops as the sun began its spectacular sun-rise. With the 4 mile Exclusion Zone recently ruled illegal in the High Court, this was the nearest most people got in years.

Stonehenge means a lot of different things to a lot of people. To some it is a spiritual home - so imagine if you can, being at a church service, surrounded by riot police who every now and then throw someone who hasn't got a 'ticket'. To others it has been the scene of so many broken bones, arrests and trashy vehicles as the authorities put their foot down but on the free festival scene.

The next night people again headed for the Stonehenge but this time even the ticket-holders were banned by English Heritage. As one veteran put it "It doesn't stop the whole football season because of a two minute pitch invasion."

* In 1985 a large convoy of vehicles on the way to Stonehenge were forced into a field and brutally attacked by cops. It has gone down in traveller folklore as the 'Battle of the Beanfield'. For a copy of the video 'Operation Solstice' send £8 inc p+p (cheques made payable to Neil Goodwin) to 37 Nightingale Road, Wanstead, London E11 2HD. Essential.

* Stonehenge Campaign newsletter. Send SAE donation to 99 Torriano Ave, London, NW5 2RN

* 'Last of the Hippies' Wally Hope was one of the people who got the Stonehenge Festival going in the early 70's, and met with a very suspicious death £1 + SAE from DS4A, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol, BS1

ONE LUMP OR TWO?

Monsanto's aspartame nutrasweet slowly destroys the nervous system. It is made up of neurotoxins - phenylalanine (20 million people cannot metabolise it); Methanol (wood alcohol, deadly to diabetics). Monsanto fund the American Diabetics Association - funny that Aspartic Acid (a substance that rots the brain, especially of new born babies) Symptoms of aspartame include convulsions, loss of memory, cramps, dizziness, headaches, depression, anxiety attacks - so beware, it may be sugar free but it ain't poison free. Info from Dr.HJ Roberts (diabetics specialist and world expert on aspartame poisoning)

...and finally...

If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers that if they got a bit carried away in the heat of the day last Friday and forgot to put on a disguise, lay low for a bit. Don't go on any demo's, cut/bleach/perm your hair, grow a beard (oh, maybe not) get some cosmetic surgery (and let's face it some of you ugly-bugs need it) this'll just give you the perfect excuse, then hopefully you won't get your collar felt. Honest.

Disclaimer PS: please don't take peoples mask off - if someone's a bit shy and doesn't want to reveal their identity, that's up to them. No-one runs up to you and forces a balaclava over your head now do they?

REMEMBER
JUNE 18, 1999!

The STORMING of The CITY

**BOOZE-FUELLED
HARDCORE ANARCHISTS TURN
ANTI-CAPITALIST PROTEST INTO
URGEY OF VIOLENCE**— DAILY STAR

It all started nicely enough—500 cyclists staged a Critical Mass blockade of the streets, Lloyds and NatWest banks were occupied and animal rights activists shouted at an empty building. No-one—least of all the police—could anticipate the mayhem to come.

**'JUST HEARD THAT THE BOYS AT TULLETT AND
TOKYO WHOSE OFFICE OVERLOOKS LONDON BRIDGE
HAVE BEEN WAVING THEIR GOLD CARDS AND
SHOUTING 'WANKERS!' AT THE ECO-WARRIORS
GOING PAST'**— E-MAIL CIRCULATING CITY

Liverpool Street Station, 12 noon: Ten thousand ungrateful work-shy dole-scrummers gathered to bite both the hand that feeds them and the sandwiches provided to lure them away from consumer Utopia; colour-coded party masks distributed amongst the crowd resulted in separate columns of protesters winding their way through the city streets to converge on the belly of the beast—The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE). At this point the Carnival—organised by and for a coalition of nice peaceful anarchists—was hijacked by the disgraceful, masked-up, beer-swilling, black-clad, cop-hating psychopaths that give anarchy a bad name.

And then the fun really began.

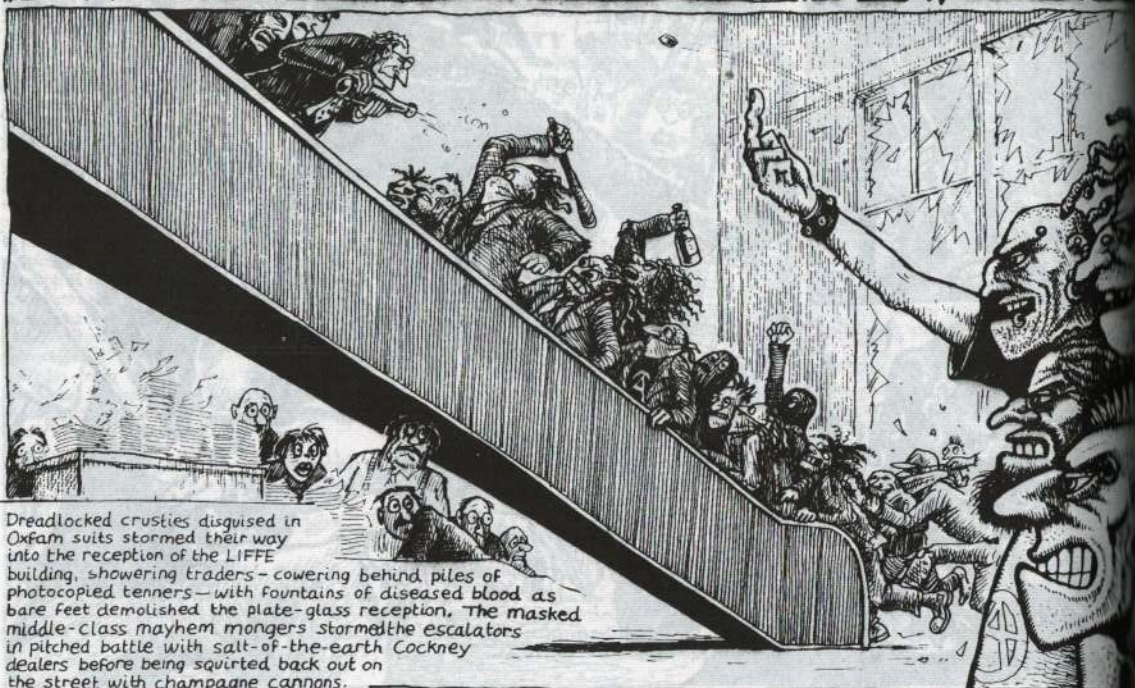
**'WE'RE BEING BESEIGED
BY OPEN-TOED-SANDALLED
HAPPY VANDALS. WE HAVE
ARMED OUR DOORMAN,
BERNARD, WITH A SHOT-
GUN'**— PARTNER AT MACLAY,
MURRAY AND SPENS ('THE LAWYER')





To the noise of pneumatic drill gabba from a sound-system, a trained Class War hate mob trampled on the bare toes of decent liberal protesters and embarked on a systematic redesign of the urban environment. 'IMAGINE LONDON WITH ITS RIVEPS UNEARTHED AND ITS VALLEYS REVEALED,' they screamed as CCTV cameras were bagged up; revellers danced in a four-storey fountain their own urine and the front door of LIFFE was bricked up with breeze blocks and cement hauled in by crack-fuelled chaos junkies. Punk band P.A.I.N.—AT LEAST ONE MEMBER SPORTING AN OUTRAGEOUS MOHICAN HAIRCUT—baited rioters with angry hate music—with added percussive from boots going through the windows of a Mercedes showroom.

'FIVE ACTIVISTS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SHAVED THE HEAD OF A BESUITED CITY TYPE WHILE PINNING HIM AGAINST FRESHFIELD'S WALL'—'THE LAWYER'



Dreadlocked crusties disguised in Oxfam suits stormed their way into the reception of the LIFFE building, showering traders—cowering behind piles of photocopied tenners—with fountains of diseased blood as bare feet demolished the plate-glass reception. The masked middle-class mayhem mongers stormed the escalators in pitched battle with salt-of-the-earth Cockney dealers before being squirted back out on the street with champagne cannons.

**'BANKERS, TRADERS
AND STOCKBROKERS
ARE THE REAL
WORKING CLASS'**

— DAILY TELEGRAPH EDITORIAL



Other demonstrators attacked branches of McDonalds; kamikaze vegans hurled themselves through the windows and bombarded police with frozen burgers, urging customers to eat Edward and Sophie instead. Others covered themselves with ketchup and deceitfully claimed police brutality.



**'SCHROEDER'S WERE
ATTACKED BY
CLIMBING NUTS
WHO ATTEMPTED
TO SCALE THE
BUILDING WITH
ROPES AND CRAMPONS
BUT WERE THWARTED
WHEN TRADERS
URINATED ON THEIR
HEADS'**

— E-MAIL CIRCULATING
CITY TRADERS



Thankfully, citizens, such spontaneity is unlikely to happen again. Assistant Chief Constable James Hart of City Police has stated 'WE MAY, IF CONDITIONS CALL FOR IT, BE MORE ASSERTIVE NEXT TIME; WE'LL COME IN HARDER, AT SIGNIFICANT RISK TO INNOCENT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, PEACEFUL PROTESTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS.' Or maybe they'll just ban dissent altogether.



Meanwhile 'NEXT FRIDAY WILL BE THE INTERNATIONAL CITY DAY OF ACTION. ON THIS DAY WE ASK YOU ALL TO DON YOUR FINEST PINSTRIPE, KNOT THE ITALIAN SILK TIE, BOOSED WITH BRITISH BROGUE, APPLY YOUR MONOCLE, GLUE MOBILE PHONE TO EAR AND THEN HEAD OFF DOWN TO BRIGHTON TO DISRUPT AS MANY DREADLOCKED SOAP DODGING MEN AND WOMEN WITH DOGS ON STRING AS POSSIBLE.' — E-MAIL CIRCULATING CITY TRADERS (Unfortunately everyone in Brighton will be at Glastonbury!)

WHO WERE THE VIOLENT MINORITY?

The actions of a few hundred troublemakers clearly intent on causing mayhem and violence marred what was otherwise a great day out. This small, highly organised group, some of them wearing suits and sporting mobile phones, managed to get into buildings housing major financial institutions. One man who didn't want to be named told SchNews:

'THEY HAD LITTLE OR NO CONNECTION WITH THE THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY PROTESTERS OUT ON THE STREETS AND WERE CLEARLY INTENT ON CAUSING SERIOUS VIOLENCE. THEY USED COMPUTER AND COMMS EQUIPMENT AND WERE QUITE AWARE OF WHAT THEY WERE DOING.'

'WE DID ALL WE COULD TO STOP THEM BUT BY THE END OF THE DAY THEY HAD KILLED 11,000 KIDS.'

'THAT MAY SOUND SHOCKING, BUT THESE PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT, THROUGH EASILY PREVENTABLE POVERTY-RELATED DISEASES EVERY DAY. THEY GIVE PROTESTS LIKE THE ONE TODAY A VERY BAD NAME, BECAUSE THEY OWN THE NEWSPAPERS THAT PRINT COMPLETE CRAP ABOUT WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.'

'IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE PUBLIC SUPPORTS OUR EFFORTS TO BRING THESE PEOPLE TO JUSTICE.'



City high-flyers



"Would you like a merchant bank?"



City of London

Bringing planet earth to the commercial world



Active on the airwaves

Airto Coral catches up with Interference FM, the pirate politico's

Teletext March 1 1998.....pirate radio activists make unexpected appearance on airwaves. According to The Times newspaper two days later, the Countryside Alliance had sold 50,000 ear-piece radios to pro-hunting demonstrators gathering for the Countryside March. After paying £2.50 each they were expecting to listen to a day of fox hunting tales on the temporarily licenced March FM. There were angry ripples in the sea of barbour jackets, however, when a clandestine team of pirate radioteers calling themselves Interference FM made their first appearance on the airwaves. Climbing onto a tower block near Hyde Park, five members of the guerilla team crystal-locked their powerful transmitter onto 87.7FM and out-broadcast the hunters with "This is

furlong as we'd been up for two nights getting it all sorted. Then with a quarter of an hour to go the sound went down. We went out on the balcony with the binoculars and could see the silhouettes of the DTI officials pummeling the transmitter on a distant tower block." Using tri-

angulation techniques and maximum resources, it is possible for the DTI to locate a pirate transmitter to within 20 metres of its exact location after only ten minutes of broadcast. By distancing the sound source from the transmitter using microwave links, however, pirate radio stations can avoid easy detection of their studio and therefore avoid personal arrests. During the technical set up on the day of J18 an unusual tower block electrical circuit of 110V threw off Interference FM's microwave link leaving the transmitter broadcasting direct from the sound source. A dangerous situation the team did well to survive. Chris Winton for SQUALL: "We were booming. Despite a few technical hitches we managed to keep it on air for most of the day and, given the radical nature of the station, we were expecting the DTI a lot sooner. Losing the transmitter was not unexpected, we were pleased we were able to maintain it for so long."

Meanwhile, Interference FM reappeared in Bristol a few months later, broadcasting several times in the run up to the Mumia Abu-Jamal demonstrations on October 24. On the day they successfully negotiated a day long broadcast without losing equipment and have broadcast regularly ever since. With the DTI less rabid in provincial towns, Interference FM's Bristol team have avoided any equipment loss, despite the regularity and radical nature of their programming content.

The full Interference team made another reappearance later that year, for the series of actions around N18. Once again the team relocated between several tower blocks during a number of broadcasts in the run up to the day of direct action. On the day itself they remained on air for eight hours until the DTI finally tracked down and destroyed the transmitter at 5pm.

According to the bizarrely wayward Sunday Times Insight team, the anti-capitalist protests in London on May day 2000 were to be co-ordinated with pirate radio broadcasts from Interference FM.

On Mayday morning, Interference activists setting up a transmitter on a tower block in south London happened to glance over the railing to see two police cars and a van disgorge several police officers below. They were looking upwards towards the top of the tower block.

"We grabbed our tools and could hear the lift coming up as we walked down and out through the back route," recalls Chris Winton. "We pulled the nonchalant one as he walked out the front door and noticed the coppers on the roof looking down."

This time then, Interference were trailed and temporarily thwarted but with their transmitter intact they intended to step up their operations for future actions. According to Chris Winton: "You can look out for us. When we first started we were replying to the lack of decent radio news media but as we've developed we've realised that the exclusivity of radio licensing is part of the commodification of the airwaves. It is another form of enclosure by capitalism. The media is war and we're ready for it."

SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--
I Wanna Go Home
Underground Update

Features

Squall Pics
Frontline Communique
The State Its In
Quotes
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From Our Correspondence

Pic - Ian Hunter



Hunt Saboteurs Broadcasting Association broadcasting to the nation's bigots. Get off my land." £125,000 worth of ear-piece radios locked to the 87.7 FM frequency were binned as a result.

The next time Interference FM reappeared on the London airwaves was in the following year when the team reassembled to out-broadcast a commercial radio station in the run up to J18. Millennium FM are an advertising based radio station which boasts a 75% ABC 1 audience in the CanaryWharf/Greenwich area of London and broadcasts on 106.8FM. "Millennium FM prides itself in reaching a market with the highest purchasing power and fuels values based on greed and profit," says Chris Winton, one of Interference FM's founder members. "We were only too happy to be taking it out whilst at the same time doing our bizness." Broadcasting throughout the week on 106.8, Interference wiped over much of Millennium FM, confining them to a small area next to their transmitter in Thamesmead. On June 18 itself, Interference switched to 107.4 to stay one step ahead of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) detection, and ministry officials took longer than expected to trace their transmitter. During the day Interference FM broadcast a mixture of music, news and direct action adverts, countering the mainstream media's re-gurgitation of police press statements with live mobile phone reports from people inside the Square Mile. At 5.45pm, DTI officials finally located the transmitter on a tower block in Peckham and smashed it with sledgehammers. "We had been broadcasting for several hours and were due to come off air at 6pm," recalls Tim Larey. "We were all fucked on the final



The revolution will not be emailed

Most British media reports and commentaries on the event of J18 repeatedly declared that the action had been organised on the internet. While the internet was indeed useful, the mainstream media's devotion to exploring its use by radical groups reflects more the current technological restructuring of the global economy than the reality of the peoples' knowledge of and participation in the event.

Those involved in J18 organising in London for instance, though prone to forgetfulness, were well aware of the elitist connotations of the technology. In addition to website and email use organisers sent out over a thousand action proposal letters in several languages through libertarian and anarchist address lists, printed up a succession of leaflets in runs of 30,000 or more, held and attended regular meetings, conferences and the like, all of which are, contrary to media imposed impression, still crucial to any successful mobilisation or movement.

THE INTERNET IS AN ELITE ORGANISATION; MOST OF THE WORLD HASN'T EVEN MADE A PHONE CALL."

The media ignored this old fashioned organising but any movement serious about confronting inequalities of power and creating free and ecological communities can afford to do so. Internet access and use is controlled and dominated by 'the north' and the rich in the north at that. Like various lifestyle choices internet access tends to coincide with how much cash there is in your pocket and with a particular background. We will not 'connect' with the peoples' of 'the south' through internet working; regardless of the Zapatistas mythical laptop communiqués from the Mexican jungle. Nor will we connect with the needs and desires of many people in our own regions through any number of email discussion lists. Why? Because the globalised market system will increasingly polarise

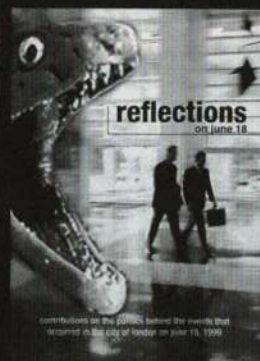
Squaring up to the Square Mile

A rough guide to the City of London

For a copy send an SAE and some stamps to: Reclaim the Streets, PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY.

AND CHECK OUT:
www.agp.org
www.j18.org
www.gn.apc.org/rtS

For a copy send an SAE and some stamps to: Squaring Up To The Square Mile, 16B Cherwell St, Oxford, OX4 1BG



the inequalities of the internet access along class lines and tolerate radical use only to the extent that it doesn't hinder the technology's commercial development.

Even if organising mainly through the internet were possible it wouldn't be desirable. Given the present social system, the internet is to communication what the motor car is to transport; useful for getting you there, or your message from A to B but ultimately an atomiser of social space and a commodified substitute for human association.

We should of course continue to use the internet for information sharing and for initial contact with like minded groups but with awareness of its market-led trajectory, its limitations and always alongside more involving and humanising activities. For a radical grassroots movement we require the real warmth of human togetherness and the raw 'shout on the street' to make a true social and ecological communications revolution; and it probably won't be emailed.

Source: Worldwide Resistance Round-up, Peoples Global Action



Source: Worldwide Resistance Round-up, Peoples Global Action

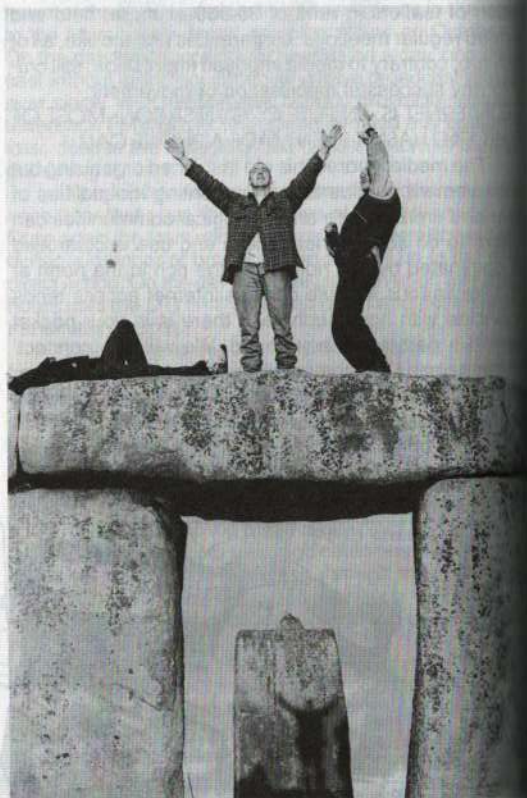
Stonehenge Summer Solstice



Around 200 people clashed with police at Stonehenge after being excluded from the invite only summer solstice ceremony on June 21.

Frustrated at having to watch proceedings from behind barbed wire fences and lines of police, a group of 200 broke away from a thousand strong crowd assembled on Salisbury Plain. Wiltshire Police with riot gear, horses and dogs steamed in an attempt to prevent the group from reaching the 5000 year old monument. Twenty three people were arrested after a section of the barbed wire perimeter fence was torn down around 2am. Twenty of these were detained for aggravated trespass (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994), two for an alleged assault on police and one for a drugs offence. English Heritage, who own the site, had sent out 150 exclusive invites to druids, astrologers and councillors allowing them access to the stone circle for an 'official' solstice ceremony. The ceremony was abandoned following the disturbances.

A High Court decision delivered earlier this year upheld people's right to demonstrate peacefully on the by-ways next to Stonehenge. In the light of this decision Wiltshire Police did not apply for the four mile exclusion zone for the first time since 1985, the year of the infamous Battle of the Beanfield. However they were still intent on keeping those not invited out of the stone-circle itself. Wiltshire Police spokeswoman, Elizabeth Marginson, opined: "There are still people at the stones who have no right to be there."



The sun illuminates a present day reveler, summoning up the image of an ancestor on the sacred stones.



SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--

I Wanna Go Home

✓ Underground Update

Features

Squall Pics

Frontline Communique

The State Its In

Squotes

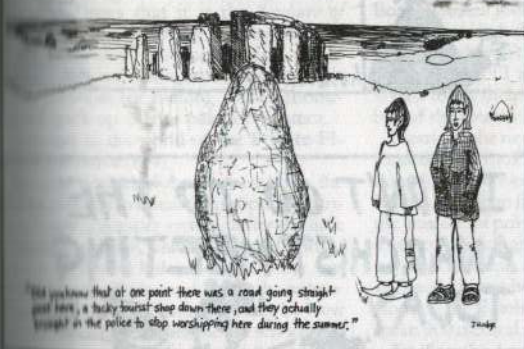
Resources

Links

From Our Correspondence

Some meaningful spiritual exchanges around the stones just before sunrise

IN THE WILDERNESS...

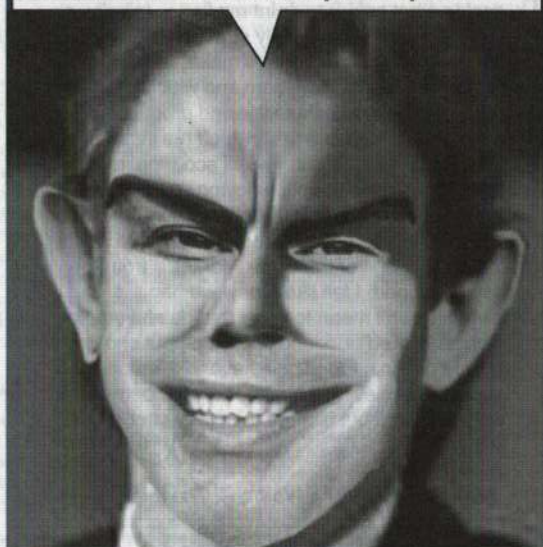


SQUOTES 30/3/00

"Since 'New Labour' was elected, there has been a notable de-politicisation of young people, many of whom tend to think of the prime minister as if he were the well-liked manager of a successful United Kingdom football team, who they admire as spectators without much sense of personal involvement."

TONY BENN. LABOUR MP.

....An amicable and tolerant Britain ... but yet a Britain that still calls a spade a spade...



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SQUOTES

"No one prepares you for the horrific effect office work can have on your creativity and civility levels... I had no idea that two years into my job at a leading UK merchant bank I would have no energy, no time for friends... and no remaining creative impulses (for creativity, read: ability to write a letter, formulate independent opinions, decide what colour to paint my flat)... Initially, my tasks seemed reassuringly structured. I was shown which calculations to make, which font to display the resulting wisdom and which photocopier to use to distribute the end product around the division... Unable to shrug off the insane pace of weekday life, I found myself scowling impatiently at hapless couple enjoying a Sunday stroll ("chop chop, get a MOVE on!")... I confronted the fact that, fundamentally, I don't really care about the fluctuations of the Stock Market... from the day I resigned, I felt like a new woman... I certainly don't mean to imply that gainful employment is wicked or bound to corrupt, but shoving a square peg in a round hole never did anyone any good and achieving a healthy balance between work and time out is more than just a good idea, it is essential."

From "No Job for a Woman", *The Idler*, Issue 3

I DIDN'T GO TO THE
ANARCHIST MEETING
TODAY



I DON'T THINK I'LL GO TOMORROW

Weekly SchNEWS

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BADLY PHOTOCOPIED

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Friday 9th July 1999

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

Issue 219 Free/Donation



SALE OF THE CENTURY

If you've been getting all hot under the collar recently waiting for your passport, you have been pointing the finger of blame at? The government? The new child passport? Initial teething problems of a new computer system? Perhaps you jumped on the Telegraph bandwagon and blamed the Millennium Bug? Or nodded in agreement with the Times that it is the "culture of mismanagement...that is still ingrained in parts of the public sector." No-one it seems wants to face facts and shake an accusatory digit at the big business for making such a monumental rock-up of the passport system.

Welcome to the world of the **Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**.

Siemens Business Systems were given the £1.8m contract to install the passport department's new computer system under the little Publicised Initiative, which is essentially privatisation by the back door. The scheme was pushed by the Tories and has - oh, *surprise* - been taken up rather enthusiastically by New Labour. Schools, hospitals, the fire service, you name it, are being touched by the hand of big business (see SchNews 210).

Siemens managed to get the passport contract by promising to make the system: **cheaper** - saving staff to reduce costs, they've now and to re-employ more people to sort out the backlog; **faster** - waiting time at the two offices with Siemens new system has more than halved. And more **secure** - in desperation at the backlog 'security procedures' have now been relaxed.

As that blatant anarchist kill-joy publication Computer Weekly pointed out, Siemens' "renewal staff in anticipation of a new system's introduction is madness." But if you think that's bad look out the Immigration and Nationality Department, which makes the Passport Agency look efficient. Here some of the world's most vulnerable people fleeing repression and torture are forced to wait for up to six years for a decision on whether they can stay. In fact things have got so bad at the immigration office in Croydon that a roomful of unopened doors has started to rot, and staff can no longer even enter the room due to health risks!

But don't panic if Siemens to the rescue, they have missed both their deadlines, sacked staff and made refugees wait even longer. But

they still made a mint from the 'efficiency gains' they hadn't even made, because they get paid for reducing costs, not improving the service. Nice little earner, this one: the more people you sack and the more chaotic the system becomes, the more you get paid.

Meanwhile over at the National Health Service, that well-known revolutionary organ the British Medical Journal, called the PFI "perfidious financial idiocy that could destroy the NHS." Clearly they haven't understood that the whole point of the PFI is that it allows corporate fatcats to get their claws on some of the last bits of the country they don't already own.

Nearly all the new hospitals being built are funded under the PFI, which means the NHS doesn't get to choose where they will be built, but has to pick up the bill later anyway. And as the 'miracle' of private finance is involved, the treasury doesn't give 'em any more cash to pay, which means... yep, cutting beds, sacking staff and closing hospitals. One PFI scheme alone, at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, will mean 900 medical staff getting sacked.

So if you've been fingering your collar in queued annoyance waiting for your passport, are holed up in some dodgy refugee detention centre, or waiting for an operation, don't jump on the Tory Blair bandwagon and blame the public sector for its 'lack of modernisation and reaction to change'.

WELCOME TO THE PFI EVERYTHING MUST GO SALE

The basic idea of the PFI is that business stumps up the cash to pay for big capital projects like building a new hospital, then lease it back to the local health authority over a period of time. This saves the tax-payer money. Simple. Except it doesn't, because unfortunately PFI schemes require interest payments some 5% above the rate the Treasury would pay if it borrowed directly. This means for every £1 billion of PFI contracts there is an extra cost to the public sector of £50 million per year.

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

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For handing out leaflets! Two people were dishing the dirt in the St.Helen's branch of NatWest Bank, letting customers know about the banks £24.5 million loan to vivisection experts Huntingdon Life Sciences. The two were held overnight and charged with the well known 1361 Justices of the Peace Act (an act so old it actually predates parliament!).

RING OF ROSES

Have you heard the one about the evidence gatherer that forgot to gather any evidence? Or maybe the one about the Ring-of-Steel being replaced by a Ring-of-Roses? The City of London Police have.

In a vain attempt to redeem their sorry little arses for the mass protests that happened on June 18th, the police attempted, to get their grubby mitts on all journalists notes and footage of the day, a right they thought they had under the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act. But The Old Bailey this week said "Oi, No! You had 9 months to sort out a decent surveillance operation, and polish up the steel. Leave it out!" The media world feared they would be seen as agents of the police.

21 people have been arrested so far, all for violent disorder. Yet it was the police who showed themselves as 'violent' and 'disordered'. The girl who was run over by the police van has only just come out of hospital where her condition was described as 'critical'.

One person still inside since the day is due in the City of London Magistrates court this Friday. Ceejay (Charles McBride) is being held in Feltham young offenders. If you saw him arrested about 2:15pm on the corner of London Wall and Moorgate (sorry, no description of Ceejay) ring London Defence Monitoring Group 0171 837 7557. Letters of support to Charles McBride DC8504, HMYOI Feltham Bedfont Rd Middlesex, TW13 4ND.

If you want to see a copy of June 18th video send £5 + SAE to Undercurrents, 16b Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG

There will be a defendants only meeting for those nicked on J18 on Sat. 24th July 2 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London (Holborn tube)

* SchNews has been leaked some interesting internal email memos sent to workers at Narwest. They mention "nuisance calls...we are unfortunately not able to stop these calls coming in, but should you receive such a call, just hang up the phone". They then talk about the "day of action against the financial services sector planned for Friday 18 June. A number of demonstrations and disruptive actions are anticipated...we all need to be vigilant. Threats could manifest themselves in many ways, the most likely being denial of service, virus infection and attempted vandalism of web sites." We hope this warms the cockles of our readers, that corporations do take our threats more seriously than they often care to let on.

DOCK ON

This is a shout to all SchNEWS readers to be glued to a TV this Sunday (11th) to watch 'The Dockers' Channel 4 8pm. The drama was co-written by 14 of the former sacked Liverpool dock workers, Jimmy McGovern of 'Brookside' and 'Cracker' fame and Transpotting's Irvine Welsh. As you would expect it's all about their 28 month epic dispute against low-pay and casualisation.

SchNEWS finds it rather ironic that the dockers are now getting more press about Sunday's drama than they ever did during the dispute. As one sacked docker told SchNEWS this week *"We're like dead artists, once they've killed you off, people realise what they've lost!"*

Not that the dockers have been idle since the end of the dispute. They have been busy trying to sort out decent training, life long learning and employment opportunities for local people, setting up a workers co-operative *Liverpool Dockers and Shovelers Ltd, Transneeds*, and *The Waterfront Trust*. And they've established the Initiative Factory to bring these and the other myriad of projects to life. With a mission statement like *"Work can be, and should be, creative; it should illuminate a life and not dampen it; seen as a liberating and not an incarcerating force; and should release the potential of individuals"* the message and actions from the dockers is as relevant as ever. Respect. Initiative Factory, 29 Hope St., Liverpool 1 Tel 0151 207 9111

SISTERS OF MERCY

Workers across the world are fighting back against bosses and governments for better pay and conditions. For sheer numbers, check out what's happening in Canada. More than 47,000 nurses in Quebec have been striking for nearly two weeks, demanding a wage increase and an improvement to their stressful working conditions.

This despite the Quebec government, having extraordinary powers to deal with "illegal" strikes. They've threatened the nurses with fines, the loss of one year of seniority for every day on strike, and the loss of two days pay for each day on the picket line.

Despite this the strike is holding strong and the nurses have widespread support. During the day in Montreal, nurses' picket lines outside major hospitals are supported almost continuously by passers-by with honking car horns and bike bells. And according to the Order of Nurses, not one complaint has been received from patients.

GET KETTED OUT

It's the summer of 1549 and a time of uprisings by the dispossessed rural peasantry. Enclosure of common land was leading to starvation, begging was met with whipping, hangin' & mutilation and any help from the Church was forcefully put down. Robert Kett, a landowner seeing the injustice of what was happening to the common folk became leader of a 20,000 strong army, tearing down fences, filling in ditches and returning the land to common ownership. The area was run equitably from under an oak tree in Wymondham for 2 months, and the worst landowners were locked up before defeat by mainly foreign mercenaries at Norwich.

450 years on and this Saturday (10) The Land Is Ours is organising an occupation against the fight against enclosure of public space. Privatisation has seen closures & developments grow drastically in number, local councils selling allotments, schools selling playing fields and access to the countryside denied by Forestry Commission & landowners. Meet 12 noon, Haymarket, Norwich. Bring yer camping gear, instruments, pitchforks, etc. Contact 01603 484412 *Ketts celebration info www.paston.co.uk/commonlor/links.htm

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SchNEWS in brief

Quote of the Month *"I can proudly say that on my farm, that employs not only all my family, but also four outside workers, there are no badgers, no rabbits, no mice, no snakes, no lizards, no rodents, and if I could stop the birds flying over I would. My farm produces food, not fluffy little animals. I am a farmer not a zoo keeper."* Letter to the North Devon Journal from C Roberts, Black Torrington

****Last Friday**, two asylum seekers detained in Campsfield Detention Centre decided to give them selves permanent admission to the UK, via a back window in the detention centre. One Russian and one Kosovan, scaled a 18 foot high fence, topped with 3 coils of barbed wire and disappeared into the country-side! ****The Hecker** is a splendid new free newsletter from south east London, mixing anarcho politics with real life and a good sense of humour. Urban survival hints and no pompous critiques of dead intellectuals. So get it. Send stamps and/or donation to Red & Black Club, PO Box 17773, London SE84WX Tel 0171 358 1854

Defend Public Services Conference 11am-4pm Sat 10th July Mechanics Institute, Princes St. Manchester, six sacked Tameside care workers opposing privatisation, cheap labour, casualisation, corruption, sleaze and all forms of prejudice have invited speakers from trade unions and various care services to assist them in their fight to defend a decent public care service. **23/1 Contact** Tel:01618618390

****Brighton Urban Design & Development (BUDD)** spearheading opposition to supermarket development on Brighton station site. Meetings every Thurs 7pm; 01273 681166/389279 for venue details. Also BUDD Picnic, 1pm July 18 @ Harvest Forestry, Bring food & drink

****Support the Portsmouth Three** demo 19th July 1pm Portsmouth Crown Court, Winston Churchill Ave: 3 sabs on conspiracy charges for mass sab on notoriously violent hunt ****Anti-Live Exports March and Rally**: Sat July 17, 11 am, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. ****National Anti-vivisection** demo against Harlan UK & Astra Charmwood, Loughborough 25th July 12noon & every Wednesday tel:01162366450

****July is Gene-Free** month including a stop the Crop National Rally & GM site visit 18th July 2pm Model Farm nr Watlington 12miles S of Oxford, for details of more actions tel:01813749516 ****There's a Genetically Engineered Free Forests** Action July 14 Oxford, meet 9.30am meet in front of University of Oxford National History Museum Parks Road. Tel: 0 17 1 5 6 1 - 9 1 4 6 **mailto:GEFFcoalition@hotmail.com** And while you're about it, **Smash Genetic Engineering**, meet 12 noon sat 31st July, bring transport w/ full tank of petrol, road map, flags, costumes & disguises. More precise details from the 24th onwards tel:0708 191858 ****WHAGA** Open Day all day Sat July 10th at Whitehawk Hill Allotments, with free food, bouncy castle and kids entertainment, and loadsa fun and games inc. ****The 'Les Tanneries'** social squatted centre in Dijon, France needs you! The former slaughterhouse had stood empty for five years before it was turned into a squatted social centre for the past couple of years. Now the local council want to evict and knock the whole area down - not that they've got any plans to replace the site with. There's a letter of protest to be sent to the local mayor on their web-site www.ville-dijon.fr/contact/index

****Tajic Roundabout** and a sound system ****Also on Saturday Kemp Town Carnival**, starting at midday, procession of floats leaving the gala bingo hall at 1pm and then wandering round ending up at the NHS Trust buildings... see ya there! ****We thought you like to know** that one of the nets premiere on-line casinos is **giving away \$50.00**. Check out www.worldcasino.com ****www.ville-dijon.fr/contact/index** ****Please only send e-news to** mailto:schnews@brighton.co.uk schnews@brighton.co.uk, not to the webmaster he's going spare!

Target Tarmac Big Day Out

17th July, will kick off somewhere in the Midlands & be a big chance to take action against Tarmac's trouncing of our green & pleasant land. Tarmac is the main exponent of corporate greenwash bullshit tactics, placing ads in the nationals advising companies to green themselves for the 21st Century & even running courses on how to pull the green wool over our collective eyes... But we know the dirty truth beneath the slick PR machine. Luckily we're not as stupid as they think... They helped to destroy Twyford Down, they provided the roadstone to the Newbury by-pass, they're trying to bulldoze through what remains of Sherwood Forest, etc. Tel:07971755823

***There's a Critical Mass** bike ride this Sunday (11th) Meet George Green, Wanstead, E11 (near Wandstead tube), 3pm, for a ride on the M11 Link Road for the last time before it turns into a rat run. The M11 Link Road destroyed more than 1,000 homes and already a new Tesco hypermarket, an Asda/Wal-Mart hypermarket, and a 1,000 Million Dome car park are planned for the area. Contact STORM 0181 527 9857

THE NATIONAL TRAVESTY

Protesters who have been living in tree houses in the National Trust owned Arthur's Wood since last summer, occupied the Trust HQ in London on Wednesday. The woodland is situated adjacent to Manchester Airport's controversial Runway 2 and the airport authority want to chop down the trees because they reckon they will block radar signals. The Trust granted a license to the Airport to fell the woods and to evict the campaigners in direct contravention to the Trust Act of 1907 which states *"They shall by all lawful means prevent resist and abate all enclosures and encroachments upon and all attempts to enclose or encroach upon such property or any part thereof."* Obviously this decision has nothing to do with the fact that the Airport is a sponsor of nearby Quarry Bank Mill, owned by the National Trust, and apparently used to host conferences for the airport, AME and Tarmac.

The protester's recent appeal in the Lords was rejected so eviction could be anytime. The good news is that Wednesdays occupation has resulted in the Trust agreeing to talk with the protesters. And Manchester Airport have had to pull out of their plans to build a massive staff car park on Green Belt land after it was called in for a public inquiry due to the large number of protests. Contact Tel:0161 223 4863/0961-517324

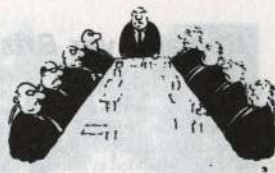
...and finally...

***Carry On Indulging**, everybody: Chocolate Is Good For You- Official. It's rich in many beneficial compounds and minerals, is packed with antioxidants which may reduce the risk of cancer, and as for obesity from scoffing all this luvverly kak- well, there's just no link. Dentists have the check to blame it for tooth decay, but that's bollocks too. Not only that, but it also increases athletic performance and improves driving skills. It must be true, cos it says so in a new book, 'Chocolate and Cocoa: Health and Nutrition', from no less an authority than the International Cocoa Research and Education Foundation. "We're just interested in established facts" said Eduard Kouame, one of the book's sponsors. "Researchers are discovering new information about this cherished treat." SchNEWS scorns all readers who may be moved to cynicism by the fact that the authors are employed by Mars and Nestle. Why should that have to mean they're just interested in flogging more Snickers? Unfortunately, Dr Carol King, president of ICREF, lets the side down a bit by mentioning that the Asian market is still 'largely untapped' and that the book might help, er, increase...sales. Oh dear. Time to stop gobbling that sexy Flake and pick up the gun...

Disclaimer.. SchNEWS warns all readers to go someone else to put up their PFI wardrobes!



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BEEFED UP & BONED



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Raging Hormones



"It is not unrealistic to regard the World Trade Organisation as representing effective world government for the first time in human history"

Steven Shrybman, West Coast Environment Law
In the same week that Europe lifted their beef ban on Britain's mad cows, those bullies from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) gave America the green light to apply sanctions on the European Union, because of its ban on hormone-treated beef.

A secret panel decided that we Europeans are missing out and want to get our teeth stuck into some meat laced with artificial hormones. Its scientific panel, stuffed with corporate nominees and US officials, reckon the stuff is safe to eat. However, they somehow forgot to test the effects the six injected chemicals have on levels of natural hormones in the body. They also failed to find out what they might do to kids, even though a new study has concluded that one of the hormones is a potent carcinogen placing children at particular risk.

But they, the *Arbitrators* reckon the 11 year old ban has resulted in \$128 million a year in lost revenue to the US and Canada.

So how will these two countries get their compensation money? By hitting certain European goods with massive import duties. A list is currently being drawn up which will penalise companies that have nothing to do with the beef trade, effectively triggering job losses and bankruptcy. Once again, the ruling has shown that the WTO is nothing more than "an international bill of rights for multinational corporations".

Last month environmentalists highlighted WTO plans to speed up the destruction of the worlds remaining forests (SchNEWS 206). The WTO wants amongst other things, a reduction on tariffs for forest products, which even the American Forest and Papers Association have admitted could raise world-wide consumption of wood and paper products by as much as 4 percent. Environmentalists are also worried that logging companies will gain the right to claim damages against any environmental regulations that get in the way of profits. In a joint statement, the groups said "Our forests don't need more logging...they need stronger protection...The WTO is bad for forests." Make that 'bad for the planet'.

* Earlier this year the US imposed \$191m of sanctions against the EU in a dispute over bananas (SchNEWS 204)

* The US actually got a slap in its corporate face a few weeks back when the international food standards body broke with long established tradition and finally produced a ruling the US didn't like; that BST-treated milk is not the same as ordinary milk. BST is produced from cattle treated with genetically engineered growth hormone, is linked to appalling animal welfare problems and breast and prostate cancer in humans. The US quietly withdrew its attempt to force the EU to import its poisoned produce and the EU won a silent victory.

A US court recently ruled that it was illegal for Massachusetts to have a law that penalized firms doing business with Burma. The EU had filed a complaint with, you've guessed it, the WTO. The ruling basically gives the thumbs up for countries to trade with any old dodgy dictator, bugger their human rights record.

* Seattle is the next stop for the WTO. 29th November is the date for the Millennium Round of "negotiations" For details of protests planned:

PGA, Seattle99-subscribe@listbot.com

* A Canadian company is suing the US government for nearly \$1 billion in damages after the state of California banned methanol as a petrol additive. The chemical is leaking into water supplies, a potential health hazard, but so what, the company are using the terms under the North American Free Trade Agreement to railroad environmental laws they say are affecting their profits.

* For a low down on the WTO get a copy

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For trying to house the homeless. Nine members of the Kensington Welfare Rights Union were arrested and charged with attempting to house homeless families and refurbish abandoned houses. The Union were acting on the bizarre assumption that some of the 40,000 empty properties in Philadelphia could be put to good use. www.libertynet.org/kwru

of the latest 'Ecologist'. £3.50 inc. p+p from Cissbury House, Furze View, Five Oaks Rd., Slinfold, W.Sussex, RH13 7RH Tel 01403 786726. Or why not take out a yearly subscription on this essential publication. £24/£18 concessions.

SO JUST WHO ARE THE SHADOWY PEOPLE BEHIND THE WTO?

The WTO was established on January 1st, 1995 and is currently made up of 135 nations (surprise surprise though, it's America who pull the strings with their delegations meeting with multinational corporations before and after every set of negotiations). Their mission statement is the promotion of global free trade. They monitor and settle trade disputes, then set the rules which, if broken by any nation, result in punishments including sanctions. Most importantly, the WTO rules are supreme over the laws of nations, taking power away from local communities and governments and handing it to corporations - sod environment, labour and human rights.

"(The WTO is) this un-elected body which is taking decisions which then become binding. It's going to take a huge amount of public pressure to remove it, because the avenues aren't there. It's not as if we could have elections and throw them out, it's not as if we have elected representatives that are overseeing their proceedings, it isn't as if we even have an independent judiciary."

Susan George, author and researcher

CRITCHLEY BOTTOMS UP

"I pay tribute to our members, whose strength and dignity is as deep as the spite and stupidity of Critchley."

Gasps in shock horror, the longest running industrial dispute in Britain has ended in victory for the workers. A few years back, British Telecom sold their bussiness/factory in Gwent to Critchley Labels, who derecognised the union despite over 70% of its employees being members. 31 people were then sacked in February 1977 for having the bloody cheek to take strike action in February 1997. Dubbed 'the worst employer in Wales', the staff mounted a continuous picket line outside the factory, triggering a collapse in Critchley's UK sales. Eventually the company bowed to pressure and gave £325,000 compensation to be divided amongst the strikers. To cap it all, they have now been offered full-time employment by their old bosses BT. Funny how things come round. The campaign against the company continues, with the newly-formed Critchley Shareholders' Action Group, who plan to attend the company's AGM on 29th of this month. Nice one.

Reclaim yer Bristols

Last Saturday 350 party people closed off part of the M32 for a few hours for a Reclaim The Streets party. Despite the best efforts of the organisers and lengthy negotiations with the cops to keep things peaceful, the boys in blue came in heavy handed in full riot force and dogs only an hour after the celebrations commenced. The cops made 20 arrests on the day with 8 appearing in Bristol Magistrates on Monday.

So why the major panic on the part of the forces of law and order? Post June 18 hysteria? So it seems, as the Bristol Evening Scare Mongerer dutifully informed its readers that the party was organised in a squat in Stoke Newington and a pub in Hackney (this was news to the Bristol party people!) The paper then surpassed itself in the paranoia stakes by saying "In previous marches the women and children have been lined up in front while the militant fringe have come up behind armed with poles and sticks. The women and children, who frequently get hurt, are known as cannon fodder to some extremists". Amazing the lengths some people will go to to have a bit of a boogie whilst making a statement! Speaking of dirty tactics, the police were ushering people through the police cordon assuring them that they would be allowed to leave the other side only to be trapped by police who would not let them out again. People and children suffering from the heat were forced to remain inside the cordon without water.

If anyone has any film footage or photographic evidence pertaining to events at the street party please contact Kebele, 0117 9399469.

*The same evening, over 50 police in 8 riot vans cordoned off the Bishopston Community Centre to foil the evil intention of a planned community dance. Residents at the centre were denied access to their home and other local residents were questioned and obstructed by police. The police justified their actions by quoting section 63 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, a law that applies only to open air dance parties but hey, who cares about the law! Though there was no sound system in the building the police remained until midnight. Another stylish operation in public relations from your friendly neighbourhood bobbies!

*Keeping it in the area, a kilometre length of the most beautiful section of the most famous cycleway in the UK - the Bristol & Bath Railway Path - is due to be closed for destruction at the end of July 99 to make way for the building of the Avon Ring Road - Bristol's version of the M25. STARR campaign, which has been fighting this wanton vandalism, meets every week in Bristol Tel: 0797-999-0389.

WE FUCKING TOLD YOU SO

Guess what? The Newbury by-pass doesn't work. Yes, the little bit of road that cost £125 million, destroyed countryside and converted peaceful old ladies and previously law-abiding Volvo-owners into environmental activists has only succeeded in cutting rush-hour traffic in the town by a piddling 15%. Adrian Foster-Fletcher, spokesman for Newbury Friends of the Earth, has described the scheme as "an appalling waste of money". He believes Newbury's traffic problems, barely eased by the bypass, are destined to get worse. Sandford Park, a new local development and Vodafone's expansion plans will all lead to an increase in traffic. Lib-Dem Council transport spokesman, David Beckett, admitted the new road has not eased rush hour congestion as much as the Highways Agency promised, hinting that the new road may encourage people to drive who didn't before. He agreed Newbury's traffic problems will soon be back to square one. Still, at least Lib Dem Newbury MP David Randel is pleased. He says the road has been "the fulfilment of our dreams".

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KAOS IN KOREA

South Korea used to be the showcase economy, a shining example of how great free enterprise and capitalism was. After the Korean war and the split with communist North Korea, the Masters of the Universe set about transforming South Korea into an investor's paradise. Koreans were promised all the riches of Western style consumerism, and so much cash around that they could even afford to be nice to their workers. Growth levels went through the roof and South Korea joined the big league of consumer economies, while North Korea sank into poverty and isolation. And so the whole world witnessed the triumph of capitalism, and everyone imagined the boom would go on forever...

Unfortunately those nice men from the West who designed this miracle economy didn't mention some of the less savoury aspects of joining the consumer capitalist club, and the inevitable crash that hit the Asian Tiger economies two years ago came as a bit of a shock. Unable to cope with the end of innocence, the South Koreans needed to be taught IMF Lesson Number 2 - leaving the boom-time nursery. With fucked up finances, they needed a fat IMF loan (\$57 bn), which of course comes with Structural Adjustments - ie sacking people and cutbacks. There ain't no room in the rock 'n' roll world of free market capitalism for soft little mummies-boy economies, and in their youthful innocence South Koreans had developed a dangerous habit of giving people jobs for life, social security and so on. Keen to show the IMF how tough he could be, President Kim Dae-Jung started cutting services and 'restructuring' firms.

To implement all this you need to deal with any potential trouble makers like unionists, so the Public Security Prosecution Departments (PSPD) was created to suppress trade unions. So far this lovely piece of IMF weaponry has nicked 11 union leaders, and 60 striking union members, for resisting the government's restructuring programme. The PSPD's other strategy only came out when its former chief got too pissed one night, and let slip that they had actually encouraged an illegal strike at the national mint, to create an excuse for a savage clamp-down on the unions.

All this, and an on-going government corruption scandal, pissed a few people off, and 41,000 workers have gone on strike demanding an end to the IMF's plans and the PSPD's plots. Learning their new game fast, the South Korean government quickly engineered yet another naval 'confrontation' with North Korea to divert international attention, and vowed to hold out against the workers. SchNEWS is confident that with such dirty tricks and military posturing South Korea has proved that its really grown up now, and ready to play with the big boys in the deregulated, de-unionised global market.

NOT SO POPLAR

Cheeky activists sneaked into a genetically modified tree test site on Monday felling and ringbarking 115 Poplars, that had been growing since 1995. In an anonymous phone call to Genetic Engineering Network the activists said "Genetic Modification of trees is a major threat to the environment and those manipulating the DNA of trees are using powerful but dimly understood technology and show contempt for our planet. They respect only profit for themselves and their shareholders".

* Smash Genetics action - Saturday 31st July Meet 12 noon in Cambridge. For details of location ring 07808 191858 email smashgenetics@yahoo.com (bring transport with a full tank of petrol)

Cheek out the 1999 NORTHERN GREEN GATHERING next Wed 28-1st August, Pontefract, W.Yorks £30 Tel: 0113 224 9885 The Northern Permaculture Convergence will be there to put permaculture in the north on the map.

Inside SchNEWS

"It is vital that people such as Michal are defended from victimisation by the state. On July 30th we will burn a Czech flag, symbolising the Czech States' collusion with neo-nazis. We call on the Czech prosecution service to immediately drop the charges." A spokesperson for the Solidarity Federation, the British Section of the International Workers' Association (IWA)

On Friday 27th November '98 Michal was attacked by neo-Nazis. Convinced that they were aiming to kill him, he shot the leading nazi with his legally held pistol, in self defence, and escaped. Michal was arrested and charged with attempted murder. Though released on bail, he still faces up to 15 years inside. None of the neo Nazis have been charged with any offence.

The IWA believe that Michal has been framed for his political activity, in a country where more than one third of police officers are members of neo-fascist organisations. The Czech government is totally failing to deal with incidents of racism and xenophobia. Human Rights groups have warned that neo Nazi violence is now reaching "epidemic proportions" in the Republic, mainly targeted at the Roma Gypsy minority. Direct co-operation between police and neo-nazis is well known.

The address of the Czech Embassy is Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8. Contact: The Solidarity Federation 0181 374 5010 e-mail: da@directa.force9.co.uk Web: www.directa.force9.co.uk

Stalked

Last month the High Court decided to uphold an appeal by the Crown Prosecution Service against Diane Selvanayagam, who had the cheek to protest against Cornyhaugh fur farm near Newcastle. Diane had originally been acquitted after being charged under the stalking laws for causing the owner of the farm harassment. However two judges decided that the actions she was involved in (such as candle-lit vigils and veggie burger stalls) were such a threat to the farmer's safety that they overturned the original decision.

The anti-stalking legislation became law in 1997 but the powers that be seem rather keen to use it against animal rights protestors. They are a lot more serious than civil injunctions that were previously used in such disputes, and can land people with break them with a 5 year prison sentence. They are weekly demos outside the Cornyhaugh fur farm. Contact Northern Animal Rights Coalition PO Box 119J Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1JY

in brief

Workers' Aid have organised a public meeting entitled 'After the Bombing' with speakers from Prishtina and Belgrade. It's on Thursday 22nd July 7 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (Holborn tube)

...and finally.

The new Lord Mayor of Belfast, Unionist 'Bad' Bob Stoker, has refused to invite 13 local Sinn Féin councillors to his inaugural lunch(out). However Sinn Féin local councillor Mick Conlon will chair a sub-committee was phoned by the mayor's office to put together the official menu.

SchNEWS reckons it just shows that not only have the Unionists no ideas for the negotiating table but they have none for the banquetting table either. Perhaps they should bite the bullet and try the prawn cocktail?

disclaimer

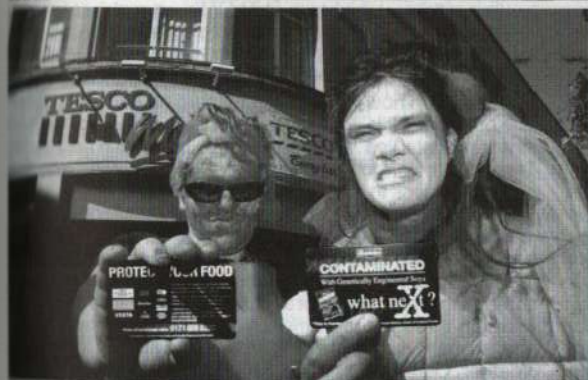
SchNews warns all veggie and vegan readers not to go all mad cow about the word beef on the front page story. Hey, we're not saying it's the stuff, it's just a good example of the top turvy free trade for the world we in, Honeysuckle

Many came in fancy dress for the Bristol NTS 10th July



"Will you be paying for that with a card?" GM food action, Bristol

Pic: John Hodge



Totally 'Avon it!

Bristol July 99: Defending the Bishopston Community Centre, Bristol, from the hands - the Church of England. The Church kicked the local community out in order to open the place up to their 'community' - ie redevelopment.



Pic: Simon Chapman

Stopping Mox Boxes

Japanese Maritime Safety Commandos were briefed to expect terrorists. Instead they were faced with Greenpeace's 'MV Arctic Sunrise' and a team determined not to let British-made nuclear fuel dock in Japan without a fuss. After four weeks at sea, photographer Nick Cobbing jumped into a Greenpeace dinghy for the final cat and mouse. He sent this e-mail via ISDN Sat. phone.

Went to bed last night feeling crap and bored, headache, nothing happening, rumour that it'll maybe kick off at 4AM so set my alarm, had these false alarms before, so don't take it too seriously. Woken at 3.30AM by (Dave) the action coordinator, asked to get shit together and be ready to go now, arrive on deck half dressed with cameras dangling.

Greeted by 7-8 coastguard ships and motor-launches surrounding us with searchlights bouncing in all directions through the darkness loads of engine noise and smoke, lights bobbing up and down in all directions. Looks and sounds like an eviction only more scary and i'm on a ship, not a rooftop, nowhere to run.

Could see riot police behind shields on the bows of all the nearest boats, shouting inaudible stuff up at us via loud hailer, through the engine noise.

Some of the riot police duck right down, so we see only a row of upright shields with nothing but little eye holes at the top. A few of them are drawing right up close underneath the ship, it's clear that they are trying to stop us from reaching the harbour where it's confirmed that the plutonium ships will dock this morning. Act/coordinator says that me and the video guy are first to go in the water in an inflatable with him driving as we planned, looks like we're gonna get nicked as soon as we hit the water. Suicide mission I think to myself, my mad Aussie cameraman team mate, 'Moose' is jumping up and down with excitement, in his element (this guy usually does war-zone stuff for the beeb). For some reason, i'll never know why, after our inflatable reaches the water we're able to speed away in the right direction without these Japanese SAS-types jumping on us immediately, they just follow at high speed, chasing us around, driving in front of us and blocking our path whenever we try to cut through a gap, meanwhile our other two boats are launched on the other side taking four people with 'No Plut.' flags and stuff towards the Mox/Plut ship

that is now approaching the harbour. It's starting to get light, but barely enough of it to take decent pictures, plus the spray and the boat banging up and down and then cornering at speed. This tests me, have never done anything like this before. Five of their boats concentrate on us, probably 'cos they can see that we're trying to get cameras to the plut. ships, making it impossible for us to get through their line and reach the action, they come up close as if trying to grab us but don't seem to know how to finish it.

Guys in orange boiler suits and yellow helmets, they hold their hands up and shout at us to stop, looking surprised when we ignore them. This chase continues for a while, we take in one

circle of the ship and drop film and video tape into a bucket. That point i thought we 'we're nicked', certain of it, no way we were going to get back to the ship and get hoisted up the 20ft or so to safety, expecting to have five demented Japanese ninjas pull me off any moment, thinking about mist and rice and who i will share my cell with.

Somehow we get back below the Sunrise again and thanks to some nifty boat driving, quick people on the crane and shit loads of luck we get winched to safety. The other two boats had been hoisted up onto the deck too, everybody back in one piece. Then darkroom, chemicals, scanning and transmitting whilst the ship heads back away from the port towards relative safety of international waters, locked in our media container in the hold, expecting the ship to be boarded at any moment, listening for the noises outside.

The captain holds it all together keeps cool, despite the radio messages telling him to stop, 'Arctic Sunrise!', 'Arctic Sunrise!', stop now for immediate boarding and inspection! The other TV/Stills crew in the helicopter got pics of the two smaller inflatables that reached the bows of The Pacific Teal with their 'stop plut.' flags as it was moving into the harbour to dock in front of the power station.

Got 2 or 3 reasonable pics in spite of the conditions, a couple of mine and several that the other guy took from the helicopter were sent out, eventually syndicated along with the video via AFP, AP, Reuters. The video footage was something else, can see it all from the air, boats trails crisscrossing through the frame. Everybody here is made up after so many weeks of sitting around and after all that rough weather. Campaigner is over the moon.....Apparently the shots have been used widely in Japan.

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Weekly

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BRITISH NUCLEAR FOOLS!

SchNEWS

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Issue 221 Free/Donation

SHIP OF FOOLS

"We are in danger of sparking a whole new arms race around the Pacific rim." Greenpeace International.

Cumbria... rural England, home to the Lakes, Fells... oh, and British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL). Sellafield, the sprawling nuclear metropolis, with its sordid history of radioactive pollution, on-site fires, and other such niceties, has this week begun a major operation to ship reprocessed nuclear fuel across International waters to Japan.

The nuclear cargo is MOx fuel, mixed oxide rods containing both uranium and plutonium. The rods are heated within the reactor, which produces an ash film on the outside. This ash is weapons-grade Plutonium. You wouldn't have to be a nuclear physicist to remove it. Pacific Nuclear Transport (PNT) is the company that owns both Pacific Pintail and Pacific Teal, the ships which will be carrying the nuclear cargo. Japan cannot reprocess fuel itself, and therefore, needs European plants to do the dirty work for them, namely Sellafield in Britain and La Hague in France. PNT is owned by BNFL, which is in turn owned by the Government...how cosy?

The undisclosed route is expected to take two months, even though most countries don't want the ships to pass through their waters. Fourteen Caribbean heads of government are furious that they were not consulted about the route. The fisher folk in South Korea have vowed to blockade the ships en-mass with their boats, fearing the cargo will threaten their safety and livelihoods.

There will be over 400kg of plutonium on board the ships, enough to manufacture 60 nuclear bombs. This is quite worrying for the international community, as Japan has had tight reins on its arsenal of weapons since WW2. As Kevin Dunion, Friends of the Earth, points out, "As its neighbours watch, Japan is slowly increasing its stockpile of weapons-usable nuclear materials with the blessing of British Nuclear Fuels and our Government."

In a vain PR attempt, BNFL would like to sever the link between the nuclear industry and the military in the minds of both the public and foreign Governments. Activists clambered onto a crane in the civilian dock at Cherbourg, where the Pacific Teal was to collect its deadly cargo from the COGEMA plant at Cape de La Hague, Northern France. The goal of the action was to push the ship into the military dock next door, to highlight the link.

This is the first time a shipment of this kind will NOT receive a Naval escort. Instead The Pintail and The Teal have both under-

gone a multi-million pound refit to arm them against military and terrorist threat (oh, and it seems good old-fashioned piracy hasn't been ruled out, either!) Greenpeace state that "If a government or paramilitary force seizes the cargo it could have a nuclear weapon within three weeks."

The 30mm canons and other defence weapons on board have made the Pintail and Teal the first armed merchant ships in 50 years. Despite BNFL's claims that the ships are not at risk, the civilian crews sailing them will receive danger money!! The National Union of Marine Aviation and Shipping Officers (NUMAST) asked for a pay increase for the staff and warzone payments if the ship sailed into difficulties!!

The Government have decided to sell off 49% of British Nuclear Fuels to the private sector, making themselves a nice little earner to the tune of £1.5 BILLION! But there's a catch. This will only happen if Sellafield can generate lucrative profits from the successful production and shipping of the controversial MOx fuel. If this week's shipment goes smoothly, there will be another 80 to follow over the next decade.

The last thing BNFL need is bad publicity as it hardly encourages the investors they so desperately need. Greenpeace, old acquaintances of the nuclear industry, set out to pull the rug from under BNFL's feet. Dragging an inflatable white elephant in front of the Pacific Teal to expose the farce of this whole venture, the shipment was delayed for 12 hrs. Not taking too kindly to this 'scary' ordeal, BNFL immediately hauled Greenpeace into court, where they accused the organization of breaching a High Court injunction obtained 3 days before the consignment even left Sellafield. In an obvious attempt to prevent any embarrassing protests, the company tried to ensure Greenpeace kept their distance.

"As a company, BNFL has no problem with a peaceful and lawful protest. However we would not want to see the safety of the ships' crew, the escort team or the public at large put in

"A report written in 1994 states that a coolant failure at Sellafield, lasting for as little as half a day could result in an explosion that would force the evacuation of two million people from Britain and cripple the Irish economy for several decades."

The Ecologist

For excellent, up to the minute account of the ships, check out www.greenpeace.org Or call...Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment (CORE) 01229 833 851

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For secretly tape recording the police! Michael Hyde was found guilty of violating Massachusetts state wiretap laws, which forbid recording the voice a person without their knowledge. Mr Hyde recorded the police swearing and threatening him with jail. When he brought the tape to the Abington police, he was charged and in court sentenced to six months probation and a \$500 fine.

danger by some irresponsible media stunt," Alastair Thomas, BNFL's head of transport, said in a statement. So plutonium doesn't put anyone's safety in danger, does it Alastair?!!

The outcome in court was that Greenpeace International has had its bank accounts frozen at BNFL's request. The company is claiming £90,275 damages for extra wages they claim they had to pay because of the delay. Also, John Prescott, the deputy prime minister ordered Greenpeace to remove its ships from British waters. This is the first time such an order has been made under the 1995 merchant shipping act. "Greenpeace will not be strangled in its peaceful efforts to expose the dangerous and dirty nature of the plutonium industry by this financial terrorism. It is an obscene miscarriage of justice that Greenpeace is under attack rather than the French, British and Japanese Gov's, who are conducting a trade in weapons-usable plutonium."

The Governments' little baby, BNFL are themselves in a state of disarray, breaking their own environmental guidelines and promises. They were in such a rush to escape from Barrow, they even forgot to weld down the hatches

"If this cargo is allowed to leave, the governments ethical foreign policy will be in tatters. It is not ethical to annually pump millions of litres of radioactive waste into the sea. It is not ethical to impose this dangerous transport on the en route states, threatening the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. It is not ethical to be a world leader in the sale of weapons-usable radioactive material."

Jenny MacKay, Greenpeace.

* A captain in the Russian navy walked free this week after spending 14 months inside for handing footage of sailors dumping radioactive waste into the sea, to a Japanese TV network.. Espionage charges against him were dropped, and he was freed under an amnesty. The Russian authorities tried to hush it all up, but he failed, and he became a local hero, gaining support from monks and women who gave him pizza.

MULTI-COLOURED SWAP SHOP

Protestors attending a 'Stop the Crop' rally in Oxfordshire last Sunday, did just that. About 400 hundred people donned bio-hazard suits and de-contaminated (read trashed) one of the UK's largest genetic farm scale trials. The 25 hectares of genetically modified oilseed rape was one of six major GM crop trials currently taking place in the UK. The rape at Model Farm has been modified to tolerate the AgriEvo corporation's 'Liberty' herbicide, killing all other nearby wildplants dead. Pollen from oil seed rape is also known to travel 2.5 km on the wind, and bees and other insects aren't too clued up on telling the difference, leading it's feared to so called 'superweeds'.

Gene pollution is not the only problem. A recent experiment in the US, revealed that the Monarch butterfly was poisoned by contact with pollen from crops which are modified to contain herbicide. Six people were arrested and the police droned on as per usual about "a peaceful and enjoyable day for many people has been spoilt by the criminal actions of a few". The cops are also threatening to study footage taken by the police helicopter - but with everybody looking the bloody same, SchNEWS wonders have the dirty perverts got x-ray cameras.

* Despite claims by the bio-tech industry that genetic engineering would reduce the use of pesticides, statistics from the US Department of Agriculture from 1997 show that expanded plantings of Roundup Ready soybeans (i.e. soybeans genetically engineered to be tolerant to the herbicide) resulted in a 72% increase in the use of glyphosate.

* Genetic Engineering Network, genetics@gn.apc.org Tel 0181 374 9516

* Campaigners from GenetiX Snowball are at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London next Wednesday (28th) and need your support. Court starts at 9.30 am Tel 0161 834 0295

SISTERS OF MERCY PART 2

Black-clad Polish nurses have added their voices to the rising swell of anti-government feeling by blockading central Warsaw for the second time in two weeks. 30,000 nurses and midwives began a hunger strike demanding an increase in their monthly wage of £65 and more stable employment terms. Another 100,000 workers were expected to join them unless the health service receives more money. Warsaw officials insisted that funding should be agreed regionally with health managers, most of whom deny having spare cash. The managers have controlled nurses' salaries since a January reform introduced tough market-led reforms in health, education, and adminand social security replacing former communist systems. These moves, reminiscent of the 'free' market truncheon-wielding reforms in eighties Britain, give high earnings for managers while impoverishing ordinary state employees. Doctors, anaesthetists, miners, steelworkers, dockers, farmers and railway staff have staged parallel protests in recent months. Poland's Solidarity-led government, intent on getting its economy in line for early EU membership or bust, has a hard-line response to the protests. Union leaders have warned the government of widespread unrest if they refuse to permit "social dialogue" about its reforms. It seems that the rosy glow of Soviet overthrow has well and truly disappeared, leaving the Poles wondering whatever happened to democracy. Surely loss of freedom to protest and degradation of quality of life should not be the price of joining the West - where, supposedly, we have freedom of speech, and all earn loadsa money to spend in McDonalds?

* Meanwhile over in Quebec, nurses have called off their five week strike while members vote on a deal that will give them a 6% pay-rise and better job security (see Schnews219).

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SchNEWS in brief

Direct Action Works! After 18 days of picketing, 300 striking Malaysian workers have won the right to sit down at work. Previously workers at Sanyo Electric in Kuala Lumpur were forced to work in a standing position for 8 hours and 45 minutes every day. www.struggles@mindspring.com
** We got an e-mail this week from someone who was caught reading the Schnews at work by his boss, and got the sack! ** The word 'greenwash' has entered the Oxford Dictionary. It's explained as "Disinformation disseminated by an organisation so as to present an environmentally responsible public image". That's bullshitting to you and me! ** Guildford squatters have been evicted from a squat - so the house can be turned into hostel for the homeless! The eviction took place after squatters offered to pay rent and bills.
** Ecuadorian taxi drivers have won a 12 day strike over fuel prices when the president gave in to their demands, and froze the price of gas, as he feared there would be a coup d'etat. During the strike, the transport system was gridlocked, and a state of emergency was declared with troops and tanks patrolling the streets of the capital. Ecuador is in the throes of its worst economic crisis saddled with a \$16.4 billion foreign debt, made worse by El Nino flood damage and sinking international prices for its key oil and banana exports. Two-thirds of Ecuador's people live below the poverty line.
** The Tory block of MEPs in the European parliament looks set to choose Caroline Jackson to head the committee on the environment, despite the fact that she's been on the board of Peugeot UK for 12 years. No conflict of interest there then.
** Don't forget the Gladstonebury mini-festival at the Gladstone Pub, Brighton on Sat July 31. Bands, DJs, performers, poets, barbecue + more. £2 all day, in aid of Brighton Lifeline for Kosovo. Contact: 01273 234 788.

DEATH IN CHILKA

4 protesters have been killed and thirteen injured at Chilka Lake in India after local villagers destroyed 11 illegal prawn farms. The lake, declared a wetland of international importance is home to dolphins and migratory birds. Despite a Supreme Court judgement saying there should be no shrimp farms within 1000 metres of the lake, large scale industrial shrimp farming gave way to smaller, less scrupulous operators with the support of corrupt local politicians and bureaucrats. After a 24 hour ultimatum was ignored, local villagers moved in. The police subsequently raided the villages, throwing tear gas and beating and shooting. In response there was a mass strike action with fishworkers blocking rail and road links, while in the regional capital Bhubaneswar shops were closed and vehicles stopped as people made a human wall in the city resulting in two thousand arrests!

YOUR LAND IS THEIRS

The Land Is Ours are trying to use the little known 1965 Commons Registration Act, to get land they are currently occupying turned into a village green. The former hospital site has been squatted by the group to commemorate the Kett rebellion of 1549, a time of uprisings by the rural dispossessed over the enclosure of common land. Kett became leader of a 20,000 Norfolk barmy-army, which reclaimed the commons for two months and locked up the worst land-owners until they were eventually defeated. Land Is Ours, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RQ Tel 01865 722016 Site mobile 0961 460171 www.oneworld.org/tlio/

** The villagers of Sunningwell, Oxfordshire are celebrating winning a landmark victory against a housing development. Thanks to a Law Lords ruling, the 10 acre piece of land known as the 'glebe', used as a recreation area for over twenty years, can now be classed as a village green.

Inside SchNEWS

"I am convinced the most important drug case in US history will take place in Canada on November 1st" Maury Mason ex-media & PR Greenpeace Canada

Rence Boje is in Canada awaiting extradition to the US. This is the story she told SchNews. "I was working for Todd McCormick, a medical marijuana advocate, under Proposition 215 which states that patients with a prescription or a doctors recommendation, may cultivate or use marijuana medicinally. Todd was researching how different strains help different illnesses. On July 29, 1997 the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency descended on our group with the aggressiveness of a military attack. The charges against me are conspiracy to cultivate, possession of and intent to distribute marijuana, each count punishable by a mandatory minimum of 10 years to life. I deny these charges in the strongest terms. Three months later, the charges were dropped. While I was visiting Canada and without my knowledge, the charges were reinstated. I was arrested and steps toward my extradition to the US were initiated. In L.A., after my arrest, I was strip searched 15 times in 72 hours, sometimes in front of male guards who made threatening and degrading remarks. So, I am seeking protection through Canada's Refugee Board."

Rence needs your support to get her refugee status in Canada. Cash is essential to fund this important legal battle. For every donation of \$25 or more that Rence receives she will send you a cannabis certificate, guaranteed and redeemable against a quarter ounce of organic cannabis flowers as soon as the drug is legalised in Canada.

Rence Boje, P.O. Box 1557 Gibsons, British Columbia, Canada, V0N 1V0
www.thecompassionclub.org/rence

* It may have passed you by, but in 1993 the (non-psychoactive) cultivation of cannabis was legalised. Eventually hemp could well replace cotton, coal and cattle in terms of providing our fibre, fuel and protein needs. It is not only eco-friendly, requiring neither pesticides or fertilisers, but is also three times as strong as cotton, burns hotter than coal if compressed and is arguably the most nutritious foodstuff in the plant kingdom.

www.thehempcorp.demon.co.uk

...and finally...

Computers 2, People 0

In what seems like a sinister robot plot to throw humans into chaos, faulty computer systems in drink machines are inundating Australian emergency services with bogus distress calls. Thousands of Sydney vending machines, programmed to call distributors when they run out of sodas, are calling the emergency services 000 number instead! Hundreds of the calls were made to fire, police and ambulance services by the glorified refrigerators, blocking real emergency calls. Perhaps the poor things are lonely, missing their human stock-checkers. A spokeswoman for the 000 service said the problem is getting worse and spreading to other electronic devices! Meanwhile, Toronto had a scary forecast of millenium plague last week when a small circuit box fire managed to wipe out 170,000 phone lines, most cell phones and cash points. Systems also crashed at the stock exchange, doctors' pagers and much internet and e-mail. Financial traders could only operate by (horror) talking to each other face-to-face in the street. Building security systems collapsed, including banks, though this was not made public until later to avoid spontaneous outbursts of wealth redistribution.

disclaimer...SchNews warns all readers that plutonium blondes really do have more fun especially if they're bombshells! Honest.



CUNNING STUNT M'LORD

We have always given detailed information, put it into the public domain, about the specific location of trials and experiments. But you have to ask yourself a question. If small minorities are determined by illegal methods to impose their minority view on the situation by taking pre-meditated reckless action in this way, we may have to reconsider that."

Jack Cunningham, Cabinet Enforcer
But you have to ask yourself a question, Jack. Are you talking about the protesters or Monsanto?

In the early hours of Monday morning, a secret Greenpeace action on a 6-acre GM maize test site in Lyng, Norfolk, resulted in a bizarre 'Carry-on meets Monty Python' style scene. Led by the oily Elizabethan noble Lord Melchitt, Norfolk farmer and Executive Director of Greenpeace, and tooled up with a mechanical mower, 30+ activists barricaded themselves into the test-site field, for a morning of weed-pulling in the dawning Agro-Evo garden of mutant delights.

Yet after 20 minutes of faking crop circles, Melchitt and his band of Merry Persons were caught green-handed by the Brigham Brothers. Likened to the modern day rural Krays, or Phil and Grant Mitchell playing a cameo role in Emmerdale, the 3 brothers lease the field to genetics firm AgrEvo for the maize trial. The Brigham, long-standing local farmers who boast 4.5 eyes and more than two metres of forehead between them, were swiftly on the scene, crying "Genetics never did us any harm!"

All 3 brothers started their tractor rampage, ramming the Greenpeace mower and dispersing the gardeners further into the field. Jumping off their tractors, they even chased the activists round and round the field, by which point, over a quarter of the site was trashed.

The action resulted in 28 arrests for theft, criminal damage and vandalism, including Lord Melchitt, who alone was denied bail, initial police reports citing Queenie's displeasure. Melchitt, however, laid the blame for his detention firmly at the door of rival fictional toff, Edmund Blackadder. "Thus private parts to the gods are we," he bemoaned to SchNEWS, "They play with us for their sport."

The only one to be kept on remand, Melchitt was eventually released after two nights in Norwich nick, with strict bail conditions. The others arrested were bailed to ap-

pear before magistrates on 5 August. Nice-one Melch' n'co. (SchNews has one request, Melch. drop the 'Lord' title, congratulating a Lord does nothing for our street cred.)

GENE POLLUTION

"The public has the right to a safe environment and a food chain free from genetic contamination. If the authorities, in this case the government, fail to uphold those rights it is legitimate for others to do so. We took urgent action to defend those public rights." Sarah Burton, Greenpeace.

Genetic test crops are fast approaching pollination, where they can cross-contaminate with natural crops; they are 'living pollution', threatening the food chain and the purity of organic crops. As the pollen of rape can travel up to a couple of miles, the concept of short-term 'test sites' is a mutated red herring: Once the pollen takes to the air, we're basically fucked. Quoting Sarah Burton again *"We already know this crop is a threat, so much so that the Swiss government, banned it from open air trials. It is a danger to the food chain and the environment and once the crop has flowered then the contamination is irreversible."*

*A leaked memo from AgrEvo to the Dept. of the Environment estimates genetics farm-scale trials could total 12,350 acres next year. Unless we do something about it (hint)

*AgrEvo has complained that government 'openness' has encouraged this disgraceful outbreak of direct action. It's possible new test farms will be kept secret to ensure 'safety'.

*Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state and second-largest soya grower in Brazil, has declared itself the world's first GM-free zone. Overturning a government decision to hand over the country's soya production to Monsanto, all agricultural secretaries of Brazil's 27 states voted against such GM commercialisation. The reasons, predictably, are primarily economic - but encouraging: Brazilian officials reckon the world demand for GM-free soya makes it a better bet than Frankenstein muck. (so how long till the World Trade Organisation lays its Grim Reaper hands on the state?.....answers on a postcard.)

*More than half the soybeans in the US are now grown with Monsanto's genetically engineered seeds and treated with Roundup herbicide!!

* More info on Genetics and to receive their very fine 'Update/Contact Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) 0181 374 9516 Genetics@gn.apc.org

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

A woman was nicked for threatening behaviour while dancing with her 18 month old baby at a Newcastle Reclaim The Streets party. Being a concerned mum, she asked to take her kid with her down the station, but was told 'If he can talk, he'll be OK' and was forced to leave him there. She was held for (an illegal) 44 hour stretch before being released - luckily some friends had found her baby at the party and were looking after him. Meanwhile, another bloke was pinched for tying bunting to a lamppost.

SAB VICTORY

Two hunt sabs were celebrating this week after being found not guilty of conspiracy to commit violent disorder at Portsmouth Crown Court.

Martin Palmer (40) and Nicholas Checketts (39) were two of the 42 hunt saboteurs arrested in December 1997 after clashes with the notoriously violent Hursley Hambledon Hunt. Those arrested spent up to 36 hours in the cells, and had all their clothes, mobiles and cameras taken. Then for good measure they all had their houses raided. Nice

The police set up a full time CID incident room operational for over 4 months and involving up to 30 cops. One Hunt Sab explained 'The arrests had more to do with evidence gathering for Special Branch, Scotland Yards Public Order Intelligence Unit and Animal Rights National Index.' A delighted Martin told SchNEWS to thank everyone for the mass of support they received before and after the trial.

COR BLIMLEY SQUALLS BACK

Great news SQUALL magazine is back next month. The new A5 16 page monthly 'SQUALL Download' will present the best of the regularly updated On-line SQUALL at www.squall.co.uk. We can look forward to articles on US trade wars, pirate radio, Cuba, the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, Freemasonry, genetics, cannabis, fast food, CCTV, the Exodus Collective and much more. Subscriptions are £10 for 12 issues with cheques payable to 'SQUALL' sent to SQUALL Download, PO Box 8959, London N19 5HW. As a certain person used to say, if SchNEWS is the tabloid, then SQUALL is yer broadsheet.

Write to this man!

June 18th prisoner Ceejay McBride is still inside awaiting trial for affray - write to him at Prisoner DC8504, Kestrel Wing, HMYOI&RC Feltham, Bedfont Rd, Feltham, TW13 4ND

Camps It Up

A new protest camp to resist a proposed housing development of 66 luxury homes on 11 acres of ex-greenbelt land is under construction at Hockley near Southend. Seeing as the adults in the area weren't doing anything, the camp has been put together by a group of teenagers aged between 14-16. The site's next to a designated wildlife area featuring great-crested newts, badgers, adders, shrews and more. People are desperately needed, as is tat. For directions contact 01702 206181.

JUNE 18 - THE AFTERMATH

"The demonstration signals a new era of violent protest which has implications for the whole country and policing at a national level."

It was the worst disturbance in London since the Poll Tax riots, the City isn't best pleased and everyone agrees the police operation was a total cock-up. So, of course, a report was commissioned, under former Met officer and "public order expert" Tony "whizz-kid" Speed. In his report Speed admitted that the police were all over the gaff, despite this, the "gratuitous violence and criminality" is blamed on, surprise, surprise, the protesters. The City police couldn't cope with their use of high-tech resources such as bikes and packed lunches, especially as their own communications system collapsed under the weight of panicking suits dialling 999 on their mobiles. All this means is that the Met will take over the City police, whose juicy fraud and anti-terrorism briefs it has been eyeing up for ages.

Immediately after the day, the media, police and government line was the usual "violent minority ruining peaceful protest" bollocks, but after Jack Straw had spoken to senior coppers, the angle shifted. Basically, grass-roots protesters are being re-branded as "enemies of democracy." The Lord Mayor has already described the protesters as "terrorists" and when Straw addressed the Commons he admitted that controlling groups "intent on covert criminal conspiracies is extremely difficult." This allowed him to hint darkly about using F Branch, the M15 dept responsible for monitoring and infiltrating subversive groups. Last year it was announced that they were stopping following commies, but would "continue to be interested in those who pose a serious threat to public order." The spooks are probably involved already, since the definition of serious crime that M15 can investigate includes "conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose". According to the City Police Commissioner, their intention is not to nick a few people for kicking in McDonalds, but the "long-term attrition of the groups involved."

And that's how suddenly a bunch of crusties became the biggest threat since Hitler, inspiring Churchillian statements of defiance. People's Champion Jack "The Last" Straw again: "nothing that took place last Friday will remove the City from its pre-eminent position as one of the world's financial centres."

Of course, there was no mention of why J18 happened, namely the extreme violence inflicted on the planet's people and ecosystems by the deregulated money markets of the City. Straw claimed that "it appears that the protests were linked in some incoherent way to the G8 summit in Cologne. I fail to understand the direct connection." There is, according to Straw, "no excuse whatsoever" for the £2m of damage done to the City on June 18th - but as *The Ecologist* says, "perhaps if he took a good look at the wholly deplorable and plainly pre-meditated damage that is being inflicted on the Earth by minority elements of the business community, he might see things in a different light."

Although only 16 people got nicked on the day, the number has risen to 43 - the latest, a bloke called Thor, found 7 pigs - 2 of them armed - trying to kick his door in. Unfortunately, Lambeth council had just reinforced his door, so when one of the rozzers injured his foot, he let them in, only to be held down while they did his flat over. After being held for 12 hours he was released without charge.

SPOT THE CONTRADICTION

City Police Commissioner Perry Nove claimed there were two main problems: firstly, the cops didn't know what was going on 'cos the protesters unspontaneously refused to tell them; and secondly they published "significant information" on the internet before the event!

SchNEWS in brief

On the same day Great Western Train's were fined a record £1 1/2 million under the Health and Safety Act, New Labour announced plans to semi privatise air traffic control. There were cheers and congratulations from one side of the house, but silence and attacks from the other. Unfortunately for the transport minister Helen Liddell, the cheers all came from the Tories who thanked her for 'sound capitalist and conservative practices', while Labour MP's hurled abuse. Safety service being offered up for the profit motive! One MP stormed "Who knows best? Those who have given us the safest system in the world, or politicians and a bunch of city investors?" ** Respect due to 85 year old Robert Leakey who confronted workmen felling an 85ft sycamore tree prodding them with his umbrella and walking stick and warning "I'm going to damage your equipment". He then hit a workman on the shoulder who subsequently wrestled him to the ground for possession of the stick. Mr Leakey was fined £50 for assault ** Read all about it - "The poll-tax rebellion in Haringey" a booklet recording the history of the campaign that brought down Thatcher. £1 + large SAE to Haringey Solidarity Group, PO Box 2474, London, N8 0HW

SUMMER SOLSTICE 2000

(June 21 2.45 am)

The authorities seem to be getting all steamed up about what might happen at Stonehenge next year. According to the Salisbury Journal a 'reclaim our culture' flyer posted on the internet, is being seen "as possibly a thinly coded invitation for a mass breach of the security cordon". It's so 'thinly coded' SchNews could hardly understand the message - 'Stonehenge 2000 biggest ever free party summer solstice Wednesday June 21st'. The police, who blamed this summer's 'invasion' on, yep you've guessed it "a hardcore of troublemakers", reckon next year "the potential for violence and disorder will be incalculable." Which it no doubt will, if the cops turn up in riot gear with dogs, horses and nasty looking batons again. But don't worry, the Journal informs us that "Already a dedicated intelligence team...based in Devises are monitoring all forms of underground communication...to try to stay one step ahead." Basically, the rub is the authorities aren't too pleased with their four mile exclusion zone being ruled illegal, letting all those oaks get near to the stones, even touch them, without paying a bloody penny. "We need new laws" screams local MP Robert Key because "the police must have adequate powers to prevent a tiny minority running it for everyone else." Now here has SchNEWS heard that one before? There are regular Stonehenge Campaign meetings 2nd Sept and 10th Nov at 99 Torriano Ave, Kentish Town, London NW5 2RX 8 pm (send SAE to same address for their newsletter)

POLICE LOSE THEIR HALO

Halo, the Brighton Homeless and Lonely Organisation has been offering food, shelter, and a bit of love and care for Brighton's homeless for the past seven years. On Tuesday mid-day they were invaded by 80 riot police citing the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act. The entire staff and clients were dragged outside, where they were handcuffed and videoed with details checked to see if they were wanted for any offences. Sick and mentally ill patients were wrestled to the ground and pinned down while the police passed bottles of water amongst themselves to quench themselves in the scorching mid-day heat. The detainees however weren't allowed a drink.

Out of the 40 people, a mere 5 were found in possession of a few bits of cannabis resin. SchNEWS reckons if the cops raided any pub or club on any average night they would get a lot more of a substantial drug seizure.

Happy B'day Tony "Rebel" Green, Punk's not dead!

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

"Woodhill remains an environment that engenders psychosis and despair" John Bowden long term prisoner. As part of International Prisoners' Justice Day, there will be a demonstration to close down the notorious Woodhill control unit in Milton Keynes. Opened last year, prisoners considered too "subversive" to be contained in the mainstream of the prison system can be arbitrarily confined in the units until they "progress" with the behaviour modification programme. This 'modification programme' in reality means breaking the spirit of inmates. As Domenyk Noonan a prisoner at Woodhill explained "Prisoners on A and D wings are treated like animals. They are fed through door hatches, no access to own radios or drawing materials, but hour visits, £2.50 private cash; the cell windows don't open to prevent prisoners talking to one another; 23 hour bang-up, one shower a week. The list is endless."

In reality the control unit, is merely a big stick to make so-called trouble-some prisoners keep in line.

"In truth, Woodhill exists as an instrument of fear and political control over long term prisoners, and is specifically intended to isolate and destroy both individual and collective response". John Bowden.

Demonstrate! Saturday 7th August. Meet 1.30 pm at HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St., Milton Keynes. Contact London Anarchist Black Cross, 27 Old Gloucester St., London, WC1N 3XX email londonabc@hotmail.com * On Tuesday 10th prisoners from around the country will be taking various forms of action in solidarity with the prisoners at Woodhill, including 24 hour work strikes and hunger strikes. Show your solidarity by phoning and faxing Governor, David Yeomans 01908 501999 fax 01908 505 417 John Gaynor is the man responsible for moving prisoners into the control unit. Tell him what you think by phoning 0171 217 6319/fax 0171 217 6664 protesting at the inhuman conditions.

...and finally...

SchNEWS has had to admit that we were wrong about corporations. We had some naive belief that they were more interested in profit than people. However, we've discovered they do care after finding a website sponsored by various corporations that is dedicated to alleviating world hunger. Yes, all you have to do is log on to them, click on the "donate free food" button, and a starving person in the third world will be given a day's supply of food - how caring! Not only that, but you get a free link to the sponsors of the site, who have some lovely products to sell. This week it was all about back pain relief - very useful if you're starving. There's only one problem - you can only do it once a day, or the system may overload! So don't think you can bankrupt these nice corporations by clicking on 1000 times a day (although you could get 1000 friends to do it once a day!). You can do your bit too, by logging on at www.thehungersite.com/index.html

However, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has revealed that between one-third and a half of emergency medical aid shipped to the tent cities of Macedonia and Albania at the height of the Kosovo refugee crisis is useless and will have to be destroyed. Some cynical folk have suggested that the shipments of essential drug supplies (such as lip salve, haemorrhoid ointment, and anti-smoking packs) donated by pharmaceutical companies were done so they could write off their gifts as tax breaks, and were not intended to help the refugees. What a disgrace, as we at SchNEWS now realise that multinationals only have our best interests at heart!

disclaimer.....

Schnews warns all readers not to play with their genes otherwise...oh my god everything's blurring, it's all going dark... Arrrrggghhh!

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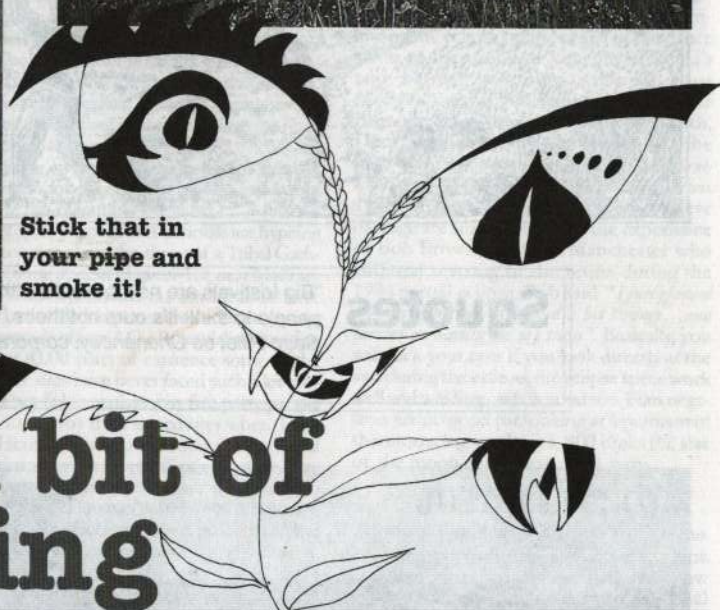
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Pic: Nick Cobbing



Pic: Ian Hunter



Stick that in
your pipe and
smoke it!

Doing a bit of gardening



Pic: Ian Hunter

TOTAL ECLIPSE of the SUN

98%

11.20am

August 11 1999
Seen from Wolstonbury Hill on
the South Downs, Sussex
luckily, not obscured by clouds.
But will the chance of a
SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK
be obscured by bureaucracy?



Squotes

"Big festivals are now covered with advertising which leads people to think it's ours not theirs."

Sean Pillot de Chenencey, corporate marketing consultant.

Sunday Business 19/9/99



Watching the Eclipse in 3D - Solipse Festival, Hungary



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BLACKED OUT AND MASHED UP

RA GOD OF
THE SUN...
BRINGER OF
SOLAR POWER



Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?

Friday 6th August 1999

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

Issue 223

Free/Donation

RURAL PARANOIA

Cornwall is bracing itself for the worst pillaging and raping since the Vikings. Police have issued warnings of a New Age Invasion complete with funny hats and free-love! Landowners have been advised to turn down any requests to camp as "kindliness can be costly", so if some harmless hippie should meander onto their land they ought to block all routes, alert neighbours through the cunning early warning scheme and document all vehicles using photographic and video evidence, noting damage caused to crops or land, so...remember your country code and follow the SchNEWS free-party guidelines, available from our stall at various festivals. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary assure us they are liaising with other forces, presumably they mean police forces not spiritual forces.

* If you were planning to check out Sasha and Digweed at 'Totality' you may be amused to hear that licencees will permit camping and liquor but **NO DANCING!** Dancing? That's outrageous, will you debauched bunch of degenerates stop at nothing? So if you're looking for an alternative, SchNEWS has received confirmation from NASA that the place to be to experience totality is Iran-yeah man, the infamous party place where you can expect to be welcomed with open arms by the old Ayatollahs. Forget the balaclavas but all you loose Western women had better remember your veils. Turns out that the South West has a groovier 45%-60% chance of cloud cover which will only enhance the visuals for psychedelic enthusiasts. Cornwall's eclipse co-ordinator ("move the Moon twenty centimetres to the left, please") Gage Williams claims that a little cloud cover will make the eclipse effects more stunning "Those patiently waiting suddenly

saw a circular sharp-edged shadow racing towards them like an express train. There was also the optical illusion where the clouds looked as though they were falling on them." What was he on?

* The Friends of the Lizard, a crack team of party poopers, and the main opposition group to The Lizard Festival, have said they are investigating every possible avenue to stop the festival despite it already getting a licence. They are organising an around-the-clock photographic and video monitoring team from inside and outside the event. How quaint!

* English Heritage and councils are hyping their concern about the threat of a Tribal Gathering taking place at Men-an-Tol, near Madron. More than 30,000 acres in Penwith alone have been barricaded to prevent vehicles stopping. Countryside officer, Mike Rosendale claims that in their 4,000 years of existence some of the neolithic sites have never faced such a level of risk. They fail to explain why free party people need to destroy their sacred sites when English Heritage (not to mention industry and roads) do it much more effectively as we have seen through their recent treatment of the Woodhenge at Holme (SchNEWS 213). Makes you wonder whether the real problem is that such gatherings are free, bringing zero revenue to those who like to believe they 'own' these sites. Barriers are also being erected around the Merry Maiden's stones, on Viscount Falmouth's land, and the Boscawen-Un stone circles. Codenamed Operation Obscure, Devon and Cornwall Police have advised landowners to block routes leading to their private land with boulders in an attempt to discourage illicit raves. Anyone who's still bemused by all this Eclipse business check-out www.firstbyteuk.co.uk/eclipse/

BLINDING PARTY!

So you thought you would be experiencing the eclipse on the chaos of the dance floor, to the sound of your favourite d.j's and bands, grooving with all your friends...not if you follow the advice of Britain's chief medical officer of health, Liam Donaldson who recommends the best way to view the eclipse is "on television"-well hold on to your party hats, what a crazy guy! His fears about the risks of eye damage are substantiated by the experience of Bob Brown, 35, from Manchester who suffered scarring of the retina during the 1984 partial eclipse. Bob said "I just glanced up at sun because it looked a bit strange...and carried on waiting for my train". Basically, you will fuck your eyes if you look directly at the sun during the eclipse, the eclipse specs work well and welding glass is good too. Film negatives are no good for looking at a permanent thermonuclear explosion, 400 times the size of the moon, 90 million miles away.

JUST SAY 'NO'!

* Mr A Robbins, of Truro, wrote to his local newspaper asking for the eclipse to be cancelled. He said that now Cornwall is now finally on the national and international map(!), Cornish people should be content with what has already been achieved and not be too greedy. He added: "Indeed, we might need to move heaven and earth: so be it. We go Objective One status, surely we can do this too. Whatever they do in Devon and the remainder of those European parts, let Cornwall have no eclipse whatever. Cornwall should lead the way!" Maybe we could all sign a petition and send it to our maker.

PARTY AND PROTEST

JULY 31st Gladstonebury one day fest in aid of Brighton Lifeline for Kosova, bands, performers, DJs, BBQ, kids stuff. 3pm - 1am, L2 Gladstone Pub, Lewes Rd, Brighton.
AUGUST 1st Sunsplash 99 legendary reggae event www.reggaeunsplash.co.uk 1-2nd Ecotopia nr. Timisoara, Romania solar eclipse info EYFA, Postbus 94115, 1090 GC Amsterdam, The Netherlands Tel + 31 20 665 7743 2-8th European Animal Rights gathering Oslo, Norway www.noahonline.org 1-15 Moonshadow Eclipse Family Camp, Cornwall 0181 941 6277 1-21st Green Futures Eclipse Family Camp - a snip at £200 01736 788926 3rd Hackney Solidarity Group are campaigning against the housing benefit delays since the council housing benefit office was taken over by private firm IT-NET. Public Meeting 6.30pm at The Old Fire Station, Leswin Road, N16. For info. HSG Contact HSG, 136-138 Kingsland High St., London E8 2NS Pager: 07654 513 180. 6th Hiroshima SayIn Preston there will be a vigil at Navy Recruitment Centre, Fishergate Rd, City Centre 3-4pm, followed by an evening of films about nuclear deviance at St. Wilfred's Church Hall, City Centre 7.30 pm "Organised by Bread Not Bombs Ploughshares Support Group. Ciaran 07930-961842 email ciaronx@hotmail.com 6-8th The Big Chill 'Enchanted Garden 99', Salisbury £73 Tel: 0181 372 9735 www.bigchill.co.uk 6-13th Zac's Tipi's Total Eclipse Camp (family friendly) 01558 685682 6-12th Megadog Essential Total Eclipse Festival, Nr.Plymouth £95 Tel: 0181 806 6242 www.megadog.net 6-15th Sunshadow Festival, Torpoint, Cornwall £85 Tel: 01502 230387 www.sunshadow.com SchNews RECOMMENDED TOP ECLIPSE FESTIVAL! The Lizard Festival, 7-14th August, Moonhilly Down, Cornwall £125 A Celebration of the Spiritual Significance of the Eclipse organised by a crew of idealists who have been involved in the festival scene since the 70's. Lizard are committed to supporting the local economy. The site will be supplied with locally produced food, with not a shitty burger van in sight. Tel: 0906 2102376 www.lizard.net Fri 6-15th Rainbow Circle Astrology and Solar Eclipse Camp, Devon Tel 01452 013505 7-12th Eclipse Party, Cornwall Tel: 0161-860 6472 £25 www.splintered.demon.co.uk/eclipse/ Fri7 Close Down Woodhill Prison Control Unit (part of the Prisoners' Justice Day demonstrations, see article) Sat7-15th No One Is Illegal Border Camp - no racism and fortress Europe. The camp will be where the German, Polish and... (cont)

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such borders meet. Contact Forschungsstelle Flucht und Migration, Gneisenaustraße 2a, D-10961 Berlin www.contrast.org/borders/camp **Critical Mass** Swansea. This and every first Sat. of the month. Meet 12.15pm @ The University & 12.30pm @ The Guildhall. www.members.tripod.co.uk/swansea/ **9-15th Solipse**, solar eclipse festival Ozora, Hungary. Tickets 0171 428 0127 www.solipse.com **7th - 14th** National week of action at Burger bars across the country. **VIVA!** 01273 777688 (on the 7th there will be a demo outside Burger King nr. Clocktower 10.30 am) **7th The Festival Live**, Hillfields Animal Sanctuary, Greenhill, Blackwell, Nr Bromsgrove, Worcs. **7-14th** Cornish Eclipse Stone Festival, nr. Lostwithiel **7th Organic Gardening Weekend** - Henry Doubleday Research Association 01203 303517 **9th Nagasaki Day** **9-16th If I had a hammer**, Trident Lehighshares 2000 Disarmament Camp at Coulport Trident missile base, Scotland Tel 01603 611953 www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/ **10th International Prisoners' Justice Day** (see article) **11th Total Solar Eclipse Devon/Cornwall** 11.11 am **11th Eclipse Gathering** for Travellers in Romania organised by the 'International Sunclipse Itinerant Society' (ISIS) : www.online.de/home/klins or contact: FrankMelhop@yahoo.com **11th Tribal Gathering**, Men-an-Toll, Cornwall FREE (See Eclipse snips) **11-26th European Rainbow Gathering**, Hungary For info send an international reply coupon to RIC, Brandaris 321, 1503 CE, Zaandam, Holland 12 Day of action against the glorious Twelfth (protest against the start of the grouse shooting season) Hunt Sabs Association 01273 622827 **13th Hackney Solidarity Group** Demonstration, 12 noon at IT-NET's offices, Dorothy Lodgekin House, Morning Lane, E8. Tel: 0181 374 5027 Web: <http://home.clara.net/hsg/hhome.html> Email: hsg@clara.net **13 Abbey Park Festival** (Licester), Tel: 0116 2673196 **13-14th Cropredy** (Fairport Convention) Festival, Oxfordshire Tel: 01869 338853 (good if you're into beards) **Sat 14th Inglethorpe Gay Pride FREE and wicked 01273 730562** **15th National Vegan Festival**, 10am-7pm, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London Tel: 0181 670 9585 **15th Smokey Bears Picnic**, 2 pm Southsea Common, Portsmouth FREE! The picnic now in its sixth year, is the largest and most established regular legislation event in the UK challenging the countries ridiculous cannabis laws. **15-13th Natty Gathering** near Lampeter, S.Wales. Exploring practical solutions to sustainable living. Tel: 01273 834995 Email: nattytrust@gn.apc.org Web: www.gn.apc.org/nattytrust **18-23rd Earth First!** Summer Gathering in East Anglia. An opportunity for activists involved in or interested in environmental direct action to come together to learn new skills and plan campaigns with hundreds of workshops and discussions. Contact 0113 262 9365 www.eco-action.org/gathering **19-20th Festival of the Unknown**, Hackney (of course), London Tel 0181509 3353 **19-23th**, 1999 in Tabor, Czech Republic. Cesta presents 'At Home Abroad' An arts festival whose goal is to explore and collect reflections on adopted cultures from Im/E/Migrants, Refugees, Extra-legal and Resident Aliens, and Other making their homes on foreign soil. CESTA Novakova 387, Tabor 39001, Czech Republic Tel: (420) 361 258 004 e-mail: cesta@mbx.vol.cz <http://www.cesta.cz> **21st Save the Shamrock Monkeys**. National Demo noon outside Shamrock, at Henfield Road, Small Dole, West Sussex. To offer or request transport call 07020 936956. **21-22st** V99 Weston Park, Staffs **27th** Tel: 01142 554973 **21-22 V99** Chelmsford **27th** Tel: 01142 554973; **23-26th** second conference of the **People's Global Action** against 'free' trade and the World Trade Organisation. Hosted by the Karnataka State Farmers Association in Bangalore, India. www.wagp.org **27-29th** Reading Festival **27th** if you must Tel: 0181 961 5490 **27-30th** Exodus festival, Long Meadow Farm, Sundun Rd., Charlton, Beds FREE 01582 508936 **28th Critical Mass Brighton** meet top of Montpelier Cresc, by bottle bank @12pm, **28-30th Leeds Festival** Tel: 0181 961 5490 www.readingfestival.com **29-30th** Notting Hill Carnival, FREE **30th Sutton Green Fair**, Carshalton Park, Ruskin Rd., Carshalton, Surrey. 10.30 am - 8 pm 0181 647 7706

SEPTEMBER 1-3rd Groundswell's 3rd Annual Self Help Forum FREE! The Ponderosa, Crookesmoor, Sheffield. The only UK wide event for homeless people creating their own solutions. Contact: National Homeless Alliance, 5-15 Cromer St, London, WC1H 8LS Tel: 0171 833 2071 www.oneworld.org/groundswell/ **3-5th Building Sustainable Economies**, Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys. SY20 9AZ Tel: 01654702400 www.cat.org.uk **6th The Land Is Ours Autumn Gathering** @ 'Flying Pig Farm' Nr Stroud, Gloucestershire. (a long-term rural land squat planned straight after the gathering) Tel: 01865 722 016/0585 132080 www.oneworld.org/tio/ **4th Human Genetics** briefing day, central London. Contact: The Campaign Against Human Genetic Engineering, PO Box 6313, London N16 0DY. Email: cahge@globalnet.co.uk **4th Worthing Green Fair** 12 noon - 11 pm Field of Hope, Beach House Green, Brighton Rd. Worthing seafront 01903 210351 **9 11 year Solar Cycle Festival** at Glastonbury Tor (9/9/99 - how significant) **11-12th 12th National Conference**, London 0171 7002393 **18th Demonstration against Hillgrove cat vivisection Farm**. Meet 12 noon. Details see 31st July. **All-Night Vigil** 10pm-7am. **25th International Rabbit Day!** We kid you not. The Rabbit Charity, PO box 23698, London N8 0WS. **7-21st The Colour Of Justice**. The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry UK Tour. A dramatised reconstruction of key moments in the 6 month murder inquiry. For tour details ring 0171 636 750 **10-12th Loony Left Weekend** "It's time to stop being sad and start going mad" Three Days to change the world culminating in the loony left football cup 11-12th starting 11am £15 per team payable to Between the Lines, Box 32 136, Kingsland High St. London E8 2NS Tel: 0171 787 9510 **11th Norwich claim The Streets Party** 07931 308091 **11th National demo at Wickham Animal Research Laboratories** 12 noon meet in Mill Lane car park Tel 01705 08516 **12-15th** The American Association of Petroleum Geologists are having their annual shindig at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham with the inspiring title: **'Oil & Gas in the 21st Century-Dawn of the Third Age.'** Highlights include a talk from Sir John Browne (Group Chief Executive, BP/amoco) 'Oil, Gas and the Environment.' Nice to know that the environment makes it into the top three priorities of the fossil fuel business. SchNEWS reckons someone should organise a little reminder that there may not be room in the Third Age for fossil fuels. For more info on the conference, see: <http://www.aapg.org/uk99/uk99.html> **14-17th** All your top torturers will be at the **Defence Systems Equipment International arms exhibition** in Chertsey, held on Ministry of Defence land it will be the largest exhibition of its kind ever in the UK with over 20,000 delegates, buyers and officials attending. Unfortunately, despite the taxpayer forking out £1/4 million to host the event the public aren't allowed in. Previous government guests include delegates from such torture-friendly countries as Indonesia, Turkey and Nigeria. Hey what happened to our ethical arms policy? Campaign Against The Arms Trade will be organising demonstrations throughout the event 11 Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London, N4 3HQ Tel 0171 281 0297 www.gn.apc.org/caat **23rd Autumn Equinox BST 24-26th Equinox Party**, Rustlers Valley, The Free State, South Africa. Tel 0027 519333939 www.rustlers.co.za

OCTOBER 15-17th 'Gathering Visions Gathering Strength' III, Bringing together people from different movements and communities to explore self organising for radical social change. GVGS III c/o yorkshire CND, 22 Edmunds St, Bradford, BD5 0BH. 07971 302412. www.gvgs3.freeseerve.co.uk/ **18 to 23 Aberdeen Alternative Festival** <http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/abfest> **16th World-wide day of action against McDonalds**. McLabel Support campaign: 0171 713 1269. Adopt-A-Store Network: 0115 958 5666 **16th Anarchist Bookfair**, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London. 0191 479249 **17-24th One World Week**. Campaign opportunities on theme of "Re-forming our Futures". P O Box 2555, Reading, RG1 4XW. Ph: 0118 939 4933. oneworldweek@gn.apc.org **18th** Marks the 15th anniversary of **Veggies catering company** to be celebrated with parties and picnics. A book is to be published, if you've got any submissions send them to 180 Mansfield Rd., Nottingham, NG1 3HW

NOVEMBER 1st Fox Hunt Sabbing Season begins. Contact Hunt Sab Association 01273 622827 **27th International No Shop Day**. Contact enough! One World Centre, 6 Mount St., Manchester, M2 5NS **27th - Seattle, USA** is the place for the next big shindig for the world's power elite. SchNEWS around the 'shadowy organisation' **The World Trade Organisation** (see issues 206 & 220) meet to plan the next wave of free trade with their mission to 'write the constitution of a single global economy'. Protests are planned, but details are vague at the moment, but we know International Forum on Globalisation will be having a 'Teach In' on why Globalisation is bad, a few days before also in Seattle. Contact IFG, 155 Pacific Ave, San Francisco, CA 9409 USA, www.ifg.org * "Demystifying the WTO" Booklet available upon request. Contact A SEED, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands. Tel: +31 20 668 2236 Web: www.antenna.nl/aseed

JANUARY 2000 1st End of the World. We survived Nostradamus Day, but if you believe half the emails SchNEWS get, the end is definitely coming in the form of the Millennium Bug (see SchNEWS 191) It's something to do with embedded chips, apparently, so if you've got a potato wedge stuck up yer arse, stock up on baked beans and prepare to spend the new Millennium in a bunker with a bunch of paranoid squaddies back from Somalia to deal with the crisis. On the brighter side you make it through all the hype why not head (?) along to the **SATANIC ORGY 1/1/00** and start the millenium with a bang!! Brighton Parish Church. Please bring condoms and a partner.

PS SchNEWS is having 2 weeks off cos we fucking deserve it!!! so buy us a beer at the eclipse

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Friday 20th August 1999

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

Issue 224 Free/Donation

ANARCHY IN THE UK

'A picture is developing of a cabal of anarchist ringleaders who ally themselves to protest movements and subvert them for their own ends'

(Evening Standard, August 11)

What is it about anarchists that makes everyone love them so much? While the solar eclipse has been looming, their image has been stock fare for news editors and police who have kept them paramount upon the nation's consciousness, with word of their suspected activities on everyone's lips.

Anarchist violence erupted at an eclipse site yesterday as police fought to close down an illegal rave' barked the Express on August 11. What has stirred the blood of this particular tabloid? Apparently, 'Officers believe members of the anarchist group Reclaim the Streets - who played a key role in the riots in London in June - are on the site'. June 18's memorable day of action against London's financial centre, is still playing on some people's minds. And the trouble seems to be spreading, with:

'Anarchists 'hijacking' GM food protest groups', proclaims the Evening Standard (Aug 11), identifying 'links between organisers of the GM food protests and those responsible for the 18 June riots'. No shit, Sherlock. But the career of these anarchists seems not only to have broadened; now, they're mobile:

'None of the most ancient stones in Penwith could be desecrated and vandalised by travelling anarchists prior to next week's total eclipse' we read in The Scotsman (Aug 5). Again, it is 'The same groups of anarchists who have recently rioted in central London (who) are on their way to target the Men an Tol near Morvah'. Might they not be tired after utilising anti-GM groups and raving all night? Apparently not; as, reports the paper, those wacky anarchists are getting a bit arty: 'We believe that they intend to disrupt the eclipse celebrations at the venue... by painting the holed stone white to make it look like a Polo-Mint'.

Phew! You can see why, in the words of one Cornwall resident reported in The West Briton: 'People are scared to go out of their doors. People will protect their property in any way they can. The police seem to have no conception of how scared everyone is out here.'

On the other hand, the mass action and street carnival that London saw on June 18 was aimed at hurting some of the major financial institutions based in the banking district - hardly a threat to yer average Jo(e), who stands to gain as much 'trickled-down' from the selling of futures as did Bob Cratchit. So, from whence such terror? If, as the Evening Standard claims, 'A picture is developing of a cabal

of anarchist ringleaders' - just who is painting it? The police have recently released to the press a number of stills from CCTV footage of the riot, which, apparently, a crack team of City of London and Metropolitan officers have been busily scrutinising since the day. Their analysis, claim the police in a recent report, points to a number of individuals orchestrating the rioting.

Police 'have pinpointed six smartly-dressed men as the ringleaders' babbles the Sun of August 10. The Mail lets on that 'The ringleaders carried mobile phones and could be seen huddled in corners apparently communicating with each other', before offering the predictable revelation that 'a number of rioters drank huge quantities of alcohol and took drugs.' The Evening Standard of the day before adds, darkly: 'One even carried a copy of the Financial Times.'

If anyone who wore a suit must have been in charge of the riot, you'd better not make too much effort dressing up for Hallowe'en this year, lest you're held responsible for the entire festival. By dint of similar reasoning, the police note that some funds went into hiring the vans and soundsystem for the event, and that someone involved in Reclaim the Streets has a pot of wedge from his rich folks. Ergo: he funded the do.

The police seem to be just the kind of people whose salacious minds lap up tabloid sensationalism - and take it literally. You can imagine their team, huddled wide-eyed over monitor screens, whispering to one another like children telling ghost stories around a campfire. Look - there's that 'man in a suit with a mobile phone who called the shots in the City riot' (The Independent). Well, someone at SchNEWS knows someone, whose sister's boyfriend's cousin's uncle plays darts with the person in that photo; and he never actually carried a mobile. These kids seem to convince themselves of more-or-less what they want to believe, before passing down the hot gossip to the public.

For theirs is the same kind of Playschool logic as makes for damn good copy, as amply proven by the quantity of press coverage generated by the police report. The police are by no means innocent of this, when that same report of theirs announces their intent 'to achieve long-term attrition' against direct action groups. It's an informal conspiracy which is convenient for all sides; the media get some great stories, the police and government to engineer a climate favourable to their ends.

The promise of a new police campaign against grassroots activists

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For growling! A protester at the Smokey Bears Picnic was arrested and charged with harassment after growling at a police dog!

For mooing! A pantomime cow was arrested and charged with harassment and threatening behaviour after going into a McDeath's in Gloucester and saying MOO!!! The front and back of the cow were held for some 6 hours, and are in Gloucester Magistrates Court, 9.45am 13th September. In the meantime the cops are keeping the skin as evidence.

chimes strangely well with a recent Home Office consultation paper, seeking to increase police powers to target 'animal rights, and, to a lesser extent environmental rights activists'. The key shift here is semantic; at once redefining 'violence' to include 'serious disruption', while loosening the category of 'terrorism' from one purely denoting certain types of violence against people, to the US definition of 'serious violence against persons or property, or the threat to use such violence'. The meaning of words is as much a site of struggle as the fields or the streets, as well anyone might remember, who next gets nicked with banner in hand, and labelled 'terrorist'.

Meanwhile, who reports on all the other groups around the world who took action on June 18; the unemployed, the unions, the landless and indigenous groups, who stand to get at least as surely screwed by the free trade policies of the G8 summit which then took place? In fact, there was one dissenting press article, which spoke of June 18 in terms of IMF policy and the 'social and environmental breakdown [which] is occurring across the world' (The Guardian Aug 14). But, you see, we know the author; glance at the name and you'll see an ageing ex-superstar comedian from north London. (And the article all, presumably, inspired by literature he gleaned from the info-stalls we did at a benefit gig he put on for us last year).

One other paper, at least, puts forward a calm voice of reason. 'Anarchist fears groundless', says the Cornish Guardian on August 12, assuring us: 'Fears that troublemakers would descend on Penzance on Monday for an "anarchist jamboree" proved unfounded.'

* An Italian national is currently being held after being arrested on June 18. He has limited English, but would appreciate support. Write to: Onofrio Lo Verso, TC3014, HMP Rochester, 1 Ford Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3SQ

IT'S NO TOKE !

A crack team of Hampshire's finest made over 100 arrests at last Sunday's Smokey Bears Picnic on Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Arrests made on the day included, bongo playing (SchNEWS can't really argue with that one after many sleepless festival nights), growling at a police dog and of course the heinous crime of possessing cannabis. Inspector Kevin Whaller of Hampshire police defended the police action as "positive policing" while Superintendent Martyn Powell, said "the number of arrests justified the large police presence."

However Portsmouth's well known subversive publication "The News" has attacked the police actions in their editorial. "The actions of the police at this years rally make a mockery of last years decision to ignore drug offences at the same event." So what brought around this U-turn in police policy? SchNews has tracked down a copy of the literature that inspired Superintendent Powell and his boyz. And feel we must warn readers of the true facts about cannabis

* Marijuana is a drug. A drug which affects the mind. And don't be fooled into thinking that just one toké, sorry, hit - is harmless. Many cases of psychopathology have been reported after a single dose.

* Recently, in quest for bigger thrills, some have injected marijuana directly into the bloodstream

* Many myths regarding marijuana have suggested that the cannabis drug can trigger sexual debauchery. During marijuana intoxication a persons control of his/her mind is loosened, breaks down moral barriers and contributes to immortality.

* Studies have shown that most people who take drugs have a somewhat poorly organised personality to begin with that's why they take drugs.

All the above were taken from *New Facts About Marijuana*, Ambassador College Press, California.

TURKISH EARTHQUAKE

As the toll continues to rise in Turkey, the blame for many of the earthquake deaths has been put firmly at the feet of dodgy house builders. Aerial t.v. footage shows many apartment blocks which collapsed only metres away from others which remained intact. According to the Architects Chamber of Turkey more than half of all buildings in Turkey disregard construction regulations and are prone to collapse in an earthquake. The builders are often people with political connections who put profit above safety, while corrupt officials look the other way. Metin Munit writing in *The Financial Times* said "What building laws there are are virtually unenforceable because those who break them are politically too powerful." 6 years ago a cabinet minister was even fired because he tried to end building trade corruption. Turkey has suffered a deadly earthquake on average every 18 months this century.

BLOWN AWAY AT THE ECLIPSE

At an eclipse party at Summer Court between Truro and Bodmin attended by 1000+ people, 20 riot cops attempted to shut down one of the 5 sound systems and take it away, while more of their kind sat waiting in vans. The crowd didn't take kindly to this disruption of their fun, and replied with bricks, spades etc. Out came the CS gas, with a woman and her young daughter getting sprayed. After a brief stand-off the press showed up, possibly preventing events escalating even further. Crowd highlights apparently included a woman giving a man a blowjob in front of the old bid, but SchNEWS don't swallow that story.

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SchNEWS in brief

We're sure you've all heard - **Hillgrove cat vivisection farm** has finally been closed down because the owner is retiring (yeah, right) Congratulations all round. Anyone for Shamrock? ** Home Secretary Jack Straw's in trouble after remarks he made on a Birmingham radio show. Commenting after 100 armed police turned up at an **Irish traveller's wedding**, Straw complained "there has been rather too much toleration of travellers...travellers seem to think that it's perfectly OK for them to cause mayhem in an area, to go burgling, stealing, breaking into vehicles, defecating in the doorways of firms and so on..." The matter has now been referred to the police and Commission for Racial Equality. Ever heard of the Stephen Lawrence enquiry, Jack? ** Meanwhile SchNEWS can reveal the reasons for last weekends trouble down in Kent between asylum seekers and local residents - a misunderstanding of different traditions. This includes according to one local councillor "children playing in the street because they believe it's the acceptable way". Whatever next! Don't they know roads are for cars? ** Maybe they should check out Broughton Road in West Ealing where pedal powered toddlers joined an open air tea party (let's give the more up-beat name of say, *reclaim the streets*). Ealing is one of nine areas that will pilot the "home zone" project, which puts the rights of and their children before cars with 10 mph speed limits, traffic calming measures, whole streets even pedestrianised. The idea comes from the Netherlands, where there are 6,000 home zones.

** A National Non Payment Collective has just been launched to help co-ordinate the fight back against tuition fees around the country. A briefing pack will be available soon from non-payment@onelist.com. Meanwhile its been estimated that students owe up to £15 million in unpaid fees! ** **Spoilt brat** Charlotte Townsend, reputed to be Britain's second richest woman, has pulled out of an agreement to give Chesil Beach in Dorset to English Nature so it could become a National Nature Reserve. Townsend pulled out of the deal to hand over the 17 mile shingle ridge in protest at Labour plans to ban fox hunting. ** **The farce continues**. Less than 10 months after opening, the much loved Newbury bypass is to be closed for two months to allow the top surface to be replaced. The estimated bill is £2.5 million and will be met by the contractors. ** **Rob Newman** is doing a benefit gig for Sea Action, at the Komedia Tuesday 31st August. Tickets from the Brighton Peace & Environment Centre, £5-10 (pay what you can afford but remember it's for a good cause) ** Last week people dressed as bats swooped down on the Cubana Bar in London, which serves Cuban food and drink. However, Bacardi have paid them £12 000 to only stock their rum, despite the fact that **Bacardi rum** hasn't been produced in Cuba since they were kicked out during the Revolution. For an info-pack on Bacardi's dodginess and their manipulation and support of the US 40 year blockade of Cuba, contact Rock Around the Blockade c/o BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX Tel: 0171 837 1688. ** A homeless "tent city" has been evicted after just three days by police. The Safe Park for homeless people was Ontario Coalition Against Poverty answer to the city's increasing homelessness problem and the police's hard-line against the city poor. A study in January described Toronto's 26,000 homeless as a national crisis. Despite this, the mayor called the park protestors "professional bums," and police officers have been working overtime in recent weeks to purge the city of squeegee kids, panhandler and homeless. e mail <ocap@tao.ca> www.welfarewatch.toronto.on.ca/ ** **Bath Reclaim The Streets** 11th September, meet 12 noon The Circus.

121 FINALLY EVICTED

The 121 Centre in Brixton has finally been evicted after 150 riot police backed by an armed squad and helicopter sealed off Raiton Rd and adjoining streets before bursting in through the first floor window. Within minutes the 8 occupiers had been removed and the council went about trashing and barricading the building. Lambeth leader Jim Dickson said "We are systematically clearing up the borough and dealing with the legacy of the past. Our action today sends out a very clear message to the squatters - the council will keep taking action over squatted property until there is none left."

The Centre, which had been occupied for 18 years is the latest victim in Lambeth Council's plans to gentrify Brixton. Used as an advice centre for squatters as well as a cafe, party venue and printing office, the building will now be auctioned off to line some fat cats pocket.

OH, THE HOCKLEY-COKEY

Welcome to the topsy turvy world of Hockley near Southend, Essex. North Thames Ltd, who sponsor the Essex Wildlife Trust, want to build 66 luxury homes on land sited next to an important wildlife reserve. The company butter up the local council with some serious financial incentives (between £750 000 and £2 million) and get them to release greenbelt land they last year said would never be built on. The money also helps them forget about their recently published Biodiversity Plan which they said would help defend local wildlife.

A protest camp has now been set up. Respect due to the kids who've sorted it out. The Council reckon it's disgraceful that 10-12 year old kids are camping out (even tho' the average age is actually 14). What should they be doing - sitting at home staring at computer screens?

And there's more - the Southend Relief Road which is going round Hockley, may link to the A130, site of another protest camp, Gorse Wood at Rettendon, whose crew have been helping out in Hockley. There's a "Save the Woods" march and picnic on Sat. 28th August. For details contact: 0831 678635/01702 206181.

IN DEEP WATER

The infamous Narmada Dam in India has been raised to 85m, threatening 200,000 people's homes. As part of the Satyagrahi (non-violent mass action), protesters refused to leave when water from the dam flooded their valley. Apparently, the "Satyagrahis were facing the increasing water while the police were making merry at the higher water and some indulging in the liquor as it was the 'gagan amavasya' (dirty first-moon day)." When the police sobered up, 62 protesters were dragged out of their homes, beaten and arrested. For info on Narmada and the other 3,165 dams being built check out www.ens-news.com

...and finally...

A panel of SchNEWS marketing consultants (most of them disaffected ex-Saatchi and Saatchi high-flyers) have been reflecting on how to make anarchists seem more exciting, sexy, more attractive for today's youth. These are just some of their ideas:

* Good old anarchism. As true today as it always been.

* 'Here's Gail Porter, with some letters from you about New Anarchism'

* 'Anarchy - won't dry your Ph balanced like a great taste all your family will love, even with problem hair. That's the Anarchist promise.'

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers that like dope, New Labour can induce mild euphoria, a distorted sense of reality, and tendency to talk crap in a meaningful way. When under influence, everything takes on added significance despite the fact that nothing's happenin'.

Narmada Dam, India



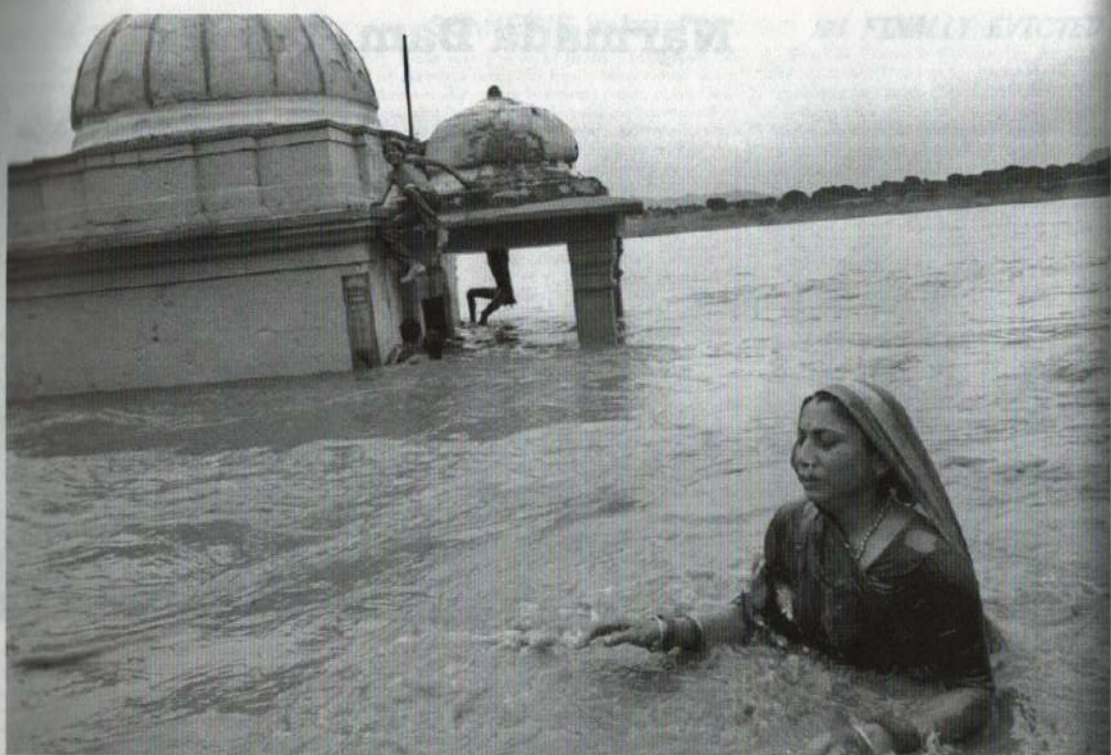
Praying at the half submerged ghats at Maheshwar town, Madhya Pradesh, India, August, 1999

The Narmada Dam development project will build thirty large dams, 135 medium and 3000 small dams along the river, controlling the waters of the Narmada and its tributaries - all at a cost of \$11.4 billion.

Anti-dams activists also wish to raise awareness of the environmental impact of dam building. They believe the water and electricity can be provided to Gujarat and other regions through alternative technologies, which will be more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

They also argue that the state is using the "emotive power of thirst" to hide its real aim of promoting big business. Sugar mills, five star hotels, golf courses and petro-chemical plants are springing up at the mouth of the main canal, attracted by the promise of plentiful water.





Women bathe and pray next to the half submerged temple at Khotewar, a village on the banks of the Narmada River. The temple was in use until last year but has since been submerged due to a rise in the water level, a direct result of the building of and raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, India August 1999



Anti-dam activists and tribal women prepare to drown themselves as the monsoon waters rise rapidly, flooding land and homes in Domkhedi village, on the bank of the Narmada river, Maharashtra, India. August 1999.



Illustration by the artist of the year 1998. Image taken from the book 'The Art of the Year 1998'.

Friday 27th August 1999

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

Issue 225

Free/Donation

SEEDY BUSINESS

"Corporations want to control our food from the seed to the spoon, effectively privatising our future food security. We need to resist them and reclaim our food and our environment back into common ownership." Joyce Hambling
Women's Environmental Network

"We are seeing an unprecedented consolidation of control of food in the hands of a tiny elite of corporate directors and senior executives." John Madeley, UK Food Group

Activists who've been busy de-contaminating genetic crops sites will be rubbing shoulders with yer more traditional allotment growers at an alternative conference next month in Cambridge. The three day event titled 'Seeds of Resistance', will be running counter to another event, same time, same town. The counter-conference is for people to share ideas in the fight against the global agri-business monster and the development of positive alternatives, while blowing a big raspberry at the corporate bastards down the road.

So just who is down the road?

A range of sinister lobbying organisations, like the International Seed Federation, the ISTA and various other CLFA's (that's Confusing Four Letter Acronyms...) who are getting together for the World Seed Conference, where the world's biggest seed corporations are meeting to discuss "the globalisation of the economy, development of new techniques, regulatory evolution(!), and the increasing impact of environmental concerns." The heavily greenwashed blurb for this corporate shindig notes that "irrespective of technical merits, promising innovations can prompt suspicion." No, really?

Just 10 corporations including Du Pont, Monsanto, Novartis, Astra/Zeneca and Aventis now control 32% of the commercial seed market - and the figure is rising all the time. Those very same bio-tech giants that are trying to get us all to eat genetically modified food, have been steadily buying up all your favourite garden seed companies. Because, as Alfonso Romo Garza, owner of one of those corporations 'Empressa La Moderna' put it "Seeds are software. And we have the seeds"

Over the past hundred years a massive percentage of our food bio-diversity has been lost. In the USA, since the turn of the century, 95% of small family farms have disappeared, and along with them 90% of all fruit and vegetable varieties. On the eve of the new millennium, farming is characterised by mas-

sive farms producing crops that are designed to feed massive food processing plants, not people. So should we be worried? Joyce Hambling of the Women's Environmental Network (WEN) clearly thinks so "Bio-diversity is the key to future food security. We need a broad range of varieties of each kind of crop - one variety might be resistant to a certain pest, another to a certain disease. There are countless examples of whole years' crops of rice, coffee, potatoes, maize and wheat being wiped out because just one variety was grown, yet big business still hasn't learnt."

As Bob Sherman from the UK's main organic gardening organisation the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) points out "The risk of concentrating so much commercial power into the hands of one corporate empire is that we then become subject to the dreams and aspirations of a very few people. Do they care about biodiversity? Not as much, I suspect, as they do about profit."

Or, as Robert Fraley from Monsanto puts it more bluntly "What you are seeing is not just a consolidation of seed companies, it's really a consolidation of the entire food chain." And SchNEWS reckons people should find that hard to swallow.

* **Seeds of Resistance** runs from 6 - 8th September in Cambridge. More info from WEN, 87 Worship St., London, EC2A 2BE. Tel 0171 247 3327 www.gn.apc.org/wen

* One man who will be attending both conferences is the highly respected Pat Mooney, from the Rural Advancement Foundation International. A passionate defender of biodiversity, he has worked for over a decade to make big businesses accountable. Check out RAFI's excellent website www.rafi.org

* Hungry for Power - the impact of transnational corporations on food security' is an excellent publication from the UK Food Group, PO Box 100, London, SE1 7RT. Tel 0171 523 2369 www.ukfg.org.uk

Here's some people fighting the global seed-swallowing monster

There are quite a few seed exchanges around the countries offering unusual or outlawed vegetable seeds. The most well known is the HDRA Heritage Seed Library, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG. Tel 01203 303517 www.hdra.org.uk. (send a large SAE and ask for a copy of their catalogue).

From Penzance to Inverness farmers markets have mushroomed from just one in 1997 to over eighty. Only local growers and producers can sell their own produce at the market meaning the food is fresh, has little if any packaging and fewer food miles. Check out www.soilassociation.org

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

From James Caan, Hollywood star & God-father hard man: "Actors are full of self importance. They make a film and think they're curing cancer... We serve less purpose to the community than a garbage collector." How true.

Wot no crap arrest? Then send us some yer dodgy bastards!!

Common Ground run a campaign to safeguard and plant new Orchards. Send SAE to PO Box 25309, London, NW5 1ZA Tel 0171 267 2144 www.commonground.org.uk. They've also organised an 'Orchards and Wildlife Conference' 22/23rd September at English Nature Three Counties Office, Ledbury, Herefordshire. Also look out for 'Apple Day' events on 21st October. * **The Permaculture Association** produce an excellent magazine that provides 'solutions for sustainable living' publish an Earth Repair catalogue Hyden House Ltd., The Sustainability Centre, East Moon, Hampshire Tel 01703-823322 www.btininternet.com/~permaculture.uk/ A resource guide including the above organisations and a whole lot more will be available at Seeds of Resistance or get copies from WEN.

SEEDS OF DOPE!

September is Free Cannabis Month and events have been lined-up and down the country SchNEWS highlights include **Cannabis Prisoners Day** (9th): National Cannabis Action Conference at Norwich. (10/11) **'Living with the Enemy'** BBC 2, 9pm Watch the shadow conservative minister for the family (he's twenty two and still lives with his mum) freak out about the Exodus Collective (Weds 15th). **'Healer of the Nations'** march and one day cannabis festival at Stockwood Park, Luton. Organised by the 'Campaign Against Narcotic Abuse Because of Ignorance in Society' (C.A.N.A.B.I.S.), (Sat 18th) **Smokey Bears Picnic**, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. High noon onwards. (Sat 25) **Smokey Bears Picnic**, Norwich. Chapelfield Gardens, Norwich. High noon. (Sun 26) **Free Cannabis Month** Info Lines: 0171 637 7467 / 01605 625 780 Listings update www.schmoo.co.uk/free99.htm **PS** Cannabis Prohibition costs the British tax payers £1 billion a year to enforce

SchWOOPS Last week we said 80 arrests were made at the Smokey Bears Picnic in Portsmouth. In fact there were only 30. Okay, so sorry - now leave me alone the fax was all blurred, honest!!

PULP FRICTION

"Commercial logging poses by far the greatest danger to frontier forests" The World Resources Institute

If you think activists in Britain get a hard time then check out the prospects for activists in Mexico. Mexico's vast forest resources came up for grabs when the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) removed restrictions on foreign investment in communal land, which contain 80% of the country's forests. Within eighteen months, 15 U.S. logging companies moved in. In May 1995, Boise Cascade joined the party, targeting the state of Guerrero where the local Governor was eventually forced to resign after the state police ambushed and killed 17 small farmers who had protested against logging. When the logging in the Guerrero region started to affect water supplies, local farmers, led by a poor *campesino*, Rodolfo Montiel, set up Ecologistas de la Sierra de Petatln. The activists blocked roads, hijacked trucks, unloaded logs and returned them to the communities. In early 1998, Boise Cascade suspended its contracts. "An incredible victory for the *campesinos* against one of the world's largest transnational timber corporations, who was blatantly colluding with a repressive government," said an American Lands Alliance spokesperson. However, local beneficiaries of Boise started to show up at meetings armed and threatening Rodolfo. Eventually, on May 2nd, Mexican soldiers entered the village, shooting and killing one unarmed *campesino*, Rodolfo was arrested and subsequently beaten, tortured with electric shock and put in prison. Immediately after Rodolfo's arrest (on trumped up drugs n' guns charges), Boise Cascade tried to start logging again, but activists once again stopped them. Rodolfo is now in solitary confinement Coyucade Catalan prison, Guerrero.

There is a national campaign in Mexico to free Rodolfo and the other defenders of the forest jailed with him. "Not only is Rodolfo Montiel innocent, but his being denied adequate medical treatment, food, and water is a violation of his basic human rights and he should be freed immediately." Sign on to the letter by emailing Pat Rasmussen.prasmussen@igc.org Donations to: RodolfoMontiel Defense Fund c/o American Lands Alliance, 726 7th St. SE Washington DC.

Boise Cascade are one of the largest US wood companies, who've been busy closing down their sawmills in Idaho, and looking south to where labour is cheap and environmental laws weak. * In Brazil, they are merging with Klabin, the largest producer of wood pulp products in Latin America, so they can get their hands on over 200,000 hectares of pine and eucalyptus forests. * In Ilque, Chile, Boise intend to produce one million cubic metres of woodchip annually, using native forests. They are currently being sued after they trashed Conchalos de Ilque, an archaeological monument. Despite Ilque being a traditional fishing town, Cascade has constructed a port on the town's cleanest bay. Cascade's president kindly reassured locals that the plant would provide Ilque with telephones, jobs and better roads - ample compensation for the loss of their livelihood and environment!

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SchNEWS in brief

This Saturday (28th) it's on yer bikes Brighton for a Critical Mass. Fed up of abuse from car drivers, pedestrians and the Evening Anus? Then join the wheels for a leisurely pedal through our town for a picnic lunch somewhere. meet 12 noon, Montpelier Cresce, by the bottle bank: bring fizzy pop and sarnies, dress as fancy as yer like. ** Fancy building some sustainable economies? Then get along to a Conference at the Centre for Alternative Technology Sept 3-5"; Info: 01654-702400 ATA@cleanslate.force9.co.uk. ** **Worthing Green Fair Sat 4th Sept** Field of Hope, Beach House Green, Worthing Seaford. Music & merriment until 11pm inc. healing garden, cafe area and stalls including good old SchNEWS so come and buy our books and have a chat. ** **Sept 8th, The Right to Protest Legal Forum** Legal Observer Steering Group. Interested in developing a legal observation group? Then turn up and get involved. Artist's Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Sq., London. 6.30-8pm. ** **Sat 11th Reclaim the Streets Norwich**, Norfolk, 1pm Bus Station Entrance, Queens Road. "Holding up the Traffic to Liberate the Streets" ** **Sept 11-12th Working Class Politics Conference**. A weekend of ideas and discussion, such as, Solidarity Through Football, Drugs and working class. £3 / £1.50. @ Crown Inn, Bridgewater, Somerset. Info: 01278-450562. ** **Sept 12 - 18 Groen Front! (Green Front!) ACTION CAMP** Action week against Trans European Network (TEN's) railfreight 'Betuveline', through the deepest (if that exists!) and greenest part of Holland. e-mail grgroenfr@dds.nl ** **Sept 22nd The Land Is Ours Autumn Gathering 99** at The Reddings (AKA Flying Pig Farm), Stockend Lane, Edge NR. Stroud, Gloucestershire. **Land Occupation after Gathering**. 01865 722016/0961 460171 www.oneworld.org

PSST! WANNA SHOOTER?

Any arms dealers out there should get down to the Defence Systems & Equipment International exhibition on September 14 - 17th All paid for by the taxpayer to the tune of £1/4 million. Luvverly. The UK is the world's second largest arms exporter and just loves being generous little dictators. Recently 500,000 H&K assault rifles were sold to Turkey to repress the Kurds. While the international community calls for restraint in the increasing violence between Pakistan and India, the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) has revealed that the UK has been supplying arms to both sides for years. Despite, and contrary, to Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy pledge over 500 arms export licences were signed to India and 128 licences to Pakistan in 'New' Labour's first year of power. "When will this government start to match its rhetoric with actions" asks Rachel Harford from CAAT "It is guilty of fuelling the very conflicts and repression it condemns". The sale of arms to "developing countries" also contradicts the government's goal of reducing poverty, by diverting poor countries scarce national resources from luxuries like clean drinking water to necessities like guns.

The exhibition is being held on two sites, Chertsey in Surrey and London Docklands. CAAT will be protesting throughout starting with a "peace train" from Waterloo to Virginia Waters's station in Chertsey followed by a march to the gates of the exhibition on the 14th On the 15th there will be protest at the Docklands site. Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St., Finsbury Park, London, N4 3HQ Tel 0171 281 0297 www.caat.demon.co.uk

The Arms Trade, Debt and Development' by Susan Willmet available from the above address.

WHAT A LOAD OF HUNTS!

Making what some felt to be a less-than-convincing bid for a prize in the 'statistician of the year' awards, was wishful-thinking Sam Butler, chair of the Countryside Alliance. When result of a poll commissioned by his organisation showed that 52% of the public strongly supported a ban on foxhunting, with a further 11% 'tending to support' a ban, he was robust in his observation; "This poll gives the lie to the idea that there is any majority public enthusiasm or support for outlawing hunting".

Anyone for early mornings?

Those with a better head for elementary maths than Sam may like to get on the case of the beleaguered hunting community, as we once again reach one of the most crucial times of the year for their sport. Cubhunting (now often renamed 'autumn hunting' in PR-aware hunting circles) goes on from late August until November, and trains the new intake of foxhounds by letting them loose on litters of young foxes.

Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 2786, Brighton, BN2 2AX Tel 01273 622827.

The Countryside Alliance are planning to march in Bournemouth during the New Labour conference on September 28th! A Carnival Against Bloodsports is also expected to be heading in the same direction. How's that for balanced reporting?

Ever wished you could get SchNEWS off the web and print it out so it looks like the real thing? You can mate. All you need is an internet connection, web browser, Acrobat reader and any old printer. Check out our web site for more info.

...and finally...

While it's often been said that Americans lack any sense of irony, the US military have been doing little to explode the idea. The Pentagon is investing in research to develop a cleaner alternative to lead bullets, which, says the spokeswoman for their armament research centre, will be a 'safer bullet with the...same lethality as its lead counterpart'. Of course, she means safer to the environment; such that of any of the hundreds of firing ranges the US army has been forced to close due to lead pollution, now leaving them with a clean-up bill of £9 billion (dwarfing the mere \$12 million pledged to the green ammunition research). SchNEWS had to charge up cynicism drive to full power to deal with this one. The new material that promises to save the US military so much money in future is called tungsten, a dense white metal they rejected in the 70's for use in a new generation of armour piercing shells, when in this instance they found they could save money by using depleted uranium instead. So now American soldiers will be able to fire on teenage conscripts in far-off lands, freed from the crippling guilt that made their fingers quiver at the trigger of a gun loaded with eco-unfriendly lead rounds. On the other hand as many as one in twenty Iraqi children continue to be born with serious birth defects, thought to be caused by pollution from the uranium-tipped shells UN fired there during the Persian Gulf war.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers that if you've got any budding ideas go sit in a compost bin or flower bed with someone swap seeds & get germinating then you'll be blossoming, honest!!!!

BANGIN' IN BANGA

With transnational corporations and the World Trade Organisation becoming ever more strategic in their drive to facilitate market dominance, the official line is "resistance is futile". However, a network of activists has now evolved to help co-ordinate resistance movements across the world. The second conference of People's Global Action took place in Bangalore in the southern Indian state of Karnataka from August 23rd to 26th 1999. Jon Towne reports on the triumphs, tribulations and remarkable encounters resulting from this multinational resistance network.

The hosts for this year's People's Global Action (PGA) encounter were India's mighty Karnataka State Farmers Association; the so-called 'laughing arsonists' renowned for the recent torching of genetically modified test sites (including Monsanto), the dismantling of a local office belonging to seed giant Cargill and the burning down of a KFC outlet in India. Our host's credentials were definitely intact.

The conference was called in the main to plan actions against the looming 'millenium round' talks of the World Trade Organisation in Seattle from November 29th to December 3rd 1999. A meeting which will see the world's most greedy political vampires gathering to carve up more of the planet under the guise of free trade. PGA distinguishes itself from the predominantly reformist NGO agenda on the WTO, by calling for its death, or - as they say in India - 'Kill the WTO before it kills us'.

Springing from the Zapatista-inspired 'Encuentro' held in Spain in 1997, PGA was really christened at a huge, chaotic and fantastically inspiring conference in Geneva in February 1998, where 400 or so activists from a huge variety of movements and backgrounds came together to "turn the fingers of resistance into a fist". It was in Geneva that the key PGA hallmarks (as well as an impressive though overlong manifesto) were formulated. Key amongst these is a rejection of reformist, NGO-style 'top down' approaches to resistance, a call to direct action and a non-hierarchical structure with no office, no employees and no HQ; relying instead on regional 'convenors' who would attempt to facilitate activity in their respective areas. So in Western Europe, Reclaim the Streets in London took on the role of convenor (somewhat reluctantly at first!), eventually mak-

ing more of a go of it but not managing to get a promised 3-language leaflet and video out before the end of its tenure. All convenors have to change at every conference; the other regions are Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, North America, South-East Asia and the Pacific Rim (Australasia & the Far East.) [Interest in PGA issues in the Middle East has been hard to tap into, the area being one of the many holes in the latticework of resistance that still needs to be covered.]

An immediate result of the Geneva conference were the worldwide actions which took place in May 1998, with hundreds of thousands on the streets from Hyderabad in India to Brazil, not to mention a Global Street Party which found a home in over 20 countries. In the UK this took the form of a street party at the Bullring in Birmingham during the G8 summit.. And it was the Global Street Party which provided the template for the autonomous delights of June 18th this year, a date many of you may be familiar with.

But back to Bangalore, which was really an attempt to keep the some-would-say faltering global resistance movement on the rails and travelling at a healthy speed. How could it be faltering you may ask, with the successes of May '98

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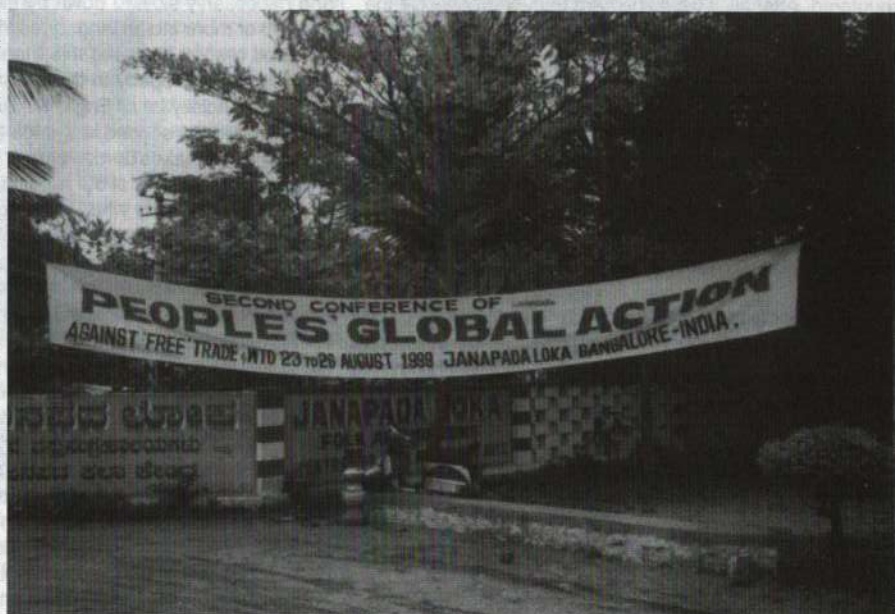
The State Its In

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Links

From Our Correspondence



Pic: Jon Towne

and J18 under its belt? Well the problem springs from the lack of real workaday day-in day-out networking and network building both inside and between regions.

While excellent links are being made between, say, the landless peasants struggle in Brazil and campaigners in the UK, the fledgling infrastructure of PGA has almost buckled because of many convenors' inability or lack of desire to play a part in building it. So, for example, the Bangalore conference wasn't as well planned as it could have been because it was left mainly to a valiant though unrepresentative and really quite centralised 'support group'. As has happened often in the last year and a half, the vacuum left by the convenors (who may well have been working their guts out on more localised issues) has been filled by this support group, of 'freelance' activists mainly based in Western Europe. One of the unspoken objectives of the Bangalore conference, then, was to see this support group dwindle in the onrush of convenors' keenness to share the day-to-day workload of the PGA's networking activities. Did we achieve that aim? Well read on and find out.

It is perhaps important to look closely and honestly at some of the problems as well as the successes that PGA has encountered. After all, it would be hard to over-emphasise the importance of this attempt to provide the bare bones of a structure to support what will have to be a constantly growing movement of global resistance against capitalism. The many cultural and other differences of outlook of the various groups involved are perhaps what the movement must struggle most energetically to recognise and respect; coming together physically provides the greatest opportunity to solve many of these problems. The problem is, like Christmas family reunions, they also provide the perfect opportunity for festering conflicts to erupt.

In a conference about a quarter of the size of Geneva, 100 people from over 25 countries as diverse as Nicaragua and Indonesia gathered for the four day conference (six days if you included roundtable discussions, and two weeks including 'exposure trips' to some very inspiring local struggles). Western Europe, South Asia and Latin America were most strongly represented, with Africa and Eastern Europe sadly absent. (The Chikoko Movement of Nigeria, who pulled off a massive demonstration of over 50,000 people on June 18th, had hoped to come but had to pull out at the last minute due to administrative problems in Bangalore.) The general consensus of the group was that while there



Pic. Jon Towns

had been impressive worldwide actions both in May 1998 and on June 18th earlier this year, these were spectacles which hadn't been followed up with a concerted bout of global networking and communication. The regional convenors had failed to facilitate a dialogue between themselves or to build a meaningful network of grassroots resistance contacts within their regions. (The new Western European convenors are the Milan 'branch' of the Zapatista solidarity movement 'Ya Basta', based in the very sorted Leoncavallo social/resource centre there. London RTS will be part of a support network of groups in the region who'll attempt to make Ya Basta's job a little less daunting.)

Although many of the meetings were fantastically chaotic and necessarily slowed down by translation into Spanish and two or more Indian languages, the final mood was of a renewed resolve to make this frighteningly important experiment work properly in the coming months and years. One tip especially for all English-speaking activists at these events: having a second language (preferably Spanish or French) really makes border-breaking dialogue a reality, as well as chipping away at our reputation as arrogant linguistic imperialists! Many who went might well argue that the really useful networking stuff took place over plates of coconut curry or late into the night whilst nursing precious acquired bottles of beer. This rendered the 'plenary' discussions as empty in comparison, with lasting cross-border/ocean relationships being formed informally and fused by friendship. But interminable plenary sessions have their uses. After all, a certain amount of bureaucratic chat had to take place, and it certainly sent a shiver down the spine of this correspondent to hear the angry and eloquent speech to all the gathered tribes of resistance of an Indian activist pledging all in the battle against the hugely destructive Narmada River dam project. The shadow of this extraordinarily inspiring campaign to save local lives and villages not to mention thousands of years of irreplaceable culture from the western TNC-backed dam (the main TNC being

Siemens) was ever-present during the week. Many anti-dam activists were unable to be present because of their promise to stay in their villages even as the water level rose to waist height and threatened to take their lives. Many European activists travelled to the soon-to-be-submerged valley either before or after the conference, some no doubt returning to these shores in the early autumn with a strong desire to act in solidarity with the Adivasis (indigenous people) of the region. Another inspiration was the presence of one of the most active campaigners against GM and globalisation in France. The presence of Rene Riesel, a veteran of Paris 1968 and a prominent campaigner against GM foods and American corporate imperialism in France - gave the whole gathering a real boost.

There were flashpoints during the week, especially when much of the delegation from Nepal threatened to leave the conference over what they saw as unacceptable behaviour from one of the conference organisers, who had been driven - it seems - to distraction by what he regarded as their unacceptably high-handed attitude to everyone else, (including those from the more 'grassroots' Nepalese groups). Disputes such as these are almost impossible to present accurately, since they are so bound up in cultural mores and the subtle shading of relationships between groups which have yawning political differences even while agreeing that the WTO must die. In this case, on the one hand there was a fear that PGA was being overrun by unrepresentative NGO-style campaigners, and on the other that Western-colonialist values were still dominating our new and supposedly mutually co-operative structures. Complicated stuff, especially if you're attempting to facilitate a fair discussion between angry contributors who are unaware that the planned agenda is running three hours behind schedule! This particular flashpoint ended fairly happily with honour intact, but it was touch and go for a while.

Anyway, after a few false starts and sessions lost to rain and wild local folk drummers, a determined desire to get things sorted out emerged, becoming more focussed in direct relation to the diminishing amount of time available. There will be a regular bulletin, customised to suit each region, and a more dynamic, useful and regularly updated website. There was strong support for a move away from elitist e-communication, a view especially vehement in India, where such resources are thin on the ground and only available to those often at the top of steep hierarchies. One issue which became central during the week was that of gender, which many felt had been left out of the previous 4 'hallmarks' and the mammoth manifesto thrashed out in Geneva in February 1998. For this reason a new hallmark was adopted: "We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings". This was seen as a crucial step in the battle to disassociate PGA from right-wing anti-globalisation groups threatening to hitch onto our bandwagon. A more outright anti-capitalist thrust was also welcomed, most realising that the WTO et al are simply modern manifestations of the age-old capitalist beast. (There is also a plan for the creation of a new convenor, to be a group working specifically on gender issues.)

What tensions there were often centred around the big differences between autonomous Western activists and those who came representing large social movements, mainly in this case from Latin America (even with the absence of Brazil's Movimento Sem Terra and the Zapatistas.) This correspondent certainly felt an urgent need for the European posse to be more representative of its region (including non-white struggles for example.) The next conference, pencilled in for 2001 in Latin America, will have to make some well-judged and possibly controversial decisions about who attends, otherwise some of the movements many of us see as central to future worldwide resistance will probably stay away. Wherever the conference takes place, there will always be cultural and regional differences to consider, such as the fact that in some areas those who speak at great length deserve respect, while in other areas they would be asked to edit their contributions more brutally. Frequent male domination also needs to be addressed.

But notwithstanding all these problems, the final vibe was pretty positive, with plenty of energy set aside to make November 30th a powerful global day of action (even if the UK contingent warned that their input wouldn't be on the scale of J18.) There was widespread support for decentralised actions a la J18, with more of a thumbs down for centralised affairs like the Inter-Continental Caravan. (Having said that, there are plans for a much smaller North American caravan leading up to Seattle, starting fairly soon.) There was also growing enthusiasm for a big day out on May 1st 2000 in a 'Reclaim Mayday' style. People from Latin America, Sri Lanka, North America and Western Europe all seemed up for it, but obviously the real proof will be in the responses of their groups back home. One final heartening sight; the Vice-President of the Karnataka State Farmer's Association (KRRS) leaving Bangalore for a 12 hour bus ride to a marathon of weddings with only his green plastic PGA wallet containing the SchNEWS Survival Handbook for company.

Held in the very relaxed grounds of a craft museum across the way from a blind school, many evenings ended alongside a nearby lake with bottles of over-empowered Indian 'Knock-out' beer, (to the mild annoyance of the KRRS who are in the middle of an anti-alcohol campaign - some of the biggest recent mobilisations for example, women in Nepal and in areas of India, have been dedicated to implementing a prohibition of alcohol, seen as a way of stopping the men abusing the women and drinking away their earnings.) On the last night the lake resounded to an impromptu rewrite of the Diggers anthem 'The World Turned Upside Down', beginning: "In 1999, in Bangalore, a ragged band of jetset activists came to give it some jaw-jaw" and heading rapidly downhill.

So, the PGA: battered but unbowed. If you would like to be a part of making the thing work e-mail: info@agp.org Or email the new Western European convenors at patham@iol.it Or contact the new PGA secretariat: Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), 377 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada: dbleakney@cupw-stp.org (There are plans for a UK PGA get-together sometime in October, possibly in London. Contact RTS for more details: 020 7281 4621; rts@gn.apc.org; PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY.)



The Coke Dude

The following letter (which we have abridged) was sent to school principals in Colorado Springs, US, by the district executive director of 'school leadership'.

Dear Principal,

Here we are in year two of the great Coke contract. I hope your first weeks were successful and that pretty much everything is in place (except staffing, technology, planning time and telephones).

First, the good news: this year's installment from Coke is 'in the house' and checks will be cut for you to pick up in my office this week.

Now the not-so-good news: we must sell 70,000 cases of product (including juices, sodas, waters etc) during the first three years of the contract.

The math on how to achieve this is really quite simple. Last year we had 32,439 students, 3,000 employees and 176 days in the school year. If 35,439 staff and students buy one Coke product every other day for the school year, we will double the required quota.

Here is how we can do it:

1. Allow students to purchase and consume vended products during the day. If sodas are not allowed in the class, consider allowing juices, teas and waters.
2. Locate machines where they are accessible to the students all day. Location, location, location is the key.
3. A list of Coke products is enclosed to allow you to select from the entire menu.
4. A calendar of promotional events is enclosed to help you advertise Coke products.

I know this is 'just one more thing from downtown', but the long-term benefits are worth it.

Thanks for all your help.

From: New Internationalist Aug 99



10th August 1999:
A digger which was being used to re-build a car park at Newcastle University is re-decorated. Activists proposed that the area be used as a park instead, and that the University encourage the use of sustainable transport rather than cars. The protesters were removed by police.



Friday 3rd September 1999 <http://www.schnews.org.uk/> Issue 226 Free/Donation

CHILD PAWNS



"Educashon, Educayshon, Edukeyshun"

Tony Blair

The school classroom looks set to become the latest scene of popular uprising, if a recent action by pupils in Hackney, east London, is anything to go by. 500 pupils at Kingsland school recently walked out of lessons en masse, in disgust at the government's new plans to open up to business the running of the school. The parents had already voted against the proposal, the local teachers' union were up in arms; but it was the kids who, clearly undeterred by the demise of student radicalism in their university-age siblings, took action by marching into the headmaster's office and seizing control of the tannoy system. The kids at Grange Hall were never so brash.

So what turned this school into such an action zone?

Funnily enough, the government's plan for the school bears the snappy New Labour title of the Education Action Zone (EAZ). The EAZ, (now a 'firmly established feature of the education landscape' beams a government spokesperson) is aimed at schools deemed not up to scratch by the schools inspectorate. Unhappily the traditional, more accountable Local Educational Authority, the EAZs set up an 'action forum' to involve business, police, PAs, school governors, religious, community and other groups. The government has been cooking this one up for a while now, without saying too much of what it was about. Last year they invited bids from those wishing to run the zones, and suddenly things started to become clear.

The government wanted to see "one zone in the first five which is led and run by a business, and several like this in the programme of 25 zones." And the bids came pouring in. Zones are to be sponsored by companies like Tate & Lyle, Shell, McDonald's, Yorkshire Water as well as "Good Anglia, Britain's self styled 'market leader' in privatised education. Its shares soared by 160m overnight when EAZs were first announced. Nothing for the kids to get het up about? Bids to run zones include a switch to a five term year in Croydon, a 50% increase in the school day in Birmingham, and weekend schooling in Newcastle. Then there are the teachers - for whom the action forums can apply to disregard the statutory guidelines over

their pay and conditions. Meanwhile, the government's planned new elite of Advanced Skills Teachers will be getting up to £40,000 a year. And the advertised post of director of Lambeth action forum's 'Project Steering Group' carries a salary of £50,000.

And there's more: Remember the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) that SchNEWS has been bangin' on about in relation to the NHS? We know obscure-sounding government finance schemes probably don't grab your imagination but check what the PFI will mean for schools.

The government wanted to sort out the £3.2bn backlog of repairs to Britain's school buildings, but as they obviously couldn't actually do it themselves, they offered the rebuilding contracts to private firms. These contracts last for 25 years, which is quite a long time to patch up a few classrooms - but then, that's not what the PFI is all about. Just as with PFI hospitals, the companies get ownership of the site and all the non-teaching services, forcing all staff to reapply for their jobs

If you reckon SchNEWS is being a tad paranoid, check out what's happening in the US, where such schemes are way ahead of us. Edison, a firm which pioneers "the transformation of the American public education system into a major for-profit industry", was founded by Chris Whittle, who also started Channel One, a fantastic scheme in which schools got free use of satellite TVs and videos. The catch was that they had to force kids to watch a 12 minute ad-soaked 'programme' everyday. Pepsi, Reebok and other educationally-helpful firms signed up, and Channel One made \$33m in profits in one year. It gets better: corporations have started 'sponsoring' entire towns. Here's an extract from a letter sent to school heads by the director of 'school leadership' of Colorado Springs, which is sponsored by Coca-Cola. "We must sell 70,000 cases of product during the first three years of the contract... If 35,439 staff and students buy one Coke product every other day, we will double the required quota. Here's how we can do it: 1) Allow students to purchase and consume vended products throughout the day. 2) Locate machines where they are accessible to students all day. Location, location, location is the key. 3) A list of Coke products is enclosed...."

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being a wheelee bin!
Residents protesting at a planned dump in Glasgow used 8 wheelee bins to block the road. After being asked to remove the bins several times by the cops but *refusing* (groan) the bins were thrown into the back of a van and driven away. When the locals phoned the cop shop to find out when they were getting them back they were told they were needed for the pending court case. The 8 bins were later returned with a sticker reading, Charge: Breach of the Peace.

and allowing the firm to do what it wants with them. Take Pimlico School, where a certain J Straw was recently removed as chairman of the governors. A private consortium has won a rebuilding and managing contract for 25 years, which gives it £22m of public cash... oh, and a big chunk of hugely valuable land in Westminster, much of which will be flogged off to make luxury housing. The consortium also gets the right to sell computer courses, car parking, and vending machines - all in all, a nice little earner.

All this offers socially-minded corporate fat cats plenty of scope to cream off cash from the public purse. As says the Socialist Teacher's Alliance: 'Business is interested in profits. If it doesn't get them one way - directly by 'productivity' deals or cutting wages - then it will get them another way - through lucrative contracts to provide IT for example.... Can you imagine business saying "Oh No we'll pick up the loss and the LEA can take the profit?"

Perhaps most sinister is the ability of the EAZs to alter the National Curriculum. The chair of Hackney Council's education committee assures us that this is 'not business taking over schools, it's about helping pupils prepare for the world of work - and I mean proper jobs, not casual jobs.' Of course those who drafted the McDonald's bid would hasten to agree. Witness the onset of a "vocationalist" agenda, where in the Lambeth bid, 'extended work experience and classes will continue into the holidays.'

Did Mrs McCluskey see any of this coming? No wonder Sammo turned to smack.

* Trojan Horses - Education Action Zones. The case against the privatisation of Education

50p + A5 SAE from the Socialist Teachers Alliance, 1 Shrubland Rd., Walthamstow, London, E17 7QH

* Check out an article on how the Private Finance Initiative is undermining the NHS www.labournet.org

* New Internationalist mag recently devoted a whole issue to the privatisation of education. Copies from Tower House, Lathkill St., Market Harborough, LE16 www.newint.org/

ARMS IN THE AIR

"The turnout shows that fear, violence and intimidation cannot stop the people when they want to have their voice heard".

Karina Pirelli UN election official

The East Timorese people, or what's left of them, finally got to vote on independence from Indonesia this week. In what has been described as a hard fought campaign Indonesian backed militiamen have spent the last eight months trying to kill anyone or anything that moved, burnt houses and sent hundreds fleeing to the hills for safety. On the day of voting militiamen managed to close seven polling stations for a few hours while those waiting outside were systematically beaten and killed.

For twenty four years Indonesia has illegally occupied East Timor killing at least 200,000 people, proportionally more than Pol Pot killed in Cambodia. Britain has helped repress the people of East Timor by becoming the biggest supplier of weapons to the Indonesian military (see Schnews issues 78, 125, 133, 145, 153/4, 158, 181 & 198 in fact just buy the books). In 1994 when US Congress voted to ban small arms sales to Indonesia, on grounds of genocide, a spokesperson for the dictatorship said "no problem we can always turn to Britain".

In 1997 East Timorese Nobel peace prize winner Bishop Carlos Belo appealed to Tony Blair and Robin Cook "Please do not sustain any longer conflict which without these [arms] sales could never have been pursued in the first place, nor for so long". Robin 'The liar' Cook promised the Bishop that Britain would 'speak up' for the East Timorese; speaking up actually involved secretly approving 64 new arms shipments to Indonesia then using 'commercial confidentiality' to justify ministers' refusals to answer MP's questions.

Before taking office Robin Cook campaigned for an 'ethical foreign policy' even writing "The current sale of Hawk aircraft to Indonesia is particularly disturbing as the purchasing regime is not only repressive but actually at war" in the New Statesman in the late seventies. 22 years later he and the government have the legal power to revoke the licences but remain happy with the Indonesian assurances that the hawk fighters and weapons won't be used in their illegal colony!

If you fancy shaking hands with Indonesia's finest torturers, murderers and bully-boys, get down to the Defence Systems & Equipment International Arms fair. Organised by UK plc, it will be the largest arms exhibition ever held in the country - and big protests are planned.

Contact Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ. Tel 0171 281 0297

email campaigns@caat.demon.co.uk

"They're 'avin a laugh. A lengthy investigation into the alleged corruption of the former Suharto regime in Indonesia may be called off "because of the lack of proof". Proof! Under Suharto's regime millions perished, while he ran the country dry becoming one of the richest men in the world!

SchNEWS in brief

Charges have been dropped against 8 women who broke into RAF Fairford and spray painted bombs. Accused of disrupting a "lawful activity", their defence was that under International Law, the NATO bombing of Serbia was itself unlawful. "The British Government is not prepared to have NATO's illegal bombing campaign scrutinized in a public court of law" said one of the anti-war protestors. ** Job of the week! Manchester Airport need a copy writer for a book about the development of its new second runway. To apply tel:0161 489 2700 E Mail:jeanette.murphy@manairport.co.uk-give 'em hell! ** No Birmingham Northern Relief Road Picnic in the Park Hednesfield Rd Nr Brownhills, Sat 11th Sept 1pm. Tel:01922 860514 ** The Comic Relief UK Grants Travellers Initiative will provide funding for various traveller-led projects. Find out more by sending an SAE to UK Grants Team, Comic Relief, 74 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1EF by 5th Nov. Tel:0171 436 1122 ** Last November Lufthansa Skychef, the worlds biggest airline catering company, sacked 270 mainly Asian Transport and General Union workers, after a lawful one day strike. Even people on sick leave or on holiday got the boot. The workers went on strike after refusing to sign new contracts which would have effectively slashed their wages. Their union have now threatened to withdraw support unless binding arbitration is accepted by the sacked employees. Just like the Liverpool dock dispute, the T&G are trying to sabotage the efforts of these strikers. Demo outside the TUC Conference, the Brighton Centre. Monday September 13th 1pm

RED SKY AT NIGHT, MCDONALDS ALIGHT

Rotting fruit poured onto McDonalds forecourt in Martignes; six tonnes of manure dumped in front of Big Muck's doors in Arles; other outlets smashed to bits, blocked by angry farmers armed with shopping trolleys or filled with farm animals running amok. Is this the stuff that eco-protest dreams are made of? Well, yes, but the scenes are currently reality in France, as angry farmers vent their frustration at American tit-for-tat trade sanctions after a recent ruling by the World Trade Organisation (see SchNEWS 220). The ruling gave the US the green light to impose tariffs on millions of pounds worth of EU goods. That's the amount the WTO reckon America has lost because us bloody Europeans refusal to eat Uncle Sam's delicious hormone-treated cancer-forming beef. Unfortunately for the French, some of the countries' poshest foods have come under the tariff scheme.

As SchNEWS went to press, the leader of the farmers union "Confederation Paysanne", Jose Bove, was waiting to see if he would remain behind bars after he joined an attack a month ago, with 500 others, on a McMac's outlet under construction in the south-western town of Millau. Monsieur Bove raises sheep that supply milk for Roquefort cheese - a cheese that is on the US hitlist. "I am hostage to global commercialisation" he explained. Another farmer added "We are here to defend the right of people to feed themselves with their own food in their own way and against the determination of the United States to impose their way of eating on the whole planet."

The protests are enjoying widespread public support and are expected to spread. However, they are part of a bigger picture, farmers are also unhappy about low prices, increasing domination of big retail distributors and genetically modified crops.

Meanwhile Noel Kapferer, a professor at a Paris Business School, said the campaign against McDonalds was the first sign of a European rebellion against American imposed cultural uniformity "today's consumers are rejecting the American way of life." SchNEWS will drink a bottle of yer finest chateau 'avin it' to that.

The day we went to Banga

The second conference of People's Global Action (PGA) took place last week in Bangalore in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. The hosts were the so-called 'laughing arsonists' the 10 million strong Karnataka State Farmers' Association, renowned amongst other things for their recent torching of a Monsanto test site. About 100 people from over 25 countries as diverse as Nicaragua and Indonesia gathered for the 4 day conference (4 days if you included roundtable discussions, and 2 weeks including 'exposure trips' to some very inspiring local struggles.) Western Europe, South Asia and Latin America were most strongly represented with Africa and Eastern Europe sadly absent.

'Kill WTO before it kills us' has become a rallying cry in India, and the Conference was called predominantly to plan for actions against the looming meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Seattle (November 29th to December 3rd). Here the world's most thirsty free market vampires will gather to carve up more of the planet under the guise of the 'millennium trade round'. The general consensus of the group was that while there had been impressive worldwide actions both in May 1998 and on June 18th earlier this year, these were spectaculars that hadn't been followed up with a concerted bout of global networking and communication.

Although many of the meetings were fantastically chaotic and necessarily slowed down by translation into Spanish and two or more Indian languages, the final mood was of a renewed resolve to make this frighteningly important experiment work properly in the coming months and years. There will be a regular bulletin, customised to suit each region, and a more dynamic website. There was strong support for a move away from elitist e-communication, that support being especially vehement in India where such resources are thin on the ground.

Tensions (of which there were many in amongst the abounding global solidarity) were often centred around the big differences between autonomous Western activists and those who came representing large social movements, mainly, in this case, from Latin America (even with the absence of Brazil's Movimento Sem Terra and the Zapatistas.) But, notwithstanding all these problems, the final vibe was pretty positive, with plenty of energy set aside to make November 30th a powerful global day of action.

There was also growing enthusiasm for a big day out on May 1st 2000 in a 'Reclaim Mayday' style.

* If you would like to be a part of making the PGA work, check out the (soon-to-be radically face-lifted) website at www.agg.org

* Turn around the WTO! Conference Sunday 26th September 11 am - 5 pm Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4LR. To register contact Chris Keene, 90 The Parkway, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 0AE Tel: 01268 682820 email chris.keene@which.net

...and finally...

The old ones are the best!

Heard the one about the big financial institution that decided to mailshot 2000 of its richest customers? One of the computer programmers trawled through the companies database, using an imaginary customer called Richard Bastard. Unfortunately, an error resulted in all 2000 letters sent out being addressed "Dear Rich Bastard". The luckless programmer was shown the door. Poor bastard.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all kids that if you don't get no education you'll end up working on a newsletter like wot we wrote. Honest

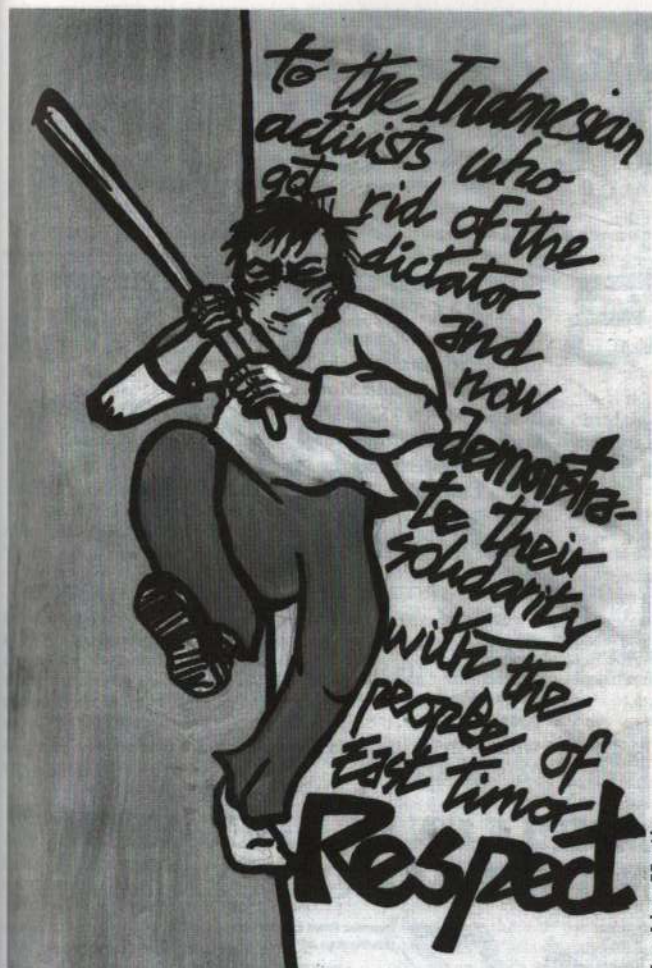
TRAINING DAY

15th September 12 noon.

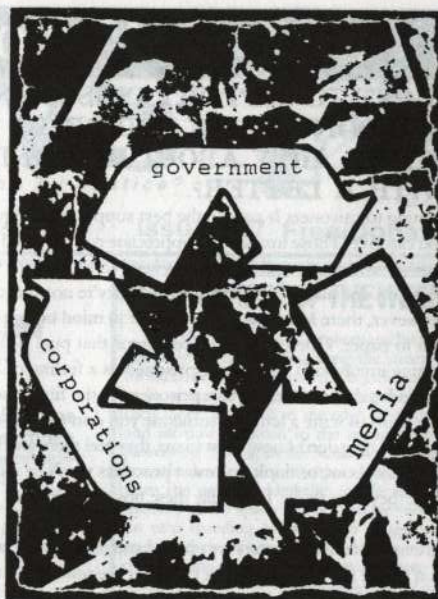
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Graphics: Martin



SQUOTES

"The only real way is to take the land from our own government and get rid of the United States of America. We can talk about free trade today, or immigrants tomorrow, but it's pushing little band aids while we die of haemorrhage because of the world system."

BOBBY, AZTLAN NATION

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WHELMED**
by credit card debt?

feeling that overpowering

**URGE TO
SHOP?**



Priceless.
There are some things money can't buy

www.subvertise.org

....A Britain that does an honest day's work...
but yet a ... cool ... Britain



Prisoner Support

WANT TO SUPPORT PRISONERS BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START...HOW ABOUT BEGINNING WITH A LETTER?

Writing to prisoners is one of the best support techniques that you can give. Those inside really appreciate contact from the outside world as it enables them to keep in touch with what's going on and also lets them know that they're not forgotten. However, there are a few points to bear in mind before you put pen to paper. One of the main problems that puts people off getting involved in supporting prisoners is a feeling of being intimidated about writing to a prisoner for the first time...It is very hard to write a letter to someone you don't know: people find that they don't know what to say, they feel there are things they can't talk about, or think that most prisoners won't be interested in what they have to say. Hopefully these tips will help you.

* Remember that all letters are opened and read by the prison. So don't write about anything that could get the prisoner or anybody else in trouble or could cause problems for future actions.

* Make sure that you put your address on the back of the envelope - most prisons will not allow mail to be received that does not have the sender's name and address with it (sending letters recorded delivery *should* make sure your letter gets to the prisoner)

* Don't make the letter too long. 4 sides of writing paper or two sides of A4 is about the limit.

* If you can't think of anything to write, a card of postcard will be appreciated just as much.

* Talk about your life and what you've been doing, prisoners will like to hear about normal life.

* Say where you heard about them and their case.

Sending stuff to prisoners

It's best to check with the prison concerned as to what the rules are for sending in books, magazines or anything else as they tend to vary and some may be more lenient than others.

Visiting prisoners

Remand prisoners are generally entitled to a visit of 15 minutes every day. Convicted prisoners are allowed one visit every two weeks for under 21s and every week for over 21s. These visits can usually last between 30 minutes and two hours. Prisoners will need to send out a visiting order to the people they want to visit. Two people are usually allowed to visit a prisoner at once.

At the end of the day, writing to prisoners is about common sense and using your head. Most are not the mad beasts the tabloids would have us believe, they are ordinary people just like you. Prison is there to isolate people, so keeping the link to the outside world is really important, and receiving mail on the whole is the brightest point of the day for most prisoners.

SOME USEFUL PRISONER SUPPORT CONTACTS

(For more info on what they do, check out the yellow pages at the back of the book)

Legal Defence and Monitoring Group BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX tel: 020 8245 2930

Haven Distribution supply free books to prisoners. 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX

Earth Liberation Prisoners Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebrooke Ave, Leeds, LS7 3HB

Brighton Anarchist Black Cross c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, BN2 2GY

CAGE c/o P.O. Box 68, Oxford OX3 1RH 07931 401962
www.veggies.org/cage

GM-Free Prisoner Support Dept. 29, 255 Wilmslow Rd, Manchester M14 5LW tel: 0161 226 6814

Vegan Prisoners Support Group P.O. Box 194, Enfield EN1 3HD tel: 020 8292 8325 hvsp@vpsg.freemove.co.uk

Women in Prison 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EA 020 7226 5879

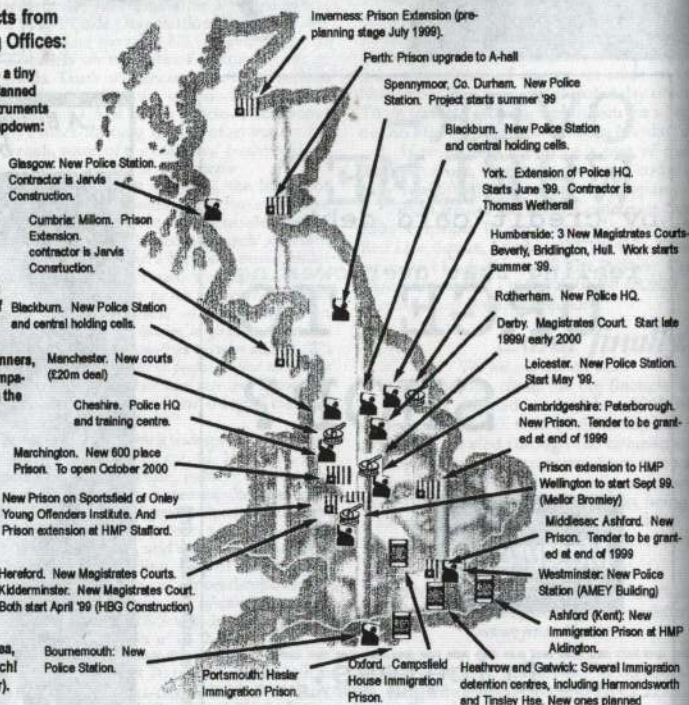
TO TRAMPLE ON US THEY NEED CONCRETE AND CONSENT.

Some Extracts from the Planning Offices:

This map shows a tiny fraction of the planned and existing instruments of the state clampdown: Prisons and Secure Units, Immigration Prisons, Police Stations, and Courts.

We need more information, and the detailed stuff can only really be got locally, from council planners, construction companies and visiting the sites.

If you have any information about proposed construction or anything else going on near you, or if you want advice on how to find out about developments in your area, please get in touch! (see back of flyer).





BOTTLE-DEAD

"Over 4,000 babies die every day in poor countries because they're not breastfed. That's not conjecture, it's UNICEF fact."

Baby Milk Action.

"Many people now believe in modern superstitions, these include the use of bottle milk; these are superstitions no less pernicious than the unhealthy folk traditions. But while the wrong traditional ways are superstitions borne out of ignorance, the wrong 'modern' ways are superstitions borne out of greed. And we all know that greed has strong powerful interests"

A former Philippine Health Secretary.

SchNEWS has an old chestnut for you this week. Corporate giants, Nestle would have us believe they're overflowing with 'the milk of human kindness' these days; a response to Baby Milk Action's long-term campaign exposing dodgy dealings in developing countries.

A few months back the company got their wrists slapped and advert banned by the Advertising Standards Authority after claiming they marketed their baby milk "ethically and responsibly". So they turned to advertising gurus Saatchi and Saatchi who suggested Nestle "go on the offensive by using advertising showing the benefits of Nestle financial contributions to charities". Nestle's general manager, Arthur Furer stated, "It is clear that we have an urgent need to develop an effective counter-propaganda operation".

With an annual promotion budget of nearly **£8 billion** Nestle has a slight advantage over mothers who produce breastmilk naturally and do not have a fortune to spend promoting the advantages of their 'product'. Their new tactic has been to advertise through publications who are respected for their discerning views (such as the *Big Issue*) and to make self-promoting donations to children's charities and the church. The first, presumably to counteract the mental image that the word Nestle conjures up of third world babies dying in their millions after converting from breast to bottle; the latter to persuade the church to chill out on their Nestle boycotting campaign. Nestle have now launched a new range of baby food on the European market. Reliable sources indicate that in the remaining 4 months of this year Nestle's promotion budget of £2 million for their new range exceeds the equivalent expenditure of the two rival brands for the whole year. Plenty of scope for 'nestleing' up to the public.

"A bottle fed child is 25 times more likely to die from diarrhoea than a breast fed child where water is unsafe." UNICEF

Just to remind you of the facts, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimate that more than a million babies die every year as a result of diarrhoea picked up from unhygienic bottle feeding. That's one baby every 30 seconds. Nestle control about 40% of the world baby milk market, aggressively promoting their baby milk products in developing countries, and discouraging breastfeeding. Of course, after a short period of bottle feeding a mother's breastmilk dries up and another consumer is born. They give 'sweeteners' to healthworkers encouraging them to promote their products. They are still 'donating' freebies to health facilities in Gabon, Africa, to encourage the use of their product, despite the Gabon government asking them to stop. In the Philippines, the company have been exposed for hiring graduate nurses as 'health educators' to visit mothers at home and try to convince them to use their products. Ignoring WHO recommendations that complimentary foods only be introduced from 6 months, Nestle market teas labelled for feeding 2 week old infants. They do not always provide clear information and in some cases the labels are in a language that mothers can't understand.

Sickeningly, Nestle have been getting away with this for longer than you would believe possible. As early as 1873, Nestle was exporting its 'milk food' to the colonised world. It's a measure of their power that 126 years on they still see themselves as above the law, and they're 'milking it' for all it's worth. Currently in court in India over their baby food labels, Nestle's reaction is to use their clout to have key sections of the Indian baby food marketing law scrapped. Back in '39 they were exporting

Nestle is the worlds largest food manufacturer, with factories in more than 80 countries and a turnover of \$52 billion, taking over £1000 a second. They are also the focus of the worlds longest running consumer boycott (22 years). "Breaking the boycott is like crossing the world's longest running picket line" said a pissed off hack. As a final accolade, when the European Parliament start holding public hearings on multinational responsibility and corporate abuses later this year, Nestle are the first company they intend to put in the hotseat.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For sitting on a sofa!

Early this year Tooker Gomborg and his partner Angela were strolling along the streets of Montreal when they spotted a couch waiting to be scrapped. "We looked at it, looked at each other, moved it to the edge of the road and sat down", much to the amusement of passers-by. "Sitting in the street we observed how the hordes of pedestrians were herded onto the narrow sidewalks, while the vast majority of the space was hogged by two-ton tin cans speeding, honking and dangerously pushing their weight around." After a couple of hours, the cops arrived and nicked them for the heinous crime of 'blocking a parking space', and fined them both \$135. "Over the decades we have lost our cities to smog, noise, speed and asphalt little by little: a road widening here, a parking lot there. We can restore cities to people in a similar fashion. A couch here, a rug there, a street party. A loaf of bread, a jug of wine and now - let's take back the streets bit by bit." Stolen from *Carbusters* magazine, 44 rue Burdeau 69001 Lyon, France www.antenna.nl/eyfa/cb

condensed milk to Singapore and Malaysia as "ideal for delicate infants", though it was banned in Britain for causing rickets and blindness. In a speech that would sadly be as relevant 60 years later, Dr Cecily Williams said "misguided propaganda on infant feeding should be punished as the most miserable form of sedition; these deaths should be regarded as murder."

BREAST FEEDING : SOME FACTS

"Breastfeeding declined rapidly between 1960-70 as the formula milk market expanded. In Mexico from 100% to 40%, in Chile from 90% to 5% and in Singapore from 80% to 5%" UK Food Group.

* In the 50's & 60's, doctors working in the 'developing' world observed that diarrhoea, infections and malnutrition were increasing in babies. This is rare amongst breastfed babies.

* Breastfeeding is vital not only because of the nutrients but because the anti-infective properties protect against disease. * In developing countries, extra food for the mother can cost as little as one tenth of the cost of artificial food for the baby. * Poor people often over-dilute baby milk powder with unsafe water to make it last longer resulting in malnourishment. * Recent research by the British Medical Council found that cow's milk at 26p a pint is just as good for six month old babies as formula milk which costs around £5 for 10 pints.

BOYCOTT THE BASTARDS

Nescafe, Gold Blend, Rowntree, After Eight, Quality Street, Sarsons seasonings, Perrier, Buxton, Findus, Buitoni, Crosse and Blackwell, Maggi, Branston pickle, Sun-Pat, Shredded Wheat, L'Oreal and Lancome cosmetics, Winalot, Felix and Choosy pet foods and many more... For a comprehensive list contact **Baby Milk Action**, 23 St Andrews St., Cambridge CB2 3AX Tel: 01223 464420 www.gn.apc.org/babymilk

MARCHING ORDERS

"The Colombian people and workers have won, but if the government doesn't do it's part, you can expect more action from the Colombian people." Union leader and very brave man Tarcisio Mora

Seeing as 80% of all trade unionist murdered are Colombian (72 of 'em last year), to call a general strike seems pretty suicidal. Nevertheless, with unemployment at 20%, the economy shagged, and the IMF pushing its beloved 'austerity measures' (ie starvation policy) on the govt, those plucky unionists got together with groups representing indigenous peoples, peasants and debtors, and got 20 million people out on strike last week. The austerity plan contains all the usual neo-liberal shit - cutting wages and worker protection, raising the retirement age, privatisation etc - which the IMF demands in exchange for a \$3bn loan, which of course will go on servicing Colombia's \$35bn debt.

Demanding all sorts of lovely bollocks like respect for human rights, decent wages and an end to the privatisation programme, the strikers were clearly asking for it. So, naturally, the army and the paramilitary responded in their usual style, planting bombs at human rights organisations' offices, trying to assassinate unionist Domingo Tobar, and shooting a ten year old girl in the head. Unfortunately this didn't stop the strikers bringing the country to a standstill, with massive disruption in all major cities and pitched battles with security forces. With far more style than their paramilitary rivals, the Marxist revolutionary army FARC occupied a hydro plant in support of the strikers, and demanded cheaper leccy for Colombia's poor. After two days, costing \$130m each, the govt gave in and promised to meet the unions' demands. Whether they actually will, or just let their paramilitary chums shoot anyone who tries to join the negotiations remains to be seen...

Already a candidate for the most fucked up country in the world, Colombia's been having a particularly tough time of late, with the good ol' US of A wading in with a load of guns and dollars. What with two main Marxist revolutionary armies, armed cocaine cartels, untold far-right paramilitary groups, and a savage national army turning most of the country into a war zone, the obvious thing to do was spend millions of bucks on 'military aid', and prepare for a full scale US invasion under the cover of the War on Drugs. Last year Uncle Sam gave the Colombian govt \$289 million in 'security assistance'; gave training in counter-insurgency techniques to the army, which has the worst human rights record in the Americas; and started to build military bases in Colombia and neighbouring countries. It won't be long before arming psychopaths and spraying toxic chemicals on peasants ain't enough, and the defenders of the free world invade, thereby making Colombia safe for democracy, oh, and getting their grubby little mitts on those tasty oil reserves...

Home In One

On Monday people te'd off with the House Builders Federation (HBF) obsession with covering the countryside in small boxes, disrupted their annual golf tournament in Cheltenham. Members of URGENT and the Land Is Ours erected a low-impact eco-dwelling at the 18th hole. A spokesperson commented "It is clear that the HBF and their friends are determined to profit from rapid private development of vast tracts of land whatever the social and environmental costs. The sort of homes we should be building for the future need to be affordable, well-designed and sustainable - not the sort of executive homes for commuters and their cars that are being built all over the countryside." The HBF is the house building lobby group. Their new Chief Executive is Stuart Hill, who rather conveniently moved from his former post of Chief Executive at the HM Land Registry to take on the job URGENT, Box HN, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ 01865 794800 www.urgent.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

Nice one to Exodus Collective for putting on the best and biggest free festival of the year again. SchNEWS crew had a wicked time. Respect! ** Congrats to Mike Schwarz (of Bindman's solicitors) and his partner, who recently gave birth to twins. Hope you're not too busy to keep us all out of prison tho' ** After yet more villages were illegally flooded by the Narmada dam, youths from the Rewa ke Yuva group got their own back by flooding the offices of the Narmada Valley Development Authority with buckets of water and 'slush.' ** 22 of those charged with conspiracy to cause criminal damage after the Smash Genetic Engineering action in July have had their charges dropped. The rest have had conspiracy charges reduced to aggravated trespass. ** The Greenham Common Women's Collective (the 3 remaining activists in a caravan, who recently put off Vodafone from using the former military base as a site of operations) celebrated the 18th anniversary of the Peace Camp this week. The Collective, who organise actions at nuclear sites nationwide, are planning a sculpture based on the four elements to commemorate the inspiring actions at the Peace Camp. Tel 01635 269109 or email: greenhamwpc@hotmail.com

** Naturewise are organising an introductory weekend on permaculture in London this month 18th-19th. Call 0171 281 3765 ** For all you millennium bug enthusiasts out there, check out a one day conference on the Y2K-Nuclear threat. It's at Conway Hall, London, Sat. 18th Red Lion Square, London WC1 (Holborn tube) Cost is £10/5 conc. More details from Paul Swann, Y2K CAN, 14 Beacon Hill, London N7 9LY Tel 0171-609 7764 email: pswann@casynet.co.uk And now SchNEWS begins the Y2K gumpf column - please send us your favourites: Like rock 'n' roll, y2k is also here to stay. I like rock better! ** The Arts Factory, a community owned business in South Wales, is showing top box office films free until Christmas. They promise "No charge no catch!" Info 01443 757954

** Support Simon Jones family in their latest step to get justice for Simon - killed by casualisation. The Crown Prosecution Service will be in court defending their decision not to prosecute Euromin or its dodgy manager James Martell for the killing of casual worker Simon Jones in their Shoreham dock last April - Come and hear their interesting arguments. Next Friday (17th) High Court, the Strand. 10.30am, www.simonjones.org.uk

SCHNEWS IS ESSENTIAL COZ:

The largest ever media merger was announced this week when CBS, which owns 15 American TV stations, joined forces with Viacom, who own amongst other things MTV and the Paramount film studios. The new company will be worth more than \$66 billion and combined will have 34 TV stations, a film studio, cable TV and radio networks and book publishing companies. The new chief executive commented "Our future is without limit."

SchNEWS meanwhile comes from a rent-free office near the sea, has no paid staff, relies on subscriptions, donations and the odd benefit to keep going and reaches well over 30,000 people a week. No adverts means we don't have corporations breathing down our neck, so we can print a view of the world you don't find in the mainstream press. So if you think SchNEWS is worthwhile why not come to our next training day on Wednesday 15th September 12 noon. We always need new writers, researchers, mail-out crew, tea makers...so book your place now.

Help! We need a couple of reliable technically competent people who can come in the office every Friday to put SchNEWS on the web. And for just a few hours in the afternoon yer bit of easy-peasy mail-out helps loads to keep the free info flowing freely. P.S. anyone got a spare laser printer for us?

Inside SchNEWS

"With significant court cases coming up and our confidence increasing all the time the campaign is on a roll." David Mackenzie campaign member.

** At 1.50am on 29th Aug while you lot were asleep (says who?), two women members of the Trident Ploughshares campaign, Sylvia Boyes & Anne Scholz, were arrested after spending two hours in the water trying to swim into the Trident submarine docks in. Their plan was to lock on to a sub and use a household hammer to disarm it. All this in water where hypothermia sets in after just 15 minutes exposure, and that's just in the summer. This is the fourth attempt by activists to swim in to the docks in just 11 days and follow a Ploughshares summer camp with 102 arrests being made for disarmament actions against Coulport and Faslane nuclear weapon bases. One woman was arrested for cutting the razor wire but because she was up a ladder the cops couldn't drag her down (oh yeah) only stand and support the ladder, nice one!

** Angie Zelter, Ulla Roder and Ellen Moxley "The Loch Gail Three" appear before Greenock Sheriff Court on 27th September. After spending years lobbying parliament, holding public meetings campaigning that the Trident system is ethically unjustified as well as being unlawful in international law they boarded a Trident support laboratory in Loch Gail and caused £100,000 worth of damage clumsily throwing computers, printers and fax machines all into the drink. Support is needed for these swimming activists with their case starting 10am at Greenock Sheriff Court. Trident Ploughshares 2000, 41-48 Bethel St, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NR. Tel 01603-611931 www.gn.apc.org/tp2000

...and finally...

If you receive any unsolicited emails from wide-eyed activist females, don't count yourself so popular; it could be our mates at the *Sunday Times* with another lesson in the value of media liaison. While journalist Mark Macaskill came across reasonably enough, emailing activists with an approach to interview them, his colleague took a different tack. So, it must now be our turn to take the piss out of super-sleuth journo John Ungoed-Thomas, who sent out a few emails under false names, in the hope of getting back some juicy info for an article.

This is not a personal ad: 'Jo' is just one 'committed environmental and anti corporation activist' apparently now flocking to the ranks of our burgeoning movement, if an email recently received by Friends of the Earth is anything to go by. She wants to know how to get more involved in direct action, having 'really enjoyed' June 18. Likewise, 'Laura' who ecocolumnist George Monbiot of the *Guardian* was privileged to hear from, describes herself as a 'committed anti-corporationist' and is eager to help in any way she can. Any ideas?

Perhaps Laura and Jo might benefit from a few words of advice from someone more canny in covering their tracks, for both sent emails from addresses leading back to Clouseau-esque Ungoed-Thomas, the master of disguise himself. Hardly for us to take the piss now; he's practically giving it away. Fellow hack Macaskill gets annoyed when even his up-front approaches are snubbed, declaring it 'time people in your movement started taking responsibility for their actions'. Not when it involves talking to people like you, Mark. But, in keeping with his paper's coverage in the aftermath of June 18, if anyone is sufficiently well-educated, coming from a suitably wealthy background, and feels they may have funded a drug-fuelled orgy of violence or acted as a ring leader - don't keep quiet, but contact that man of many masks at <Jonathan.Ungoed-Thomas@sundaytimes.co.uk>

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, it's not hard cheese if multinationals lick their lips at the creaming of profits. It's no use bottling it all up, if it is this sort of behaviour gets on yer tits then do an exciting action that the media will lap up. Then you'll feel like the cat who got the cream. Hoors!

A FREE MANN AT LAST

The only actual crime Keith Mann committed was to cause £6000 worth of damage to three slaughterhouse lorries and plan to damage a battery farm. However, persuaded that a bag of weed-killer constituted bomb-making equipment, the judge sentenced him to fourteen years in prison as a terrorist. The sentence was eventually commuted to eleven upon appeal. Then, without warning, he was suddenly released in March. In an article written four days into his freedom

Keith Mann describes the surprise.....

Some strange things have happened over my years inside but by far and away the strangest was being told it was all over and I was free to go. Just a few weeks earlier the management of Parkhurst had refused point blank to allow me any time out to re-adjust before my full term was served (December '99) on the rather bizarre grounds that - in their opinion - the public wouldn't approve. Meanwhile my application for parole was delayed by a month because the paperwork wasn't complete so would now not be heard until March 9th.

March 22nd: I was sat in the TV room out of the way while my cell was being searched - when I was told by a screw that "subject to the paperwork you're out on Friday". As I wasn't really paying that much attention to him, more expecting a moan about something or other I shouldn't have in my cell, I had to ask him to repeat himself which he did. I told him I was still unconvinced by what I was hearing, so he elaborated saying the parole clerk had phoned with the message but wouldn't be sending the required paperwork until the following day. It was a long wait for that to come.

The next day two friends were down to visit, and it was during this time that I was able to get it confirmed for sure that I was indeed going to be getting out on the Friday, by getting a trustworthy screw to phone the parole clerk who also said the paperwork was on the wing waiting for my return. Sure enough by 4pm Tuesday I was certain I was going home. This was the weirdest thing.

For six and a half years I'd coped swimmingly with the passing of the hours, days and weeks but all of a sudden time was standing still. Gate fever is often talked about as the condition prisoners suffer from just prior to their release and I went down with a severe dose - hot flushes, irritable, sleepless nights and no desire for food whatsoever. The news was welcome though. Had I had to run the full term of my sentence I expect I'd have had to 'suffer' this for much longer.

A few of us had our parole hearings on the same day but I was the only one to get a positive result so I was quite a novelty for the next few days. So many people wanted to shake my hand and wish me luck; just as many wanted to get their hands on whatever material things I was going to be leaving behind including my lycra shorts, socks, stereo, tapes, food and phonecards. You also usually have to go through a ritual leaving ceremony like being tied up in a bath of cold water type of thing, but I managed to avoid this and came out unscathed.

Up at 1.45am (bed at midnight) my cell was opened up at 7.45am - the longest night of my life. I went straight in the shower. By 8.30 I was on the way to reception with my things and passed through the C wing exercise yard where

Geoff Sheppard was. We got to say our goodbyes - bit

sad that. His next shot at parole is in November but he'll have done his lot in Feb 2000 anyway if he gets a knock back. Twenty minutes later I'd signed out, was given the £40 discharge grant and £5 travel warrant and let out of the gate into the arms of my long suffering girlfriend. We've both enjoyed looking forward to this day and all that follows it, but the Prison Service have gone out of their way to make things as unpleasant as possible by shipping me around the country's prisons, interfering with our visits, both strip searching and assaulting her and even banning her from visiting me for life before changing their little minds...all for what? To make us both stronger and more determined than ever to change the world.

We took the ferry away from the island - that was the discharge grant gone - and good riddance to the place. Since then (I wrote this four days after leaving) I have just been doing 'normal' things and enjoying every moment. The weirdest thing about being free after all those years in prison is the fact that it isn't really weird at all, it's just like it should be, like I haven't been away. I was primed to expect everything to be different, the traffic to be heavier, life too fast, paranoia.....not a bit of it. I'm in the best of company, am getting well fed and watered, been on the beach with the dogs and out shopping...all normal and everyday but utterly enjoyable.

We've no real plans just yet but are open to offers. What is certain is the extent of my gratitude to all of you for the support you've given me through my sentence - it's immense. Equally the help you have been when the prisons etc have needed reminding about the service they're supposed to be providing - all this has long term effects for present and future POWs.

I've got some catching up to do and I'm itching to get on with it, albeit at a leisurely pace. I have had the law laid down to me with regard to what I can and cannot do and I really have to be careful what I say and write and can't afford to get arrested....not that I have any desire to because that would see me recalled to finish off the eleven years and I don't need that. I will always have the passion for animal welfare they wanted me to lose so badly; the Parole Board used it as a negative factor a year ago. It isn't something you can switch off as you know...it only gets stronger. In fact it isn't so much a passion for animal welfare as a passion for animal liberation. That's what I want and that's what I'll be working for one way or the other for Animal Liberation.

Keith Mann

SQUALL

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DEATH INC: WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

The largest ever government backed arms sale on UK soil took place in September 1999, confirming Britain's position as the second biggest arms dealer in the world. Despite rhetorical claims for the human rights high ground, this Government, like those before it, are proving there is no morality when it comes to arms sales. Si Mitchell takes a look at the Government's blighted record and investigates behind the scenes moves to privatise government military research.

The excitement surrounding the Defence Systems Equipment International (DSEi) arms fair is dying down. The shipments of assault rifles, cluster bombs and electric shock batons are winging their way to Angola, Turkey and both sides of the India/Pakistan border dispute. So, once again, the top brass at the Ministry of Defence must turn their attention to a problem that has been cluttering their in-trays for some time now - what to do about DSEi's hosting organisation, DERA.

The Defence Evaluation Research Agency (DERA) is the MoD's research and development arm, designing and testing military equipment for the Government to the tune of £2.1 billion a year. It is DERA's responsibility to develop new and ever more marketable weapons to maintain Britain's position as the world's second largest arms dealer. Though DERA's future has been under discussion for some years now, unsurprisingly we haven't heard much about it. The proposal on the table since mid 1997 is the creation of a Public Private Partnership (PPP), where a significant part of the agency would be sold into private hands. The exact form of the PPP is undecided, or even whether it will go through at all, though the big arms companies are no doubt salivating at the chance of cornering the largest defence research agency in Europe. And after such a productive year, the bank accounts of British Aerospace, GEC and Lockheed, among others, must be fit to burst.

Britain's expenditure on military research and development (R&D) far outstrips any civil research. In 1995 it took 38.9 per cent of the total government's R&D budget; industrial development receiving 9.6 per cent, health 7.6 per cent and environmental protection just 2.3 per cent. DERA employs 12,000 of the keenest scientific and engineering minds in the country. Plucked from the nation's top universities, their ability was so important to the state that they simply couldn't be left to drift uselessly into medical research or waste their attention on devising ways to revive British industry. No, this elite workforce is given by far and away the best budget in the land and told to invent weapons technology. The numerous defence analysis and testing establishments all over the country include Malvern in Worcestershire, Farnborough in Hampshire, Chertsey in Surrey (where September 99's arms fair was held) and the infamous chemical and biological warfare research station at Porton Down in Hampshire. DERA are keen to promote their technological innovations especially the ones with 'realworld' applications. The Liquid Crystal Diode is a particular favourite, as is Thermal Imaging. Designed to give night vision to military reconnaissance and weapons siting, the same technology is used to search for buried victims following earthquakes. However the reality is that only around ten per cent of DERA's work has a civil purpose. The rest is warfare; the quest for Joseph Heller's fictitious Shhhhhh: "The plane so fast, you can bomb someone even before you decide to do it. Decide today - it's done yesterday." Recently declassified documents are only now beginning to shed some light on the extensive chemical and bio-

logical weapons testing carried out in Britain by Porton Down during the 1950s and 60s. The Chemical Defence and Microbiological Research Establishments, CDE & MRE (DERA has been renamed more times than the dole) released large quantities of a known carcinogen, Zinc Cadmium Sulphide, over substantial tracts of the population. The tests were designed to map the effects of a potential chemical or biological attack on Britain. Salisbury and Norwich were both subject to 'Air Pollution Trials' that consisted of barium treated ZCS being sprayed over the towns by air and out of the back of Land Rovers. Similar, biological, trials to ascertain the danger from offshore germ attack were carried out, along the Dorset coast, throughout the 1960s. An Anthrax simulant, *Bacillus Fubtilus Varniger*, was sprayed from a boat in the English Channel to see how far inland it could spread. Communities from Portland and East Lulworth experiencing clusters of birth defects and miscarriage, have called for a public inquiry or the setting up of a parliamentary select committee to look into the effects of the trials. DERA have been accused of breaching the Nuremberg code which outlawed "experimenting on people without informed consent". The MoD have said they will appoint a toxicologist to study what effects the releases may have had, though they are having trouble finding a willing candidate.

Last month, Wiltshire police launched an unconnected investigation into claims that nerve gas was tested on servicemen at Porton Down during the 1950s. At least one soldier is known to have died as a result of exposure to the nerve agent Sarin. Possible charges of corporate manslaughter, assault and administering noxious substances could be brought. Another DERA 'breakthrough' was the Future Infantry Soldier Technology (FIST) project. FIST gained celebrity status when it featured in a Channel Four documentary 'The War Machine' screened in February 1998. In the film an army Brigadier lauded the project as creating the "soldier of the future" and described how useful the technology would be to troops in the Gulf. However during the field trials the helmet mounted screen of the automatic 'Video Aiming System', (which was supposed to replace the need for a soldier to aim his rifle), became invisible; and therefore useless, simply because the sun was shining. And the £20,000, satellite linked, 'Global Positioning System' was unable to detect an 'enemy' in full view only yards away.

"As a navigation aid it made a good ashtray," concluded the field trial manager. So far FIST has cost the taxpayer £7 million, they say they hope to have positive results by 2008.

However the dilemma facing DERA at present is not how it spends its money, but where that money is going to come from. The exact form of the proposed PPP is undecided, or even whether it will go through at all, though both the Government and corporate sector are pushing hard for privatisation. "It will make DERA more vital, commercial and efficient," says DERA's Helen Craven.

SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--

I Wanna Go Home
Underground Update

Features

- Squall Pics
- Frontline Communique
- The State Its In
- Squates
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- From Our Correspondence

DERA's 'Agency' status means it is officially classed as a 'trading fund'. That is they "sell" their research to the MoD and other government departments and are not therefore officially subsidised by the MoD. The ninety per cent of their work carried out for the MoD would most likely continue post sell off, resulting in taxpayers effectively subsidising a private corporation whose sole purpose is to make money for its shareholders from the production of weapons. Opposition has come in various forms. The Pentagon has voiced concerns over joint research carried out between the British and US militaries falling into private hands. The Association of Independent Research Organisations has described the plan as "unworkable". And according to Fiona Draper, from the Institute of Professional Management Specialists (IPMS), DERA's leading trade union, the majority of the Agency's workforce are opposed to PPP. Draper says many of her members, who see themselves working for the public good are uncomfortable about working for someone else's private profit. "DERA has to advise the MoD on the usefulness of equipment. If they themselves are owned by a company who had an interest in manufacturing that equipment, they may no longer be in a position to give totally impartial advice." Draper also points out that, as a public body, DERA is accountable to Parliament and through Parliament to the public. As a private company, this would no longer be the case. (Though there are those that argue that the Parliamentary custom of not questioning military expenditure could hardly be described as accountability.) When asked what control the government could maintain over who owns a private DERA, the MoD's Marcus Deville dismissed the danger of military technology falling into the hands of less than ethical regimes, as the new organisation "would still be subject to Strategic Export Controls". However many arms traders have become quite adept at circumventing these controls, and the growing tide of 'free trade', corporate protecting, legislation such as GATT, NAFTA and the soon to be reappearing Multilateral Agreement on Investment, is likely to mean any Government veto over the dealings of the proposed conglomerate would be little at best.

(It is worth noting here that when SQUALL approached Deville for a press pass for the DSEI arms fair, his response was effectively: Sorry but the exhibition is being run by a private company and we don't have any say over who gets allowed in or not. It appears the MoD claim to 'have control' when it suits them, but 'have none' when it doesn't.)

In his book, 'The Armour-Plated Ostrich - The Hidden Costs of Britain's Addiction to the Arms Business', Tim Webb, who spent 25 years in the arms business, details the need for the diversification of the 'defence' industry: "Education, health, social services and other areas of manufacturing have all suffered as a result of successive British governments' over-indulgence in military hardware." Currently standing at £22 billion a year, Tony Blair with his trusty sidekick George Robertson (UK Defence Secretary and Nato Director General-to-be) have proved to be as hell bent on killing foreigners as any of their predecessors. Yet a poll of Labour MPs taken just after the 1997 general election found them to be six to one in favour of a reduction in defence expenditure. All the same, Chancellor Gordon Brown's threats to pull the plug on the £16 billion Eurofighter project quickly disappeared, and Blair's recent Strategic Defence Review fell foul of the MoD's unparalleled muscle in Whitehall.

(Despite a steady flow of reliable reports, spanning much of the last 24 years, demonstrating British arms were being used domestically in East Timor, only now does Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, become concerned about a hawk jet sighting over Dili. Though despite the massacre underway in East Timor, the UK Government will still not stand by their election pledge to cease arms sales to the Indonesian regime. 'Sales', it was recently revealed, that were in fact 'gifts' when Indonesia could not afford to pay for the planes.)

Reluctantly Labour did stick by one manifesto commitment. In March 1998 a consultation Green Paper was drawn up proposing the setting up of a Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) whose purpose is intended to reduce Britain's defence dependency by transferring military technology into the civil sector. Webb argues that had steps down this road been taken sooner Britain's manufacturing industry could be in a very different state. One DERA project led to the invention of a flat, wall hung, television screen that could project 3D images. The manufacturing licence went to a Japanese company because there are no British owned TV manufacturers. In its presently proposed state the DDA looks likely to fall well short of expectations. The Government has decided to place the new organisation within DERA. Its £2 million budget, described as "paltry" by CAAT, is the equivalent of 0.0001 per cent of total arms expenditure. Fiona Draper of IPMS believes a DDA within a privatised DERA would prove totally ineffective: "What incentive would DERA have as a commercial body to pass on knowledge to other firms its in competition with." Any real commitment to diversification must also be questioned while DERA's 'Pathfinder' arm is out and about actively encouraging industry to generate new military ideas for the Agency to work on, and the Defence Export Service Organisation (DESO) are zealously promoting arms sales overseas with their air shows and arms conventions.

In response to the Green Paper, Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) have called for the DDA to be made independent of both DERA and the MoD, suggesting it could be situated within the DTI. "Any diversification agency within these bodies will be highly influenced by its environment," says CAAT's Rachel Harford. She points out that it was another election pledge to promote diversification and reduce arms exports. So Labour owe it to the British people to disband the DESO and put the money into a more powerful DDA. Webb also thinks, given the right conditions, the DDA has potential. He believes it should be a free-standing agency made up of scientists, businessmen, people from education, industry and defence, with trade unions, government departments, local authorities and the EU all playing a role. While wrangling continues over DERA's privatisation, perhaps the question should not be: How does DERA go forward? But: When does DERA stop doing what it does and set their immense cerebral reserve to some more relevant tasks. Are British people not sick of seeing their schools close, their jobs disappear and their relatives die on hospital waiting lists? Yet the government they elected still think it necessary to pour the majority of the nation's wealth into an industry that is like a dog chasing its own tail. Spending on research into undetectable aircraft is matched by that into planes that can detect anything. Despite the "defence" moniker, the aim is thinking up more effective ways of killing people. No doubt the new DERA will get a more cuddly name.

"It's not easy to persuade people that a tank is useful," says disgruntled, DERA spokeswoman, Helen Craven. No it's not. Yet DERA, along with the rest of Britain's defence industry, seem caught up in NATO's incessant push Eastwards. Britain's generals are still Empire building and it benefits the arms manufacturers to keep the Cold War alive. All the smart money is on the 'Smash it up - Rebuild it' school of economic thought. And with George Robertson at the helm? That'll do nicely - American Express? As author Tim Webb puts it: "Learning nothing from past mistakes of cost overruns and weapons designed for a world that no longer exists, the planners press ahead and the multinational manufacturers start jumping into bed with each other to promote their bids. A few dogs may bark but the armoured caravan moves on."

Protesters picket the Houses Of Parliament, calling on Jack Straw to allow the Spanish authorities to bring General Pinochet to trial...

...but in the meantime murderous regimes still queue up to buy weapons from Britain...

...and luxury country mansions across Surrey prepare rooms for any other dictator when the going gets too tough outside the walls of the palace.



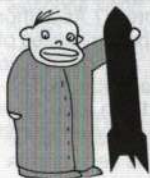
SQUOTES

"We want to thank you all for these days you've been with us. Seeing you, having you so close, our hearts have grown and we are now better and stronger. We see you and we see people, men and women committed to a struggle, to a cause that's also yours. By coming, you've given us a greater strength that will help us resist better and longer. That's why we want to thank you. I know that maybe you won't understand me, but your being here is so very, very lovely."

Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos, speaking with representatives of the autonomous municipalities of Chiapas.



Graffiti about French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, stencilled June 18th 1999



Learn to love the bomb.

Vote Labour.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BIT OF ARMLESS FUN



Friday 17th Sept 1999

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

Issue 228 Free/Donation

Guns 'n' Us

'We obviously don't talk about burnt bodies and smashed bones. It tends to put the clients off their vol-au-vents'
- missile salesman

Inside: decked in pinstripes or uniforms and shiny regalia, 20,000 or so arms-industry delegates, beating the Christmas rush. Not a place to take yermum shopping – and an invite a tad harder to obtain than a copy of the Argos catalogue.

Outside: the characteristic peace movement mixed-bag of Quakers, troskyst paper sellers, direct action types, and the odd backbench MP. And more than a few police. At least as many combat fatigues as were inside the exhibition, and more running around and scrambling across obstacles than on the Krypton Factor assault course.

SUPERSTAR DSEi - HERE WE GO!

Welcome to Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi) – the UK's biggest bombs n' guns emponium. Taking place simultaneously in on MoD land near Chertsey, Surrey and at London's Docklands, don't shop around for your military-industrial hardware – just come to and peruse our exhibition.

And so thousands of participants came from across the globe, representing regimes as far apart as Algeria, China and Saudi Arabia. They rolled up to Chertsey into a grey expanse that looked as muddy as the car parks at a wet Glastonbury – and just as miserable – before herding into the field of marquees. But the projectiles advertised on these stalls would be dangerous to juggle with, the pipes here too full of high-grade aircraft fuel to try to smoke, and the chemicals unlikely to make anyone feel the rush come. The hippies weren't invited to this one.

Still, they rushed there anyway and things kicked off at the exhibition, where several hundred activists flanked the main entrance, at intervals flinging themselves in front of the oncoming coachloads. The tailbacks quickly built up as the anti-arms trade boys and girls crawled beneath the vehicles or sat in the road, chanting Buddhists all the while hanging out a rhythmic backdrop to the fun and games. Meanwhile, on the river in East London, amphibious activists harried the six or more state-of-the-art warships, their in-something-of-a-state dinghy tearing along only slightly faster than it let in the Thames. (The rosy old motor, though, shall stall no more: butter-fingered police, after confiscating the vessel, let the engine slip into the bosom of the water. A replacement is coming courtesy of an apologetic constabulary – oops).

Back in rainy Chertsey, police had had to close the main approach route to traffic, giving throngs of dripping wet arms dealers a chance to get to know the lovely Chobham road. Traipsing on

foot the mile or more stretch down to the fair's entrance, many apparently suffered collateral damage* to their dignity. One delegate, displaying an IQ similar to that of the average subscriber to *Guns n' Ammo* magazine, took a moment to lunge at a protester with a poorly-aimed umbrella. Some who arrived by train had a better time; not, however, those on the Tuesday morning service held up for the best part of an hour, after a female activist locked on to a carriage at the last station but one from the exhibition site. Chatting on the platform was a pleasure, as the extended stop provided unrivalled access to the considerable number of arms buyers and sellers aboard the train. As too, were the catering staff contracted by the exhibition. 'We'll spit in their food!' they promised, expressing the same dim view of their arms-trading carriage-fellows as most of the other passengers.

Dear Murderous Bastard,
You Are Cordially Invited to An Opportunity to Purchase Some of the World's Finest Instruments of Torture & Death.
Set in the Heart of the Beautiful Surrey Countryside, the Defence Systems and Equipment International Offers you the chance to choose from a wide range of Missiles, Attack Aircraft and Internal Repression Equipment, all in the Unrivalled Peace and Security that only the Ministry of Defence can offer. RSVP MoD

'Then there were those who got inside.... stowing away in one of the delegates' coaches, one power-dressed woman protester passed unnoticed in the exhibition for several minutes before getting kicked out with some of the industry literature she'd managed to glean. Others ran the gauntlet of forest terrain and barbed perimeter fence, creeping through the undergrowth like soldiers before scaling the double-fencing of the inner-compound.

Then yesterday evening, the target was a Park Lane hotel (don't flash your YHA membership card in this place) where many of the arms industry movers and shakers went to enjoy a banquet. There, one hotel security guard went and punched a guy who had climbed the hotel gate to drape a banner, giving him, nonetheless, rather less injury than, say, the Kurds in eastern Turkey, trade unionists in Kenya, or any of those lucky others at the receiving end of some of that shiny new military hardware.

*collateral damage, a Gulf War euphemism meaning human casualties, as used by many of the 'peacekeeping enthusiasts' attending DSEi. - SchNEWS VocabWatch

"WHAT IF WE HAD AN ARMS FAIR & EVERYONE CAME?"

Among the MoD's guests are the following delightful governments.... **Saudi Arabia:** A savagely repressive fundamentalist regime, that according to Amnesty, 'collects arms like others collect Rolls Royces.' **Israel:** Subject of innumerable UN condemnations for the occupation of Lebanon, ethnic cleansing in the Occupied Territories, including 20 unlawful killings this year, and recently found guilty by its own high court of torturing prisoners. **Syria:** Systematic human rights abuse and repression of political opponents. **Algeria:** Military dictatorship responsible for 100,000 deaths since cancelling the 1992 elections.

Such is the generosity of Britain, we even help such states pay for their weapons, thanks to the Export Credit Guarantees Dept. ECGD has the British tax payer cough up for recipient country that spend more than they can afford, so allowing exporters to trade with 'high-risk' states that no true capitalist would touch. Naturally, this is used largely for UK plc's favourite export, arms – meaning that we pay for dodgy regimes to get nasty weaponry for free, and the merchants of death to make a killing. And the best bit is that it all gets counted as 'aid'.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) admitted in Parliament this year that export credits were covering the sale of arms to Indonesia worth £691 million. The DTI has also rescheduled £200 million in debt repayments from the beleaguered Indonesian economy so that arms deals could continue.

Sadly, due to a few domestic problems (not 'cos the UK govt withdrew their invitation, which still stands), Indonesia was unable to attend the DSEi. Fortunately though, the Defence Export Services Organisation, has a permanent bargain-basement store in Jakarta their stated aim: to raise Britain's arms sales to Indonesia tenfold, to £3bn by 2007. Don't forget – even when countries are officially banned from importing British arms, UK companies can still arrange arms transfers as long as they don't pass directly through Britain. And helpfully, the govt trains military officers from foreign armies – including the Indonesian special forces.

You missed the DSEi arms fair?

No-one goes away empty-handed. 'I was more Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association (AFCEA) This one's already been driven out of Belgium, (politically and ethnically undesirable' said their parliament) but is coming to the Renaissance Hotel near Heathrow airport, from October 27-29.

Soon after, the notorious Contingency and Operational Procurement Exhibition (COPIEX) takes place at Sandown Park Racecourse in Surrey, November 2-4.

Both these snappily-titled events provide plenty of opportunity to go play with the bastards. Campaign Against Arms Trade: 0171 281 0297

Inside SchNEWS

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an African-American journalist, awarded the prestigious Peabody Award for Radio Journalism at 26, elected president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Association of Black Journalists, who has been on death row for the past sixteen years charged with the murder of a cop. As a teenager Mumia was a member of the Black Panther Party and his work found him on the 'key agitators index' of the FBI. Because of his outspoken views Mumia was finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet supporting his wife and children and so took a job driving a taxi. Whilst cabbying he saw a cop beating a black man with his torch. He was shot running to the scene by an officer while another lay mortally wounded nearby. After being beaten by police he underwent intensive surgery, before being charged with murder. Meanwhile, he'd also been highlighting the states escalating harassment of the radical black ecological group MOVE, and its attempts to crush it, eventually leading to the bombing of their homes and the imprisonment and death of most of its members. As one magazine states "It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the authorities considered eliminating Mumia's reportage an urgent priority."

There isn't space to go into the details of the trial but in December '97 an international tribunal of 23 prominent jurists convened in Philadelphia, to consider testimony by 'selected witnesses' and look into the evidence. The panel took just 2 hours to return a unanimous verdict that the US government had violated four human rights conventions during and after the trial.

Mumia's work was dubbed "the voice of the voiceless". Now it's our turn to pull out all the stops to make sure he is not executed. Last time, in 1995, worldwide protests stopped his death - let's do it again. The next six months are a critical period in the battle for a new trial because Mumia's certiorari petition is before the US Supreme Court. Unless the Court rules in his favour, which we certainly can't count on - then, by the end of October, Mumia's lawyers must file their habeas corpus appeal in the Federal Courts. This filing for habeas will initiate the final rounds of the legal battle. Remember this is urgent - once the death warrant is signed he has just 30-90 days to live.

What's at stake is both Mumia's future - the future of one of the most inspiring and fearless voices of the oppressed today and the future of the disgusting US Penal system. The US government has not dared to carry out the legal execution of a prominent Black revolutionary since the days of slavery. To let them get away with such an act now would send a chilling message to the rest of the world. We must not allow this to happen! Mumia's case underscores "the criminalization of Black men, the suppression of dissent, the expanded death penalty, the gutting of defendants' rights, and the whole political atmosphere that is based on blame and repression".

September 19-25 is Mumia awareness week. Contact Mumia Must Live! BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX email mumia@coolnetuk.com, www.mumia.org

Send protest letters to: Governor Tom Ridge, Main Capital Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120, fax +001 717 783 4429.

Letters of support: Mumia Abu-Jamal, S.C.I. Greene, 1040 East R Fuman Highway, Waynesburg, PA, Philadelphia 15370-8090.

There's a meeting at the Brighton Unemployed Workers Centre, 4 Crestway Parade, The Crestway, Hollingdean this Sunday (19th) 7pm to organise local support.

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

SchNEWS in brief

Get along to the Free The World Bike Ride on September 22nd DAY, for a pedal powered tour of London. "Along with reclaiming London streets on this 'car free day', we will be visiting various dodgy institutions and businesses to express opposition to the destructive system of global capitalism." Meet 12 noon at Speakers Corner. The tour will end with a picnic held somewhere inappropriate - so bring food and drink. Contact London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, N1 9DX. Tel: 0171 713 1269 ** Did you witness any arrests at the last Manchester Reclaim the Streets or the squatted Hacienda Party in June? (See SchNEWS 215) Tel 0161 226 6814

** "We are of the united opinion that the loss of these antiquities would constitute little less than a national disaster." Letter to the Times 1975. Planning permissions granted nearly half a century ago allowing the obliteration of a large part of south-west Dartmoor to make way for a "super-quarry" and huge waste tips could soon become reality. Much of the ground has yet to be systematically surveyed and it is likely that the monuments currently recorded represent only a fraction of the existing archaeological remains. <http://easywebsitesynet.co.uk/aburnham/pers/dquarry.htm> Contact Dartmoor Preservation Association, China Clay Campaign, Old Duchy hotel, FREEPOST (PY687), Yelverton, PL20 6ZZ. **

"We are at a turning point in our history. We are on the verge of a new adventure in planetary consciousness". So writes one of the contributors to 'Creating Harmony: Conflict Resolution in Community' (ed. Hildur Jackson). After a long summer of partying (oh yeah, and protesting), SchNEWS isn't too sure that consciousness is necessary, but for those who do this book might take 'em to a higher level. The book is a varied manual of co-operative living in community experiments written by participants from the 60s onwards. Available from Permanent Publications, Tel: 01730-823311email: hello@permaculture.co.uk**

The South African cabinet approved a £3.2 billion deal with major European arms manufacturers to buy ships, submarines, fighters and helicopters, money that is needed to help the country's crumbling public & social services. Meanwhile, whilst the government is busy challenging allegations of corruption, the country has just endured its biggest ever strike. The President is accused of using hard line tactics against his public sector workers, to impress foreign governments and investors about his "Tight(Assed) Fiscal Policy"! Although they don't seem so tight when buying arms!

From our Finnish Correspondent

"We had a demonstration in 3-motorwaybuilding-site...Engineers were aggressive, they shouted how "suppid" we are. The top road builder screamed to workers that "machines must move to the other place and you can drive OVER activists if they are in the front of! We were in the front of and I gripped in the front of machine my legs under the machine and machine went on!"

This was the first time the demonstration wasn't told to police before and it was illegal. After forcing machines we went to the top office of 3-motorwaybuilding site in Iittala to shout to the leaders. They came out and went away with their big cars, but I called to the leader of this project and he said that he's ready to speak with us. He was ready also before but I hated him so much that I refused to speak with him. Now the engineers said in newspapers that every motorway-resisters in Finland are invited to come to the Iittala to drink coffee, hah hah. And they said that they'll explain us that environment has been taken into consideration in motorwaybuilding, hah!!! Of course we'll go there but we discuss only that the WHOLE motorwaybuilding must STOP!"

Contact Aronitinkatu 5A8, 13500 Hdmmeenlinna, Finland. Tel +358-40-7452057. e-mail: pajuoja@hmltol.hamk.fi

BURMESE YEARS!

17 years imprisonment for possessing pro-democracy fliers was justice Burmese style for James Mawdsley last week. Access to the British Consul was refused, causing suspicion of torture. On the 9/9/99 Pro-democracy demonstrators in Pegu City and Thathone handed out leaflets. Londoner Rachel Godwyn was among 500 demonstrators arrested (for singing a revolutionary song) last week. She now faces 7 years in prison. Demos in solidarity around the world included the Burmese Embassy in London being redecorated, losing its military flag and gaining butterflies and flowers. The Burmese embassy in Australia being stormed by several hundred students and there were large demo's in front of the Burmese Embassy's in Bangkok, Thailand, and in the USA outside the UN Building. In Nottingham action was taken against electronics firm GEC (sprayed GET OUT OF BURMA), Midland Bank & Daewoo car showrooms (glued up) and Total petrol stations (padlocked during rush hour). Nottingham Earth First! also picketed several Travel Agencies to highlight our ability to directly boycott Burma as ethical tourists. Before Rachel Godwyn left, she made a plea to Tony Blair to end investment in Burma which is ruled by a military dictatorship guilty of ethnic cleansing, forced labour and the disappearances and torture of pro-democracy activists.

Meanwhile 3 year old, Thaint Wunna Khin has become the world's youngest prisoner of conscience, after being arrested by Military Intelligence for helping to plan a march earlier this year! Amnesty International said "Locking up a young child effectively holding her hostage to force her father out of hiding - exposes the extent of the Burmese government's ruthlessness in trying to stamp out political dissent."

Burma Action Group, Bickerton House, 25-27 Bickerton Rd, London N19 5JT. www.freeburmacoalition.org

PARTNERS IN CRIME

'Partnership' was Prime Minister Tony Blair's buzzword at the TUC Conference in Brighton this week. (mentioned nine times).

"Business and employees...are not two nations divided. That's old style thinking. That's the thinking of the past." According to Blair "The partnership message is spreading" so here's a few examples:

270 workers at LUFTHANSA SKYCHEF sacked for going on a one day strike over flexible working practices.

Workers at KRUPP CAMFORD PRESSING in Llanelli, Wales threatened with redundancies unless they accept pay cuts of up to £60 a week. Last year the company made a profit of £1.7 million.

New Labour's buddies GRANADA are still refusing to re-employ the Hillingdon Hospital workers who were sacked four years ago for refusing to accept worse pay and conditions. An industrial tribunal told Granada to pull their finger out, so far the company have refused...

...and finally...

SchNEWS had to laugh about Sir Ken Jackson, General Secretary of the AEUU union, who told the TUC it should scrap its annual Conference and hold a joint gathering every other year with the bosses union, the Confederation of British Industry. The man also came up with the cunning plan of a strike-free Britain. "Workers want to work, they don't want to strike" he rattled. Maybe he should have said it a bit louder. The very next day hundreds of Ford workers staged a 24 hour strike over pay allowances. A free copy of SchNEWS to any reader who correctly guesses what union the Ford workers are members of.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to have candy floss arms fayres in the back garden, as loads of dodgy dealers will only turn up and you'll have to dodgem like the bullets.

SUN, SALSA & SOCIALISMO

Fresh from spending a month in Cuba during the 40th anniversary of their revolution, Jim Carey reports back on an audacious island throbbing with a passion for culture, whilst fending off US attempts to destroy its successful alternative to capitalism

"Fuck the revolution," said the black marketeer striding back to his doorway haunt in Havana. Having had his whispered offer of illicit cigars refused, he'd spotted the Rock Around the Blockade T-shirt and realised we were in Cuba for reasons other than the usual tourist quest for sun, sand, sea, sex and cigars.

The irony stood apparent. Just over forty years ago, an afro-cuban such as himself might well have been living in a shack on the outskirts of Havana with little access to decent sanitation, employment, medical care, education or social respect. Photographs of the period displayed in Havana's Museum of the Revolution depict scenes of poverty and destitution more reminiscent of third world charity appeals; a far cry from both present day Cuba and the well dressed black-marketeer who sneered before us so dismissive of the political changes in his own third world-country.

Appropriately, the quote written on the back of my duty-free rolling tobacco advised: "Travel the world, talk to everyone". And so, over the course of a one month journey round Cuba, I did just that. From passionate defenders of the revolutionary principle to Nike-obsessed youth gagging for a slice of capitalist excitement. Contrary to what I had read in the British press about Cuba, no-one seemed the least bit afraid to speak to their mind, regardless of their political perspective. Lesson One: Forget everything you've read in the media about Cuba. The cold war lives on in bizarre propaganda.

So, as one of the very few countries left in the world still actively exploring a political alternative to the American way of doing things, the investigative journey was always destined to be the education.

Our first mission in Cuba was a musical one. Myself and a fellow DJ from the SQUALL Sound System travelled with a fifteen strong brigade of young British people from Rock Around the Blockade, a pro-Cuban activist group based in the UK. Back in 1995, Rock Around the Blockade asked Cuba's Union de Jovenes Comunista (Union of Young Communists) what could be done specifically to help Cuban youth. Rather surprisingly for an island short of certain basic necessities, they replied with a request for a sound

system. Upon visiting Cuba it becomes immediately apparent why; Cubans adore music and dance with unparalleled passion. Everywhere you go on the island you'll find a tatty speaker wired up to some tin-box of a radio or tape recorder, spilling copious quantities of salsa, merengue, disco, nueva trova, hip-hop, rumba and latin pop. From factories, farmhouses, apartments and the street.....from dawn til dusk and well beyond.



Fig: El Seed

developed to deploy its ideals of 'people before profits'.

Facilitated by our hosts, the Union de Jovenes Comunista, our brigade of political inquisitors expended its volley of awkward questions in schools, hospitals, clinics, farms, discos, cultural centres and at a multitude of sites of revolutionary significance. We also spent Christmas Day picking coffee alongside Cuban volunteers in the plantations of Sancti Spiritus and spoke to members of the local population who'd participated in the revolution. We were left in little doubt that the region which afforded us such formidable hospitality was passionately steeped both in the history and the present day reality of this most unusual of revolutions.

SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--
I Wanna Go Home
Underground Update

Features

- Squall Pics
- Frontline Communique
- The State Its In
- Squotes
- Resources
- Links
- From Our Correspondence

Largely due to the US economic blockade of the island, enforced since 1961 with a vigour one EU official recently described as "obsessive", musical equipment ranks amidst a multitude of material and medical necessities difficult for the Cubans to obtain. And yet for a community powerfully connected by dance, and for a youth needing to dance as hard as it works, sound systems are a social medicine. And that's where Rock Around the Blockade stepped in for its third visit - on the fortieth anniversary of the Cuban revolution - to give the 36,000 people of Fomento a sound system to keep and a party to remember.

Whilst fulfilling our mission, the Brigade were given a two week tour of the Sancti Spiritus province in which Fomento is situated, as an introduction to the history of the Cuban revolution and the socialist infrastructure developed

Exactly forty years ago this year, the Cuban Rebel Army commanded by Fidel Castro Ruz succeeded against all odds in throwing out the corrupt US-backed dictatorship which had seized power in Cuba following a coup d'etat eight years previously. Also removed from the island were the Mafia who, with the dictatorship's continuing complicity, had run Havana's numerous clubs, casinos and brothels since the late twenties. Shortly after the revolution out also went the American companies and landowners who'd controlled 90 per cent of Cuba's land and industry, followed by multi-millionaire corporate Cubans like the Bacardi family.

The grand headquarters building of the Bacardi rum empire - the Edificio Bacardi - had stood just an ingratiated stones throw from the presidential palace in Havana. In a scene irresistibly symbolic of the revolution's reappropriation of resources, the Edificio was swathed in scaffolding as we visited the capital; its cracked marble walls under repair ready for state use. Bacardi's rum producing factories, capable of distilling some of the island's vast acreage of sugar cane into 'ron de Cuba', have now passed into the hands of the state run Havana Club. Cuba's preferred choice of social lubricant is now cheaply available to those who bring their own container to the dispensary. Despite this, the number of drunks on the streets of Havana was significantly less than those visible in London.

Although arriving in Cuba without any taste for rum whatsoever, my 'appointments with Ron' grew ever more frequent. Mystically, my staggered Spanish dramatically improved after a few dashes of the hot stuff, and long nocturnal hours of animated conversation ensued.

Despite still dominating the world's rum market from its relocated base in the United States, Bacardi pour millions of dollars into funding anti-Castro groups. The corporation's lawyers even helped draft the infamous US legislation, the Helms Burton Act, which penalises any company from any country in the world which has trade associations with Cuba.

In order to enact the social principles of the revolution and protect the country from continuing American attempts to bring the island back in line, Castro declared the socialist nature of the new Cuban government in 1961. The subsequent reappropriation of Cuba's resources is now apparent throughout the island. Cuba's grand Spanish colonial architecture, previously occupied by the white and rich, is now inhabited by everyday folk; black, white and all shades in between. Glancing through an open front door in the municipality of Trinidad de Cuba I saw an old lady in a nylon dress swaying back and forth on an ornate wooden rocking chair, chuffing contentedly on a cigar beneath a crystal chandelier.

The Villa Conchita, a splendid piece of architectural grandeur we visited in the central municipality of Sancti Spiritus, had been owned by a multi-millionaire childless couple until the day they fled the revolution. Complete with much of its original furniture and ornamentation, the Villa Conchita now lends its opulence as home to 12 orphans and the impressive 11 care-workers who look after them. For a year or so after the victory of the revolutionary forces, the new government tried to continue a relationship with multinational companies operating on the island. However, when big oil companies began refusing to provide the island with oil in protest over its new brand of socialism, Castro's government decided that enough was enough and kicked them all out and nationalised the lot. Black and white film footage of the period shows Cuban citizen's kicking Esso and Shell logo's from the roofs of their former buildings.

Behind the Campismo chalets which provided home

to both our brigade and a regularly reinforced contingent of large green frogs, looms the Escambray mountains. It was from here that Column Eight of the Rebel Army commanded by Ernesto Che Guevara conducted the successful and suprisingly rapid take over of the strategically important central regions of Cuba. In a battle Fidel Castro thought would take at least three months, the 300 rebel soldiers of Column Eight took just three days to defeat over 5000 government troops entrenched in the city of Santa Clara. Following this decisive rebel victory, the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista collapsed as he fled the country with a sackful of loot stolen from the state coffers. Eight days later, the rebel army entered Havana triumphant.

It is not possible to exaggerate the reverence with which Che Guevara's memory is held in Cuba. Everyday in schools right across the island, Cuban children repeat: "We aspire to be like Che", as a mantra to self-improvement. Pictures, medallions, statues and memorials to the Argentine-born freedom fighter can be found on hill tops and roadsides, in shady groves and adorning the walls of private homes, schools and hospitals.

What was especially surprising was that even the minority of people who expressed dissatisfaction with Cuba's revolutionary government still loved Che. When I asked one such person whether the incessant reverence shown to Guevara ever got on his nerves, the answer was an emphatic 'no'. "Even when he was a commander in the army and a minister in the government, he drew an ordinary soldier's wage," he said. "And even when he was both of these he still occupied his free time doing huge amounts of voluntary work in the plantations and factories despite his chronic asthma. Everybody feels he belonged to the people."

The huge statue of Che in Santa Clara, towering above the interred remains of several key revolutionaries including Guevara himself, is made of bronze donated by ordinary Cuban people. Given the sparsity of material resource in Cuba, the statue stands as a monument to the Cuban people's brimming admiration of his example and legacy. But, although Guevara is the most memorialised of the revolutionaries, statues and images of his ever smiling comrade Camilo Cienfuegos are also profuse, whilst factories, hospitals and street names pay respect to other revolutionaries including female warriors like Celia Sanchez and Tania. Those revolutionaries still alive today are not celebrated in this way. As part of the revolutionary government's stated principle of avoiding the cult of political personality, there are relatively few images of Fidel Castro in public places.

When told that two movies about the life of Che Guevara were currently in production in United States, the Cubans we spoke to expressed concern. Normally they love US action flicks plucked from satellite and shown without the necessity for royalty payments; we met passionate communists who were able to recall every scene from films like *Silence of the Lambs*, *Pulp Fiction*, *The Godfather* and *Once Upon a Time in America*. But the prospect of a Hollywood spin on Che Guevara's life story was not greeted with much excitement. It was upon the orders of the CIA that Che Guevara was executed without trial in Bolivia in 1967, his remains only finally negotiated back to Cuba in 1997.

Perhaps the one and only passion which Che Guevara shared with the rich capitalists of Hollywood was his love affair with Cuban cigars. At one stage in his life, Guevara's doctor insisted that he give up smoking to help him cope better with the chronic asthma he had suffered throughout his life. Guevara reluctantly agreed to hold it down to one a day but saw to it that his cigar box contained only 12 inches.

According to the Cuban tobacco farmers we spoke to, it is the island's perfect combination of soil and weather which ensures its reputation for producing the world's best tobacco. Fulfilling last year's increased export target of 80 million cigars, Cuba's renowned Havanas provide one of the key sources of international revenue necessary to ensure the continuation of Cuba's steady economic growth over the last five years.

Although officially unobtainable in the United States due to the economic blockade, Bill Clinton was still forced to deny rumours that the infamous Lewinsky blow-job cigar was in fact Cuban. The smuggling of Cuban cigars into the US mostly via Mexico has increased eight fold over recent years. Fidel Castro, on the other hand, is unlikely to suffer similar accusations. Long associated with the global image of the contented Cuban cigar chuffer, he actually gave up smoking a couple of years ago citing it as an unhealthy example to set before young Cubans. Given that he'd smoked cigars everyday for the majority of his life, his sudden abstinence at age 71 was impressive.

Another source of both revenue and international representation are the increasing number of Cuban artists travelling abroad to perform in countries like Japan, Mexico, Europe, Canada and even the United States. According to, Fernando Leon Jacamino from the organisation responsible for the development of Cuban culture (SAIZ), there are now more Cuban bands performing abroad than at any time in the country's history, with Europe currently providing the most frequented destination. Schools of music in Cuba provide a free education in the combined disciplines of afro-Cuban, jazz and classical styles. As a legacy of musical exchanges with the former Soviet Union there are still Russian professors teaching classical techniques in the music schools of Havana.

As a result of both state support for culture and the long celebrated confluence of African, European and even some Asian musical styles, the unique quality of musicianship cultivated inside Cuba - the country that gave the world salsa, rumba, cha-cha-cha, latin jazz and mambo - is extraordinarily high and of international renown.

Despite the full deployment of bureaucratic obstacles put before Cuban musicians entering the US, it is still possible for Cuban bands signed up to an economically powerful record company to perform in the US. Anancys Saxon, the woman specifically responsible for music with the SAIZ organisation, told us that with Hispanic people now the biggest ethnic group in the United States, the market demand for Cuban music there is strong. When La Charanga Habenera, one of Cuba's top salsa outfits, was finally allowed into the US to perform as a support band, the audience response was rapturous. The headline salsa act, Peter Conde, simply refused to go on; not out of political objection but through awed respect for the quality of the Cuban's musicianship.

These stories were fully corroborated as we sat in a small cafe just outside Havana. With just two British DJs for an audience, Son del Barrio set up in the corner and proceeded to pour out tune after tune of the most sublime yet fiery acoustic music I'd ever heard in my many years of watching live music.

The largest source of international revenue going into the Cuban economy these days, however, comes from an industry the revolutionary government had deliberately avoided developing. Tourism.

With the United States persuading all but a handful of countries to comply with its economic blockade, Cuba

had been left with no option but to rely on the Soviet Union as its principle trading partner. Following the sudden collapse of the USSR at the end of the eighties, Cuba faced its greatest economic crisis since the triumph of the revolution. Previous to this crisis, Cuba had resisted the temptation to exploit the island's obvious potential as a tourist hot spot largely due to the prospective social problems which would accompany an influx of rich holidaymakers onto an island with an average wage of \$10 a month.

In the socialist aftermath of the revolution all homelessness, unemployment and starvation had been entirely eradicated from what - I had to constantly remind myself - is classified as a third world country. A free education system had taken Cuba's literacy rate up to a first world standard significantly higher than the US, whilst its health care system increased the number of doctors on the island and dramatically decreased the infant mortality rate. (Cuba has four times as many doctors per capita as the UK, sends more doctors to help out abroad than the entire World Health Organisation and fosters an internationally renowned reputation for medical research). These statistics are formidable for any country but for an island officially classed as third world and under economic attack from the US, they are simply staggering.

However, with the 85 per cent collapse in trade, and the 50 per cent crash in oil resources which occurred subsequent to the break up of the Soviet Union, this entire social infrastructure stood on the brink of destruction. Whilst the Cuban government declared a Special Period of rationing, anti-Castro groups in the US backed with money from Bacardi stepped up their efforts to instigate dissent on the island.

The capitalist world, and particularly the United States, drummed its fingers on the desk waiting for the revolution's imminent demise. It never came. The fact that not one single hospital, school, day care centre or orphanage closed down in Cuba as a result of this crisis stands as a formidable testament to an extraordinary feat of economic juggling. Principle to this survival, was the Cuban government's decision to develop what has now become one of the fastest growing tourist industries in the world.

I didn't notice it at first as I lay on my bed lost in thought. But eventually my eyes fell in disbelief on an all too familiar logo graffitied in biro on the chipboard base of the campismo bunk above me. "Oh no, not here as well," I cried aloud. "Not Nike".

Over the course of the next four weeks it would prove to be a common sight. Scrawled on walls, sewed onto baseball caps, stickered in windscreens and even barbered in the hair of a dog I tripped over in Havana. Some Cubans even used marker pens to write Nike on ordinary white T-shirts.

Part of the explanation for this fashion fad can immediately be ascribed to Nike's world marketing strategy. Despite being a corporation run by white American businessmen, they made a decision early on to use black sports stars like Michael Jordan the American basketball player and Ronaldo the Brazilian footballer, to endorse their products. The Cubans, half of whom are black, love sport with the same passion they devote to both music and revolution. Although Nike products, if you can get hold of them in Cuba, are hugely expensive - the youth of the country are clearly attracted by the lure of the logo through exposure to international sporting events and to music videos featuring artists covered with Nike ticks.

Further exposure comes from the copious quantities of logoed tourists flooding into Cuba. At this point I have to admit to being one of them. The only footwear I

took to Cuba happened to a pair of Nike trainers I'd scored for a tenna from a Red Cross shop in London; discarded, I was to discover later, because an air pocket in both the right and left shoe had burst. No amount of logo-gouging with a pen knife could remove the ident, so my feet became the embarrassing target of envious young gazes, although there were a few sniggers whenever I squelched down echoing hallways.

A remarkable number of Cubans in Havana, having received dollars from exiled family members living in the US or from dealings with tourists, possess clothes with well known brand names. Among those most prevalent are Nike, Adidas, Fils, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger.

On my second packet of duty-free rolling tobacco I found another quote: "You can tell a nation's ideals by looking at its adverts".

Whilst Cuban communist propaganda bangs on about homelessness, racism, education and health, US capitalist propaganda bangs on about alluring products you're not hip without. The Cuban negro who'd offered us the illicit cigars outside the factory - the one who'd said 'fuck the revolution' - the one whose parents probably lived in a pre-revolutionary shithole - was covered head to toe in logoed sports gear. Despite western media assertions about Cuba, I was left in little doubt which of the two forms of propaganda was the more incessant and insidious, and therefore which of the two nation's ideals I felt more worthy.

I gleaned another insight into the nature of the fashion fad when I saw the receptionist at the Union de Jovenes Comunista (UJC) headquartes in central Havana wearing an Operation Desert Storm sweat-shirt complete with a picture of an American F1-11! "To her it's just English writing with an action picture on it," explained an English-speaking UJC worker I asked.

The detrimental effects of Cuba's development of tourism can be most keenly observed in the capital, Havana, and I was fortunate for having started my investigative journey in the Cuban countryside. The incredible hospitality and revolutionary fervour displayed by the Cuban campesinos gave me a context with which to view the capital's preoccupation with the dollar. Particularly that displayed by Havana's youth.

If a Cuban citizen had been caught with dollars in the eighties they would be questioned by police about black market activities. The government had resisted the use of a currency belonging to its arch enemy and ordinary Cubans weren't supposed to break the line. However, with the advent of tourist dollars, the recent condoning of certain small businesses associated with tourism, and the increasing number of dollars sent into the country from relatives and friends abroad, the authorities changed their position. There are now currency exchanges booths on most streets and Cubans, as well as tourists, can go into the numerous Tiendas dollar shops to purchase products not available in peso shops.

As a result there are now three exchangeable currencies in the country. The first is Peso Cubano (\$1=20 pesos) used almost exclusively by Cuban nationals to buy food, clothing, cigarettes and other products and services at extremely cheap prices. The second is dollars used by tourists and some Cuban nationals to buy a far greater range of products at very expensive prices. The third is an unusual form of currency called the national tourist peso, directly exchangeable with dollars (\$1=1 peso turismo); an attempt to maintain some form of national Cuban currency with the equivalent value to the dollar, ready for the time when Cu-

ba's reluctant use of US currency will cease. Whilst I was still in Havana, Fidel Castro held a joint press conference with Belgium's visiting foreign minister, to reveal that the Euro will replace the US dollar as Cuba's international exchange currency as soon as it proves itself strong enough.

At present, a Cuban stands to make the equivalent of one months average wage simply through a single black market transaction of cigars, drugs or prostitutes. It is tourists who provide the market; both are on the increase.

It is a clear indication of the continuing support for the ideals and social benefits of the revolution that the vast majority of the population resist such large temptations. For those that don't, stringent new laws are imminent. I watched live TV coverage of a stern Fidel Castro informing the National Revolutionary Police during their 40th anniversary conference, that pimps, drug sellers and thieves would now be receiving 20 to 30 year prison sentences. (Prostitutes - unless they are repeat offenders - are sent to a reform centre where attempts are made to provide them with further education and employment skills before returning them to their communities).

What equipment they do have, the Cubans keep operational with a tenacity which mocks our materialist throwaway culture. The original 1950's Pontiacs, Buicks and Plymouths still to be found in working order on just about every street in Cuba are kept on the road by masterful feats of do-it-yourself engineering. Likewise the sound systems. If a speaker breaks in Cuba, the solenoid is rewired by hand with copper wire!

The result of this tenacity is not only measurable in terms of the resources they keep operational, it is also measurable in the Cubans approach to problem solving. Cuba's success in surviving the US blockade, the staggering 85 per cent overnight collapse in trade following the breakdown of the Soviet Union, the consistent and often hysterical CIA efforts to get rid of Castro, the longest drought in the island's history and several hurricanes are at least due in part to the Cuban's remarkable ingenuity. It has also been achieved by encouraging foreign investment, allowing certain small businesses to operate and encouraging tourism. In one of his many marathon speeches, Castro recently said that the further evolution of socialism in Cuba had been suspended whilst measures to ensure the survival of the Cuban economy are deployed.

The Cuban people are sure a new leader is ready to take the presidential seat in the event of Castro's retirement or death. The postulated selections of those I posed the question to coalesced around Carlos Lago - the general Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and the man who suggested that Cuba should use its tourism as a weapon in the battle for principled economic survival. "Like Fidel", said one, "Lago has the multi-skilled open mind necessary to be president".

For all those with any interest in socially orientated politics, Cuba is a unique and invigorating example. I hadn't really known just how much it would prove to be so until I left the british media behind and actually went and visited the place.

I venture further to suggest that such a study would breath life into any cynical or jaded socialist who feels defeated, outdated or hopeless.

Perhaps this is real reason why the recurrent McCarthyites of the United States find such a small island, population 11 million, such an ideological threat. Their system works for them very well indeed.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER DOWN THE PAN

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END OF THE WORLD OFFICIAL

The continued poverty of the majority of the planet's inhabitants and excessive consumption by the minority are the two major causes of environmental degradation. The present course is unsustainable and postponing action is no longer an option.

Land degradation, rainforest destruction, species extinction - are we going to find the planet dies of all this before depression at the thought of it drives us all to suicide? Not necessarily, says the UN Environment Program in a handy new report on the state of the Earth's natural environment, entitled **Global Environment Outlook 2000**. But the report identifies world water shortage, destruction of coral reefs and global warming as full-scale emergencies, as well as identifying a new threat - nitrogen pollution.

Hold on to your hats - we were so stirred by the urgency of this major new UN report, we cancelled our annual SchNEWS staff whaling trip. So, is it possible to encapsulate next millennium's prospects for the whole of humanity and the global environment into one media-friendly soundbite? Apparently not, the UN would have us believe. GEO 2000 amounts to perhaps the most thorough-going, wide-ranging and (it says) authoritative stocktake ever of the state of the Earth's natural environment - but don't drop it on your foot.

More dense than David Bellamy's beard, this weighty tome is based on contributions from UN agencies, 850 individuals and more than 30 environmental institutes institutes - all of whom, we trust, faithfully use recycled toilet roll. In terms sometimes as dry as Brazil's growing desert, it reads as a roll-call of the world's top emergent ecological nightmares:

*Hose-pipe bans will be the least of our worries as the water cycle fails to cope with demand.

*City-dwellers are choking as urban air pollution is reaching crisis dimensions, especially in the megacities of the southern hemisphere and degradation has reduced fertility and agricultural potential.

*More than half the world's coral reefs are threatened by human activities.

*With global warming upon us, things are hotting up - 1998 was the hottest year on record, and extreme weather events had left 3 million people dead in the last five years.

*Many marine fisheries have been grossly over-exploited.

*The planet's species are still being wiped out; one quarter of the world's mammal species are now at significant risk of extinction.

Cheer up! We're assured that the report was not sponsored by the makers of Prozac. In fact, the report's author's are at great pains to take a balanced tone - stressing the successes to date of environmental policy, and that further change is achievable. So will it be enough to use a CFC-free fridge in which to store your giant panda steaks?

Not quite. As excessive consumption in rich countries is one of the main causes of environmental degradation, "A tenfold reduction in resource consumption in the industrialized countries is a necessary long-term target", the report says, cutting boldly to the chase. That's radical stuff; though the report takes a carefully non-combative tone, saying: "Ideally, such measures must simultaneously maintain the living standards of the wealthy, [as well as] upgrade the living standards of the disadvantaged". Hmn.

The UN - that idealists' graveyard - may have greater resources of optimism to draw on than political power. Still, Klaus Töpfer, the executive director of the UNEP holds it 'essential to force multinational companies to be accountable for their actions'. Yet while the US continues to punish French local industry, waging a trade war on behalf of the multinational corporate players it champions, it has been forgetting to keep up with its contributions to UN funding. For the real power lies elsewhere: though sadly, corporate boardrooms and government trade departments are not so easy to catch a glimpse of as the GEO 2000 report, even if the latter lists some of their effects on the rest of us. Such is the nature of global power elites.

Fortunately, GEO 2000 finds further cause for optimism a bit closer to the ground, lauding a "public...now much more concerned about environmental issues. Popular movements in many countries are forcing authorities to make changes." As those in France attacking McD's in opposition to the US trade sanctions know well. So what if we can't all be so determined in our resistance?...Pass the Prozac.

SchNews favs mag, *The Ecologist* 01403 786 726 sgc@mag-stubs.demon.co.uk

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For having a house party!

12 people chilling out in the afternoon after a house party in St.Pauls, Bristol were told by police to vacate the premises. When they refused 30 cops forcefully evicted everyone including the tenant, who was arrested and held for 25 hours. She appeared in court the next day and was bound over to keep the peace.

JACKSON'S FIVERS

SchNEWS can't resist having another pop at Sir Ken Jackson, top dog at the AEEU engineering union, who told the TUC last week his workers didn't want to strike - they want to work...so Ford workers from the AEEU promptly went on strike. On Tuesday it got even better, with a 24 hour unofficial walk-out at the Millennium Dome, the Royal Opera House, the Jubilee Line extension plus sites in Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle, Hull and Sandwich in Kent. Sir Ken told workers they could expect no pay rises - and anyway some of them were earning a fortune already. We wonder if he let them know his annual pay is over £62,000 a year - plus car, mobile phone and £15,000 bridging loan thrown in for good measure.

LET THEM EAT CAKE

The council of the Nord Pas de Calais region have some quaint old traditions for dealing with debtors - if you can't pay yer taxes, or even for your kids' school meals, the bailiffs pin the details of your poverty outside the town hall, and then come round and nick yer furniture. These medieval-style repomen work for the tax office, which has wide powers to dish out fines and repossessions for any debts. Interestingly, as a hangover from France's more leftie past, the tax office also has powers to reschedule or even cancel debts, though they haven't used these much of late, preferring to send out the bailiffs to reinforce social exclusion in the world's fourth richest nation. In April this year 40 activists occupied the St Omer council offices, duped two bailiffs into entering the building, and then held them hostage while their victims related the effects of repossessions on their lives. Things have got pretty bad in St Omer: when an unemployed family recently failed to pay their £50 telly license, the diligent tax office spent £1000 sending the goon squad 'round to their gaff. This time, however, they were welcomed by members of AC and ADEPA, local direct action groups, who dully stopped them carting off the family's possessions. Naturally, five of them were nicked and are up on trial on Oct 19 - send letters/faxes of support to: ADEPA, 29 Rue Gambetta, 62500, St Omer, France. Fax: 0033-321-886789.

"SHOOT THE FUCKER"

On 23 September 1996, Diarmuid O'Neill was shot and killed by cops in house in West London. As he lay bleeding to death a cop stood on his head and then dragged him down two flights of steps out of the house, leaving him on the ground outside and denying him life saving medical treatment for 1/2 an hour. Not surprisingly Diarmuid died. Initial media coverage claimed there had been a gun battle in a house that was being used as a bomb factory and an "IRA suspect" had been shot. The mainstream press had a field day. The Daily Mirror's headline, which carried a picture of the bloody steps, was "Don't cry for him. He was going to blow up the Channel Tunnel Tomorrow." The Met Police enthusiastically supported all this misinformation, until they conceded that Diarmuid O'Neill was unarmed, no weapons or explosives were found in the house and the only shots fired were by the cops. So what happened then? Lets start with the briefing just before the raid, when cops were shown a film of the aftermath of the Canary Wharf bombing and a video of an alleged cache of weapons. They were whipped into frenzy, given guns, CS gas and then let loose in the house in Hammersmith. A transcript of the surveillance tape of the raid reveals that the police fired massive quantities of CS gas into the house (so much so that four days after the killing forensic cops still had to wear gas masks), all the men inside the house had surrendered and Diarmuid was struggling to open a door when he was initially shot. As Diarmuid lay bleeding on the floor one of the cops can be heard clearly to order an officer to "shoot the fucker", which he duly obeyed. No wonder the cops preferred the media version of events that day.

The shooting was referred to the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) who then took 2 1/2 years to complete their inquiry and then a further 6 months for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to conclude that despite police lying about the events of that day there is insufficient evidence to prosecute! The O'Neill family and the Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill campaign are in disbelief that the PCA & CPS have reached this decision despite a post-mortem clearly showing "that Diarmuid was shot when he was seen and known to be unarmed repeatedly" and are calling for Jack Straw to set up an independent public enquiry. Help change Jack Straw's mind by faxing him direct on 0171-273-2190 or for more info; Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill Campaign, BM Box D. O'Neill, London WC1 3XX justicedoneill@btinternet.com Tel; 0181 749 2588/0411 784 110

COPSCATCH NAKED FUNGUS

Zoe "Fungus" Weir decided to strip against the Strip at Cedar's Wood, a protest camp at the construction site of Manchester Airport's second runway. Zoe took off all her clothes (save her boots) and attached her head to a treehouse with a bicycle lock. Zoe's action delayed the eviction of the camp by five hours, and three bailiffs had to climb the tree and cut the lock with hydraulic cutters. The runway's completion is now 18 months behind schedule due to wet weather, the protests, and mysterious breakages of construction equipment. The woods are National Trust land, that are facing the chop because they apparently interfere with radar transmission. As SchNEWS went to press the second protest camp at nearby Arthur's Wood still has approximately 40 people in treestops and tunnels. The protesters anticipate eviction in the next few days, and are asking for supporters to come up for the weekend and for a solidarity action on Monday morning. They also need food and climbing gear. Call Vanessa at 0797 480 3732.

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SchNEWS in brief

After 2 asylum seekers were seriously hurt trying to bust out of Campsfield Detention Centre, Group 4 guards told detainees that their injuries would "stop others escaping." Maybe if a Group 4 guard was horribly maimed it would stop other psychos from joining the firm... ** Don't forget **Anti-McDonald's Day** happening all over the globe on Saturday October 16th. For leaflets contact McLibel Support Campaign: Tel 0171 713 1269, www.mcsupport.org. For the Birmingham event - meet 12 noon outside M&S in the High St. 0961 810 356. ** **Disabled Action Network** will be demonstrating outside the Royal National Hospital, Bedford Way, London (nearest tube Euston) on 27 and 28th Sept as part of the 'Free our People' campaign. They want to stop disabled people being sent to nursing homes and institutions, and instead be able to live in the community with adequate support. Meet each day outside the hospital 9.30 am ** **Campaign Against the Arms Trade** is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a party at Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, London N1 (Angel Tube). Guests include comedian Mark Thomas, John Pilger, Jeremy Hardy and lots more. It's on Saturday 9th October, doors open 7.30 pm £10/7.50 conc. More details and tickets in advance 0171 281 0297 ** Talking of **Mark Thomas**, he's got a new show on Channel 4 every Tuesday 11.05 pm. Essential. ** SchNEWS' favourite mass-murderer **Gen Pinochet** is back in court on Sept 27 - meet 10am at Bow St magistrates to let him know what you think of him, or 7-9pm Parliament Sq every Tues & Thurs to find out what's going on. Contact: Chile Cmte Against Impunity 0171-261-9578. ** Protest against the genocide of Arizona's Navajo Indians, forced off their land to make way for coal mining and 'resettled' in the world's 2nd most radioactive site (after Chernobyl...). Meet 12 noon Oct 2nd outside US Embassy, Grosvenor Sq. **

THE REBEL ALLIANCE

Brighton's forum for direct action groups meets upstairs at The Hobgoblin, London Rd, Wednesday 29th Sept, 7pm. PLUS Screening of June 18 film.

LUMBERHACKS LOG-ON

Among the various horrors on the agenda for the Seattle WTO bash, is the Global Free Logging Agreement - a plot to scrap all controls on the environmental disaster that is the logging industry. Logging companies really aren't very nice to people either - just ask any of the 'displaced' indigenous peoples of the Amazon, or for that matter, greenies in Canada. Activists in British Columbia have been camping out in the woods trying to stop the Interfor logging co from destroying the local rainforests - so the firm sent around 100 psychotic lumberjacks who burnt down the peace camp, smashed all the equipment, and attacked the 7 protesters there, hospitalising 3 of them. Clearly, the Free Logging Agreement needs attention, so come along to Seattle for the festi. Contact: No to WTO 2343 NW 100th Seattle WA 98177 USA www.tradewatch.org or ssorian@igc.org

** Nasty logging company Boise Cascade (see SchNEWS 225) has been banned from any further logging of the Boise Forest. OK, so the case was brought by the Idaho Sportsman's Congress, which was worried about "severely reduced hunting and fishing opportunities." After the ruling, ISC boss Ron Mitchell said "sporting folks of Idaho can breathe a sigh of relief." OK, the wildlife is probably less chuffed, but then, as Hunter Ron sez, "The real issue is, should we allow private corporations like Boise Cascade to continue trashing our public forests at taxpayer expense?"

Inside SchNEWS

John Bowden is a life-sentence prisoner who, since his conviction in the early 1980s, has campaigned vociferously for the rights of all prisoners. In the early 1990s he was one of the main organisers of a series of radical debates at Long Lartin. He has also been involved in direct action protests of many kinds, including a work-strike at Perth prison and a high-profile siege at Parkhurst. John is currently in the segregation unit at Long Lartin prison. On 6 September, John joined another prisoner who was already on dirty protest. He and between two and four others have been on it ever since, and is now on hunger strike as well. The water in the cells has been turned off. There have been no routine visits by doctors, Boards of Visitors or governors. John has been repeatedly threatened by prison officers and is denied sleep by them hammering on his door and turning the lights on and off. He has no access to the telephone and none of his letters are being sent out, although letters do appear to reach him. All supporters of prisoners' rights reading this are therefore urged to send cards and messages of solidarity to John Bowden B41173, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evasham, Worcs, WR11 5 TZ. Send letters of protest to the governor at the same address or fax them on 01386 832834. Or tel: 01386 830101.

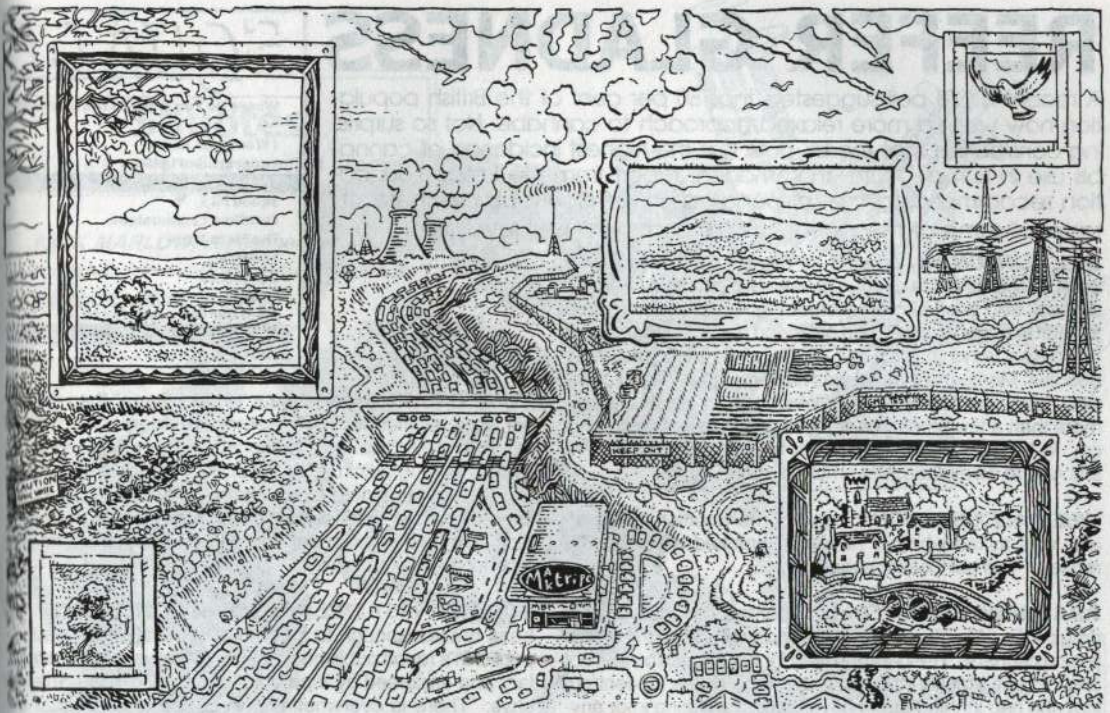
more briefs

Any pregnant nannies will be pleased to hear of Green Baby, a new Islington shop with a wide range of green kiddie stuff, including "everything to take the millennium baby sustainably into the next century, from real nappies, to organic toys" and, no doubt, tie-dye babygrows and junior yogurt-weaving kits... ** If you're worried about **fluoride** in the water coming to a town near you, get along to a public meeting on Wed 6th October 8pm at Willesden Library, 95 High Rd., Willesden Green. Tel 0181 902 5949

...and finally...

This weeks Greenwash Award goes to... By using solar energy to drive the petrol pumps in 15 new service stations, BP/Amoco recently received an award (not for irony, but the Millennium Products award). After buying up many alternative energy companies, the oil giant is now the world's largest investor in solar power. The Centre for Alternative Energy told SchNews, "we can't imagine the global and political agendas involved in their (BP's) investment in solar energy". Neither can we. Interestingly, last year, worldwide revenues from oil and gas producing activities fell by 24% (to \$124.6bn) so you might naively assume these companies are switching their focus to sustainable energy. Er, not quite - capital spending on oil exploration and development in the same year increased by 5% (to \$83bn) making the money invested in buying up a few (or even several) sustainable energy companies look like small beer. The burning (oil) question is - will BP/Amoco endanger the price of a barrel of oil by bringing in competing sustainable energy sources that are environmentally friendly, or keep them suppressed until oil is less abundant and profitable? Just ask the government, who recently approved oil contracts for developments off St Kilda - Britain's only natural World Heritage Site, 100 miles off the Scottish coast, ranked alongside the Galapagos Island and the Great Barrier Reef. St Kilda's marine life is one of the most diverse ecosystems known whilst puffins, fulmars and gannets are among around a million breeding seabirds nesting in the island's cliffs. We're anticipating another greenwash award after they stick a duck-pond on top of the oil rig. **disclaimer**

SchNEWS warns all readers to get down the pub for last orders before last rites. Mine's a double. Honest



SELECTIVE VIEWS ~ The Art of Delusion © Peter Poole © April 2000

SQUOTES

"When the last river and the last forest has been destroyed...
man will discover that he cannot eat money."

Black Elk

**TASTES AS
FOUL TODAY
AS IT
ALWAYS HAS.**

CAPITALISM

FOR SORE THROATS DILUTE, WINE AND GARGLE.

Pfizer

Bristol, 1999

REEFER GLADNESS

A recent MORI poll suggested that 80 per cent of the British population now want a more relaxed approach to cannabis. Not so surprising considering that the UK now has the highest incidence of cannabis use in Europe. With an imminent report from the Police Foundation recommending the 'depenalisation' of Cannabis use, here's a taster of some of the recent flurry of comment and revelation...

BILL CLINTON may pretend he never inhaled but a new book on the life of his deputy, Al Gore, reveals that Clinton's sidekick and possible replacement as US president, used to chuff like a trooper. Gore's old friend and colleague, John Warnecke, says that he and Gore, "smoked regularly, as buddies. Marijuana, hash. I was his regular supplier. I didn't deal dope, just gave it to him. We smoked more than once, more than a few times, we smoked a lot. We smoked in his car, in his house, we smoked in his parents' house. We smoked at weekends. We smoked a lot."

WHEN ALEX SALMOND, head of the Scottish Nationalists, was asked whether he'd ever smoked cannabis, he replied: "Yes but I never exhaled."

AS A CABINET MINISTER whose portfolio includes national drugs policy, Mo Mowlam had every reason to tow the official line on cannabis. Respect due then for her admission that not only did she smoke Marijuana when she was a student but that she had inhaled too! "I never cancel anything in or anything out," replied Mo Mowlam when asked about the possibility of a decriminalisation of Cannabis use.

BBC NEWSREADER, JOHN HUMPHREYS, When asked about his own past, replied: "None of your business, in short. I can't quite see why we should be excited as to whether somebody puffed on a spliff at the age of 20 or not. I'd be slightly surprised if most students hadn't. In fact I'd probably treat with a certain scepticism any 40 or 50-year-old who'd been to university and said they'd never so much as had a puff on a spliff."

A SURVEY OF THE 81 MPS who joined the House of Commons in 1997, revealed that 22 of them had tried illegal drugs. David Prior, now Tory deputy chairman said: "I associate my experience with drugs - soft ones - not with Mick Jagger or Aldous Huxley, but with passing my law degree and working in a bank. You can wear a pinstripe suit and be utterly conventional and still roll a joint."

PUBLICIST MAX CLIFFORD didn't see what the fuss was about either: "I know people that take it. I know politicians that use it so what? To a lot of people it's a form of relaxation and if you are under tremendous pressure, if you find something that doesn't harm you or anybody else then good luck to you. Most of the people I've represented took cannabis."

KEITH HELLAWELL, Tony Blair's faltering drug czar, finally came out of his useless closet to assert that maybe Cannabis is not as bad as Jack Straw makes out: "By far the greater proportion of arrests are for cannabis and I am looking for a change on that the hidden truth about drugs in Britain is that we need to discriminate between different drugs and the relative harm caused and then talk openly about the difference we can make. The focus is going to be on the drugs that cause the major harm."

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

SOME DRUGS which cause a "greater harm" than cannabis were testified to by Dr George Ventners, chairman of the British Medical Association's Scottish committee for public health medicine: "We want to encourage debate on this issue and should examine the evidence that has existed for a long time, rather than people leaping to prejudice. There is much more damage done by smoking and alcohol than by cannabis."

FOR THE FIRST TIME A SERVING POLICE CHIEF has been brazen enough to tout the decriminalisation issue in public. In a report published recently by Cleveland Constabulary and endorsed by their chief constable, Barry Shaw, it says: "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, prescribed 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." The report also notes that the illegal nature of the drugs trade causes further unnecessary risks to drug users because of uncertainty over quality and purity.

RECENT HOME OFFICE figures reveal a record high of 128,000 people arrested for drugs in 1998; a 13% rise on the previous year. This sharp increase includes a 30% increase in heroin, a 32% increase in cocaine and a 36% increase in crack. Despite the dramatic increases in hard drug arrests, 76% of all arrests were for cannabis.

A REPORT BY THE POLICE FOUNDATION part sponsored by the Princes' Trust is expected to recommend that cannabis be 'depenalised' when published in March. The Prince of Wales has invited Mo Mowlam and Keith Hellawell to speak at a conference about the subject.

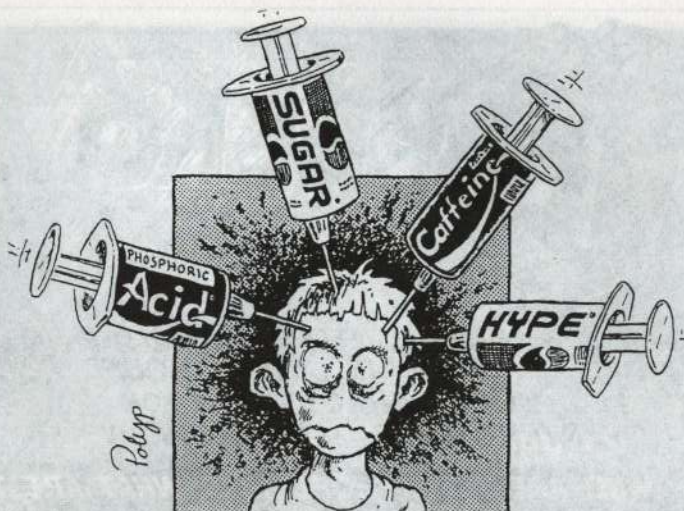
ACCORDING TO THE US DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, the UK is now exporting marijuana. In a report prepared recently by US intelligence officers monitoring the European drugs trade, Britain's emergence as a marijuana exporting country builds on the UK's growing reputation in the drugs world for growing superior weed.

ACCORDING TO THE EU MONITORING CENTRE FOR DRUGS, 40 million European citizens have smoked Cannabis.

Squotes

"There's no fury like a vested interest masquerading as a moral principal."

MICK MARLOW, imprisoned for twelve months for writing a book about cannabiscultivation, 1996.



Take'em on



Squanagram

Rearranging 'Keith Hellawell' gives:

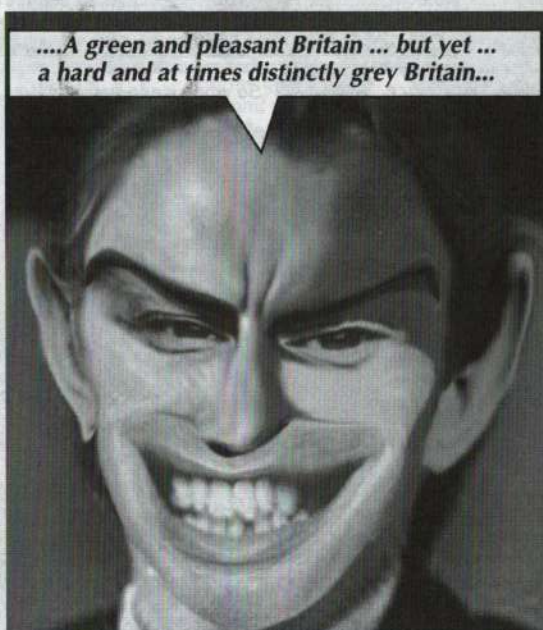
LIKE HELL THE LAW
HE'LL ILL THE WEAK
HE'LL KILL THE AWE

...and another one...

"We want to encourage debate on this issue and should examine the evidence that has existed for a long time, rather than people leaping to prejudice. There is much more damage done by smoking and alcohol than by cannabis. That is the issue."

Dr GEORGE VENTERS, Chairman of the British Medical Association's Scottish committee for public health medicine.

....A green and pleasant Britain ... but yet ...
a hard and at times distinctly grey Britain...



AS STORIES UNFOLD IN TABLOID PAPERS OF AN UNDERGROUND CONSPIRACY INTENT ON KILLING CAPITALISM WE ASK

SECRET PLANS MADE OVER THE INTERNET?

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH B

TAPPED TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS?

COVERT TRIPS BY BUS AND BIKE?



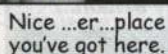
Er hi -
what
can I do
for you?

Hello - I'm a reporter for the **Sunday Shite** and I heard that there was going to be a meeting here today. I would like to do a story.

Milk,
sugar?
Sorry
the cup's
got no
handle

Ooh I hope I'm not overdressed to visit people like this

There's no meeting tonight but you're welcome to come in and have a cup of tea



So what were you hoping to find here then?

The VEGEBERG??!!

Well, I was really wanting to find someone willing to talk to me about the VEGEBERG actually.

Can you tell me - is this in fact the very squat in Hackney where all sorts of subversive activities are organised from?

Er... well... now you mention it... I suppose I can let you in on the secret - yes it all actually happens right here in this building. You should see our secret communications room...

Let's have a laugh here

Yes it's true - everything you've heard about the VEGEBERG!



Gosh!

Stock-piling arms and other munitions...

...Organised networks of transportation across the country

Er... Why are we getting all these tins of beans?

Because when CAPITALISM FALLS you won't be able to get them any more you know

We need to be off-site by Tuesday but the brakes on this truck don't work

Well that won't stop us.



Oh my gawd so it's true - and what a scoop!

CYBERTERRORISM on the INTERNET...

...Plans made during secret meetings...

Ow fuck - it's crashed again

Is this all that's coming? What a load of lunch-outs

Did you tell people it was seven o'clock not nine?



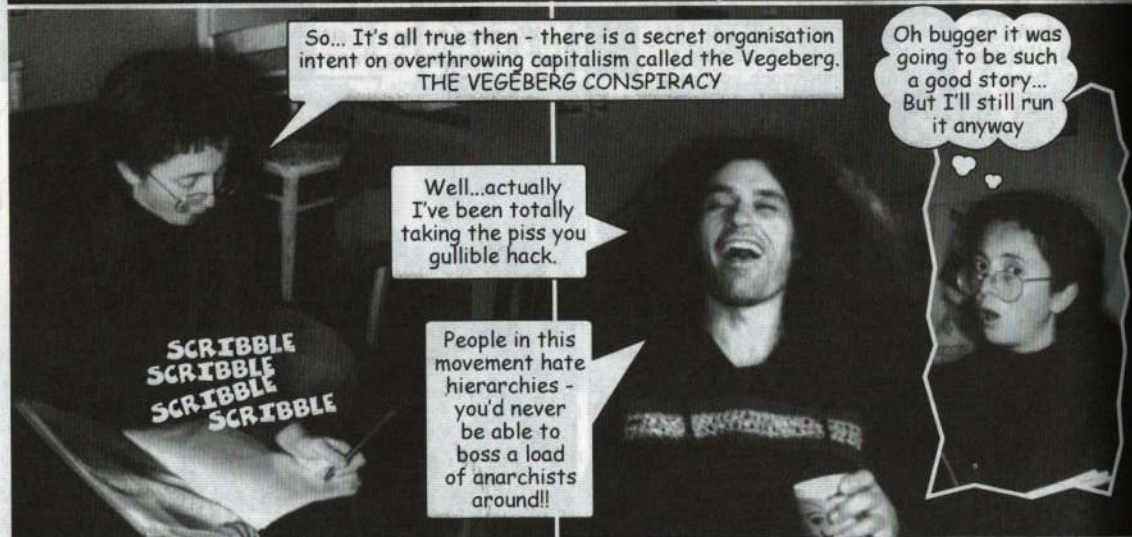


So what is the
Vegeberg's
ultimate goal?

We want to LEAD the MOVEMENT to
CRUSH CAPITALISM. But before we do this
we need everybody on side - OUR SIDE...

...Because it will only work if the
people have got someone to rally around.
And we'll be there leading the way...

...though of
course if the
revolution
doesn't happen
most of us
could still
turn round
and get jobs
with the
Labour Party
or the
Guardian



So... It's all true then - there is a secret organisation
intent on overthrowing capitalism called the Vegeberg.
THE VEGEBERG CONSPIRACY

Oh bummer it was
going to be such
a good story...
But I'll still run
it anyway

Well...actually
I've been totally
taking the piss you
gullible hack.

People in this
movement hate
hierarchies -
you'd never
be able to
boss a load
of anarchists
around!!

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE



I can't wait to read about
the VEGEBERG CONSPIRACY
next Sunday

I'll see what
I can do

Cheerio then!!

Goodbye Mr...er...Smith

I can see right
through his
attempts to
deny everything!

LATER...

Wahey - I'm going to email
the 250 groups worldwide
on our mailing list and see
who's interested in perpet-
uating this PORKY PIE
about the VEGEBERG!

CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLACK
CLICK CLACK



NO WOMB FOR MISTAKE

"Soon it will be a sin of parents to have a child that carries the heavy burden of genetic disease. We are entering a world where we need to consider the quality of our children" Robert Edwards, eugenicist

A conference of the Galton Institute, formerly known as the Eugenics Society, was rudely interrupted two weeks ago by protesters concerned at the racist and genocidal tendencies of the Institute's members. Activists from People Against Eugenics stormed the lecture hall and demanded that the conference be abandoned. As they emerged, ruffled, outside, one protester was reported to have said; *"ever notice how eugenicists always look genetically least diverse?"* The somewhat disgruntled chairman, Dr John Timson called the protestors *"fascists preventing us speaking and I hope none of them are British because I'd hate to have to share a nationality with them"*. Funny of him to complain of 'fascism', when eugenics is basically a strand of fascist thought, manifested in science. Particularly unsavoury examples of the noble science include the Nazi holocaust, in which 6 million Jews were murdered, plus thousands of gypsies, homosexuals and others labelled 'inferior'. Or how about the Swedish government's eugenics experiments which lasted 40 years and led to at least 62,000 people being sterilised to prevent genetic 'defects' from being passed on. They operated on people of mixed race, low intelligence and the physically defective, as well as people classed as rebellious, promiscuous or simply people whose views conflicted with those of the state. As Aldous Huxley said, eugenics can be used to control those with *"dangerous thoughts about the social system"* who *"infect others with their discontent."* So watch it.

SchNEWS wasn't surprised to hear that Prof Glayde 'Pretty Boy' Whitney, a speaker at the conference (whose genetically pure good looks are sought after by fashion-conscious parents everywhere), wrote the foreword to a book by David Duke, former leader of the Ku Klux Klan. When questioned about this link, Whitney denied he

is racist but said, *"Duke is the only American politician who is prepared to face the issues: genetics, race and crime"*. The link between race and crime was further illuminated at the conference by another stunningly clever and open minded specimen of the master race, Prof Richard 'Einstein' Lynn: *"blacks have a lower IQ than whites and part of the reason for this is genetic."* He has also said, *"blacks have high levels of testosterone that makes males aggressive and this probably contributes to their high crime rate"*.

You may laugh at such blatantly racist crap, but these people have a disturbing amount of respect and influence. In '57 the Eugenics Society decided to branch out into 'crypto-eugenics', working through other organisations to achieve eugenic goals. The Society set up the International Planned Parenthood Federation, now the major world birth/population control agency. The Family Planning Association is it's UK affiliate. Meanwhile, another participant of the conference, Cedric Carter, stressed that efforts should be made to encourage *"the most ignorant"* and *"least gifted groups"* in society to use family planning. Sound familiar?

Theories that this dissatisfaction with the rest of humanity and urge to 'cleanse' those around them are themselves products of an undesirable rogue gene, remain unproven. But it seems that eugenicists may have found a back-door route to public acceptance, through the old chestnut of parental concern. Every parent wants the best for their child - if that means selecting the sex, IQ and physical characteristics of your baby, is that so bad? The tricky thing is drawing the ethical boundary: where 'choice' slips into an abuse of human rights. Eugenicists most disturbing success to date has been the attempt to eliminate disability by the (typically compassionate) approach of eliminating the disabled. While it is not yet possible to select the best overall genetic makeup for your child, individual eugenics is being practised on the disabled. The only way to 'prevent' Down's syndrome, for example, is to prevent people with Down's from being born. Under

Y2K BOLLOCKS OF THE WEEK

SchNEWS gets so many emails on this fascinating subject, we thought we'd share a few with you. This week's millennial paranoiac is Brian, who advises all those who share his vision of social collapse, barbarism and wrong dates on yer bank statements to check out his website, aptly entitled *"A Strategy for Losers."* <http://business.fortunecity.com/wrigley/585/Bdavey/Bdavey.htm> SchNEWS hopes you've all stockpiled yer beans, lined yer cellar with egg boxes and left a note for the milkman in time.

Come on, some of you must've got nicked last week - so send us some crap arrests.

pressure from doctors 90% of women abort their Down's syndrome babies. The success of the pre-natal testing program is measured not in terms of information given to mothers but rather in terms of the number of children with handicaps who are not born.

Plastic surgery was originally developed to enhance peoples' health, but the consumer market soon grasped the commercial possibilities and it is now used mostly for cosmetic purposes. The same thing may well happen with 'individual eugenics', creating a new dimension of consumerism with the public being bombarded with incentives to buy the best genetic modifications on the market for their foetus. Of course, only those with enough cash would be able to afford such advantages which would compound the rich-poor divide. SchNEWS has been unable to confirm that the gene for right-wing stupidity has been identified, but there is hope that rich parents will be able to ensure that their designer babies don't grow up to be eugenicists.

Unfortunately, eugenics is unlikely to be put to such good uses: all experiments with eugenics and sterilisation so far have been focused on poor minorities and those who might present a threat to the state. That means activists would be in the firing line, road protesters would definitely be given the snip and as for the SchNEWS crew.....we just hope those bastards never find out where we live.

For more on eugenics and genetic engineering, check *Genethics News* PO Box 6313, London N16 0DY

Email: genethicsnews@compuserve.com or <http://ourworld.comouserve.com/homepages/genethicsnews/blank.htm>

CLASS WAR

In Montreal, students have been protesting over the lack of extra-curricular activities - because teachers are on a work-to-rule. More than 1,000 students walked out of classes last week and their "disorganized" demonstration, is getting the cops all hot under the collar. "We cannot tolerate this spontaneous action" bemoaned one officer "It's important to note that these demonstrations are spontaneous and disorganized, and this worries us. We want school directors to take responsibility, and to tell the students to stay in their classrooms. What they are doing poses a danger for themselves, drivers and for pedestrians."

This week 270 pupils aged from 12 to 15 were arrested by riot cops for disorderly conduct.

* In the same city, university students demonstrating and asking for budget surpluses to be spent on education, attacked the Montreal stock market. "The stock exchange is a symbol of capitalism and the business class who ask the government to make cuts," said one student. 18 people were arrested.

MEANWHILE IN BRITAIN.....

Kick off the student protest season in Oxford! Demo against tuition fees at 2pm Sun 10th October, at Balliol College. For transport, or for the new Campaign for Free Education campaign pack Contact CFE at PO Box 22615, London N4 1WT. Tel: 0958 556 756 http://members.xoom.com/nus_cfe/

HORSING AROUND

The City of London mounted police branch was facing closure, but thankfully a generous bank has stepped forward to save it. HSBC holdings will 'sponsor' the pigs on horses, in return for getting its logo on the horseboxes and saddlecloths worn on ceremonial occasions. The 126 year old horse unit will now be free to pounce around the Square Mile looking like tits and trample protestors again, until their new corporate masters decide that rozzers on horseback are totally fucking useless and pull the plug...or until the Met takes over the whole incompetent force. A police spokesperson commented "Hong Kong & Shanghai Corp's financial package will provide the glue to keep the service running & cost-effective while we stick to beating crime and people we don't like."

BANG, BANG, YOU'RE NICKED

Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney have finally been allowed to begin their lawsuit against the FBI and the Oakland Police Department (OPD) for false arrest, illegal search and seizure and wrongful associating EFi with violent action. On May 24th 1990 a motion triggered pipe bomb exploded underneath Judi Bari's car seat as she drove through Oakland disabling her until she died in 1997. So when Oakland's finest showed up, they promptly arrested her for carrying a bomb! The Appeals Court now recognises that the FBI, who had the activists under surveillance, wrongfully claimed the bomb had been in view in the back seat (ie they were carrying a detonated motion-detecting bomb in a car... not recommended!) and that the blast hole was directly under the drivers seat. The court ruled that the police did "inhibit Bari and Cherney's First Amendment activities, and that they entered a conspiracy to further this goal." This included lying to the media, monitoring EFi prior to the bombing, and acting "in close co-operation with [FBI] conspirators" while obtaining search warrants for their homes. The FBI knew about death threats towards Judi Bari, a non-violent campaigner against notoriously aggressive logging companies in the Redwoods, yet she was arrested for the bomb that was meant to kill her. Contact: Redwood Summer Justice Project, Tanya Brannan (707) 887-0262, <http://www.monitor>

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

Do or Die Issue 8 is not so much a zine as a phone directory sized eco-action journal stuffed with in-depth articles and analysis on the June 18th demonstrations, bio-diversity, pirates, beavers (not that kind!), football...plus extensive reviews and contacts. Essential reading. £5 (in UK), £6 (elsewhere), c/o 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, E.Sussex, BN2 2GY

**** Remember the 30's?** Us neither - but after reading our history we do know that unemployed workers were at the forefront of direct action against capital and the starvation it caused. Find out more and see what we can learn from earlier struggles. Brighton Against Benefit Cuts video and discussion - 5pm, Sun 10 Oct at the Unemployed Workers Centre, 4 Cressway Parade, Hollingdean, 01273 540 717 And a date for yer diary: Friday 10 December is gonna be an international day of action against warfare and other such nasty measures. ** Remember that big bit of land next to Brighton Station? Well, Sainsbury's are still trying to turn it into a megastore, and Brighton Urban Design & Development are still trying to stop em, and get the site used usefully. BUDD are holding a meeting to discuss the plans at 7.30, Oct 7 at St Peter's Hall, London Road. The next day, the community (that's us) are going to be consulted about the plans at a "Community Planning Event", so it's important to sort out what we want first. **After a battering from the cops the week before, Stockholm Reclaim the City held a demo against police violence last Saturday. Media presence was enormous and policing minimal. Chanting "No Police on Our Streets", over 1500 people marched to the scene of the previous week's events. Many bystanders joined the demonstration or showed support. The day ended peacefully with a party of over 2000 people. ** End the fur trade by 2000 - if you can spare an hour or several to join the intensive midweek and Sat demos outside London's remaining fur shops. Fur picket tel 0786 762 7491 or London Animal Action Office 0171 278 3068 ** Brighton and Hove World Development Movement group is staging a public debate on "Can GM crops feed the Third World?" Hove Town Hall 6th October 7.30pm. ** There's a Save The Shamrock Monkeys march and rally in Horsham Park (near the Park Recreation Centre) on Sat 9th Oct 12 noon Tel 07020 936956. There's also a phone and fax campaign aimed at the monkey prison Tel 01903 879191/fax 01903 812532

**** Plain Words** is an 'anti authoritarian pro working class' independent distributor of books, leaflets, etc. For a catalogue send an SAE to PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX ** Congrats to The Shoreham Protestor newsletter 100 issues old. The fortnightly animal rights newsletter is available for 30p + SAE 7 Stoneham Rd., Hove, BN3 5HJ

**** Keep The Tube Public** are having a free festival in Trafalgar Square on Sat. 9th October 12 noon - 4 pm More details about the campaign Tel: 0181 981 8065, or www.catp.infomem.co.uk ** Hockley road protest camp in Essex needs more people - and they're having an open day. Prospective parents come along Oct 2nd or 9th. Tel: 0831 717 815.

SCHNEWS QUIZ

Q.What do British Nuclear Fuels Limited, British Association of Shooting and Conservation, British Bankers Association, Countryside Alliance, Lockheed Martin, Nestle, Quarry Products, Society of British Aerospace Companies (as the aerospace industry national trade association the society has a powerful policy making influence in the political arena) and Bell Pottinger (Monsanto's PR company) et al have in common?

A.They're all employing ex Tories, now going cloacal in hand begging for govt shekels at the new-style Labour Party Conference this week.

Inside SchNEWS

SCHNEWS GETS SERIOUS - J18 WARNING

Photos of 170 people police want to arrest for the June 18th City of London demonstrations have been circulated to 42 police forces around the country. As a result people have already been arrested. Some of those nicked have been shown photos of themselves on the day and thought it best to admit the picture was of them, if this happens to you refuse to identify yourself. It is the responsibility of the police to prove it's you and not somebody who looks similar. If you are arrested contact a solicitor (Moss and Co 0171 240 6350 or Bindmans 0171 833 444). If you think the police may be interested in you get rid of clothing you wore on the day, change your appearance, possibly leave the country for a while. Otherwise keep a low profile. If you have photos of the day burn them. City police are sending squads to demos to identify and arrest people. Do not go if you think you may be wanted for something serious. Good Luck!

*Onofrio LoVerso, an Italian, received a 12 month sentence for violent disorder at J18 on 29/9/99. He is currently being held at: TC 3014, HMP-YOI, Remand centre, Bedford Rd Feltham Middlesex, TW13 4ND.

New in town?

Like to get politically active?(or at least sit in an office eating biscuits talking about the revolution) Then why not come along to the **SCHNEWS STUDENT TRAINING DAY** WEDNESDAY 4th OCTOBER 12 noon ring the office on 01273 685913 to book your place now sponsored by Biscuit Liberation Front

...and finally...

Book of the New Deal Testament:
And the messiah spoke: "The Class War is dead!" And his flock waited and cheered.

But maybe, O Great One, you should tell that to...
*Hotel, bar and conference staff. Non unionised, low paid workers some not even getting the minimum wage, hardly acknowledged by the delegates who are obviously too busy to whisper a hello or thank-you.

16,000 class-less members of the Countryside Alliance (and some fascists spotted in the crowd for good measure) whose Horse and Hounds placards screamed that they have the right to kill foxes, 15,000 police (!) from seven forces keep them and the 400 anti-hunt supporters apart. But guess which way the bank of surveillance cameras are pointing?

*The landowners who are furious over the creation of two new National Parks, or that class-free organisation, the Scottish Landowners Federation, who are doing their nut over plans to give people greater access to land and a right to buy for local communities when estates are put on sale. The Fed, which represents 3,500 landowners, said it could cost up to £20m annually to provide 'infrastructure, maintenance and public education' needed to ensure the "well managed" rights of access urged in the bill.

Yes, the class war is dead. We are all equal. Citizens. Together. As one. Party and nation joined in the same cause for the same purpose: to set our people free. (Or at least free to be forced to do crap McDead end jobs on the New Deal).

* Gosh, how much does that many cops cost? Doesn't matter because... under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act, there is no ceiling on police costs at party conferences. So that's alright then.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers that there's nothing like an early morning dip in the gene pool. Honest



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER UNCLEAR SCIENTIST

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



"Harris, there's no excuse for this industrial pollution, so I want you to find one."

Friday October 8th 1999

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

Issue 231 Free/Donation

EAT MY ISOTOPES

"There are a lot of long faces around here...It lends strength to the argument of the industry's opponents, who say nuclear power is inherently unsafe and should be phased out."

International Atomic Energy Agency Conference participant.

The nuclear disaster in Japan last Thursday could have come straight out of *The Simpsons*. Evil Mr.Burn's type bosses suspected of using a shadow instruction manual which encouraged workers to cut corners, and a bungling Homer-style supervisor who apparently told police that seven times the permitted uranium was used because he wanted to 'go home early'. (hmmm food).

But Japan's worst atomic explosion since Nagasaki is no joke for the workers and 300,000 residents living in a 10 km radius of the plant who were told to stay indoors and shut all doors and windows.

"D'OH"

The plant operator, JCO, has been accused of failing to give decent safety training to workers, and had no back-up emergency plans. The Tokaimura site was already the scene of Japan's worst nuclear accident two years ago, when another private firm let a fire in a reprocessing plant get out of control, due to inadequate safety systems. Do we detect a pattern here?

Of course, such terrible things could never happen here, could they? British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL)* and the UK Atomic Energy Authority have been quick to reassure us that "in-depth safety procedures ensure that chain reactions do not start accidentally." Would they be the same procedures that allowed BNFL to fake 68 test results for MOX fuel shipped to Japan this summer, and forge 22 safety checks on the next shipment? (See SchNEWS 221) Or the procedures that were found to have 146 safety flaws at Scotland's Dounreay plant alone?

The main cause of these flaws was identified as...yep, lack of control of private contractors: so, reassuringly, the UK government now plans to flog off more of the nuclear industry to Mr Burns & Co.

The International Atomic Energy Authority, with a fine sense of irony, described the accident as "a huge psychological blow" Presumably the psychological effects of receiving 4000 times the 'safe' radiation are fairly serious. Not serious enough,

however, to deter the Japanese govt, which has always said nuclear power is the only option for a "resource poor nation". SchNEWS was a little surprised to learn that Japan considers itself 'resource poor', especially as it has enormous potential for wind and wave generated power seeing as it's an island part surrounded by the Pacific. In fact, the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) told SchNEWS that ever since the Climate Summit in the Japanese city of Kyoto in Dec. 97, the Centre has had loads of interest from the Japanese. A former director of CAT was a key-note speaker in their city of Sendai; The 14,000 inhabitants of a World Heritage Site, are looking at finding out how they can produce zero emissions, while a recent half hour documentary on CAT was recently shown on prime time TV.

ITCHY 'N' SCRATCHY

It seems everyone's into alternatives, except the government and nuclear companies. SchNEWS would never suggest that the Japanese military, who have been carefully limited since WWII, rather like having tons of weapons-grade nuclear material lying around, but one thing is certain: as long as they want the possibility of death and deformity, UK plc will keep going to 'em.

* BNFL told a House of Commons committee last year that it was hoping for between £2 billion - £4 billion worth of business from Japan, and depends on future orders to keep its Thorp reprocessing plant going.

Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 9AZ Tel 01654 702400 www.cat.org.uk/

SCHNEWS STUDENT TRAINING DAY

OK, so for our last student training day we put the wrong date in SchNEWS, had it on the same day as Freshers Fayre and locked the SchNEWS we were gonna hand out in someone's bedroom. We need some help! So come along on Wednesday 20th October at 12 noon and see how it's all done. Call to book yer place now.

* Wanna keep fit? We need someone reliable to drop SchNEWS round town at various pubs and cafes every Friday afternoon.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For carrying a portrait of the New York City mayor!

So, ok it was one showing 'zero tolerance' Giuliani wide-eyed and grimacing with a large piece of dung attached to his forehead. And the man holding the painting was Robert Ledeman, President of the First Amendment rights group, outside the Brooklyn Museum of Art where there's been a big stink over the Sensations exhibition. This is the 40th time Robert has been falsely arrested since Mayor Giuliani was sworn into office. He has never been found guilty on any charge.

Seems like Giuliani doesn't like being portrayed as a shit-head.

THE PRICE OF LIFE

"We do not scrimp on spending money where it is necessary to deal with safety on the railways."

Great Western Trains

After the Clapham crash, there was a lot of talk about the Automatic Train Protection system, which would have prevented the accident, oh, and the Southall and Paddington crashes. After privatisation the new rail companies' 'cost benefit analyses' calculated that each (preventable) train death would cost them £2.76m, and each life saved through ATP would cost £14m, so ATP wasn't good value.

P.S. Last year the rail operators got £1.2 billion in govt subsidies, and made £1.6 billion profit. Railtrack made a profit of £442 million. Train drivers start at £8 an hour - guess who'll get the blame.

AN APPLE A DAY

Biting into another tasteless supermarket apple, you'd never guess that over the centuries Britain has bred up to 6,000 varieties of the fruit, and that thanks to the climate can grow the best apples in the world (SchNEWS come's over all patriotic like). To celebrate this, Common Ground is holding the 10th Apple Day at Covent Garden's old apple market.

Unfortunately old orchards are being grubbed up like they're going out of fashion. Until the 1950s almost every farm had one, but in the last 30 years the total orchard area has declined by two thirds - that's 150,000 acres gone. As Common Ground point out "Our culture is diminished as the local varieties, the recipes, cider, songs, stories, knowledge of planting, grafting and pruning, wassailing ('avin a piss-up - SchNEWS vocabwatch) and a great richness of wildlife are lost"

But it's not all bad news - in 10yrs 100 Community Orchards have been created. Apple Day is 21st October - for a list of events in your area send SAE to Common Ground, PO Box 25309, London, NW5 1ZA Tel 0171 267 2144 www.commonground.org.uk/appledayevents

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY OF ACTION OCT 12th

"Our armed path is not against skin colour
but against the colour of money"
Zapatista proverb

MEXICO

On January 1st 1994 - the first day of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), people from the Chiapas region of Mexico calling themselves the Zapatistas, rose up against their government and the policies of corporate free trade. They have been fighting ever since and have called for a day of action on October 12th - the day after Columbus 'discovered the Americas'.

In the last few months the Mexican army has occupied key towns and the Zapatista's army bases in an attempt to cut off the rebels from the outside world. As links are being made between the Zapatistas, the radical electrical workers union and striking students, the Mexican govt and the international investment community is starting to get jumpy. They're squeezing the rebels enclaves with an extensive road building programme, which is violently defended by the army. The roads will serve as army access to Zapatista strongholds in the forests and as a propaganda weapon for the govt, who claim they're bringing 'development' to the poor Indian region. Standing between the multinationals and their profits are a group of indigenous peoples whose cry of Ya Basta! (enough is enough!), inspires millions around the globe.

Contact: 'Zapatista Update' newsletter Box 19, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB, Email kebele@marsbard.com. www.ezln.org, or www.mexicosolidarity.org

COLUMBIA

On September 21st Columbia granted a permit for US company Occidental Petroleum to begin exploratory drilling on the indigenous U'wa people's sacred ancestral homelands. The U'wa have denounced this decision as cultural and environmental genocide, and it will push them closer to their last resort - committing mass suicide. The U'wa have stood their ground despite intimidation, assault and murder of three of their supporters. We need to show Occidental and the Colombian government that activists around the world will stand with the U'wa. Contact: www.RAN.ORG email rags@ran.org, or NativeNews@mlists.net.

VENEZUELA

Calling themselves "Rainbow Warriors," the Pemón Indians from Venezuela's Amazon area knocked down an electricity tower and blocked a key highway linking the country to Brazil to protest construction of a high-voltage power line in Canaima National Park, which will permanently damage the fragile park and Indian communities. The Pemón have promised to knock down one tower a day until they reach an agreement with the authorities. For more info: gholz85@yahoo.com or forest-america@igc.org

PERU

Mobil are about to decide whether to drill for natural gas in the isolated Candamo Valley. Mobil found the gas in one of the most unspoiled and biodiverse valleys left in the Amazon, and has until the end of February to do more exploration before deciding whether it'll release its claim on the valley - or go for future destructive 'development'. "I think it is one of the most pristine ecosystems around," says biologist Carol Mitchell. Daniel Wintzky, who made a film on the Candamo, says "what is so incredible about this situation is that the decision is in the hands of a multinational corporation." Info: gholz85@yahoo.com

For more on indigenous struggles write to Dark Night Field Notes, PO Box 3629, Chicago, IL 60690-3629 email: darknight@igc.apc.org (Send £6/\$10 for a sample issue.)

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

"JUST LEAVE US ALONE PLEASE"

Solidarity actions with the indigenous people of West Papua (also known as Irian Jaya) took place around the UK on Monday, targeting companies involved in exploiting the country's massive natural resources. Around Britain, the offices of Rio Tinto, ARCO (US oil co), British Gas were occupied, and three people got nicked. West Papua has been occupied by Indonesia since 1963 where it has unleashed one of the least known genocides of the 20th Century. Massacres, rape, torture, disappearances, the seizure of land - the usual. Result? Perhaps a sixth of the population (300,000 people) killed.

See the latest Do or Die zine. OPM Support Group, c/o 43 Gardner Street, BN1 1UN, www.eco-action.org/opm/

SchNEWS in brief

It's that time of the year again - the annual **Anarchist Bookfair** is taking place on Sat 16th October at Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, WC1i, (Holborn tube) 10am till late with loads of stalls in the main foyer plus debates, meetings and video screenings throughout the day. For a copy of the programme send an SAE to 84b Whitechapel High St, London, E1 Tel 0181 533 6936 www.freespace.virgin.net/anarchistbookfair ** Well known festie burger crew **VEGGIES** will be celebrating their 15th Anniversary on Monday 18th October. Catch them at the bookfair on the Saturday, have a picnic with them in Nottingham on Sunday, followed by another party at their HQ The Rainbow Centre on Monday. Ring 0115 958 5666 or email: party@veggies.org.uk ** Following the recent High Court decision to grant a judicial review over the killing at work of **Simon Jones** (See SchNEWS 182), the Memorial Campaign are having a meeting on Tuesday 12th October 8pm at the London Unity Pub, Islington Rd., Brighton ** The second **Big Brother Awards** (See SchNEWS 189) takes place at the London School of Economics on the 18th of this month. If you'd like an invite email simon@privacy.org or give SchNEWS a ring and we'll see if we can get you on the guest list mate.

** **Permaculture** conference at the Centre for Alternative Technology on Oct 29-31, Contact: steve.jones@cat.org.uk or 01654 702400... ** Procure the latest in warfare technology at the **AFCEA arms fair** 27th - 29th Oct, now at the Renaissance Hotel, Heathrow, after Belgium booted 'em out for being "politically and ethically undesirable". Details of actions from Campaign Against Arms Trade 0171 281 0297 ** Transport will be going from Brighton to the House of Lords next Monday (11th) where the **Welfare Reform Bill** is being discussed. Ring 01273 540717 to book your place ** **Anti-Fascist Action** are having an afternoon of discussion and film, including the recent 'Up to their knees in Fenian blood', at the Lux Cinema, 2-4 Hoxton Square, London, N1 6NU. 2.30-6pm 10th Oct ** **If Cloning is the Answer, What was the Question?** We're not sure either - so get this well informed briefing paper from: The CornerHouse, PO Box 3137, Station Road, Sturminster, Newton, Dorset, DT10 1YJ or cornerhouse@gn.apc.org ** There's a benefit gig for Mordechai Vanunu, the imprisoned Israeli anti nuke activist (in solitary confinement for the past twelve and a half years) on 23rd Oct at Conway Hall, London Tickets £8/4, contact the campaign to book Tel. 0171 378 9324, or email campaign@vanunu.freemove.co.uk ** **Gathering Visions, Gathering Strength III** takes place on 15-17th October in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, and is a chance to make links and share campaigning skills for non violent direct action Tel 07971 302412 ** Apparently the **dog unit** of the Essex Police, recently on trial for cruelty to dogs, is looking for sponsorship for a new van, if you can help, ring 01245 223 616 **

J18th - THE SAGA CONTINUES

Seen the mugshots in the Daily Mail? Checked out the City of London's 'rogues gallery' web-site? Well, this is a warning to any mischievous readers out there thinking of ringing up the SHOP-A-THUG hotline from a call box with wrong information. You'd be wasting police time, and that is a criminal offence you know, unlike working in the City and fucking over the planet and its inhabitants to make a fast buck. Hotline 0207 601 2222 www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Y2KBOLLOCKS OF THE WEEK

SchNEWS usually has a no-poetry policy, but this one 'Y2K is coming' by Russell D. Hoffman brought tears to our eyes.

"Y2K is coming of that you can be sure, and the tune that some are humming is 'we haven't found a cure'."

"Lies may come and lies may go, but the truth remains forever, Y2K could be quite a show - and it's more certain than the weather."

"Low Level Radiation kills as well as does the big stuff. Anyone who says different fills You with useless lies and kids' stuff!" Sorry readers, that's enough.

SMOKEY BANDIT

The May Day Cannabis Festival at Clapham Common, part of a global event that took place in 38 cities and was enjoyed by over 15,000 people and held peacefully with no arrests, no sound level violations and no complaints from local residents. Despite this, organiser Shane Collins is being prosecuted for the heinous crime of permitting dancing and music (without license) and may receive 6 months in prison and a £20,000 fine. Shane told SchNEWS, "Lambeth is wasting Council Taxpayers' money to prosecute me for arranging for the community to have a good time. These proceedings are an attempt to criminalise low key music and dancing at community events and I believe that it is possibly politically motivated." He will be pleading not guilty at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton at 2.00pm on 5/11/99. To join the petition or give funds to support his defence, send to: International Cannabis Coalition, c/o Green Party, 1A Waterlow Rd, London, N19 5 NJ

...and finally...

Sometimes it DOES take a Rocket Scientist

You all know the story about pesky birds that keep colluding with aircraft, well Scientists at NASA have come up with a cunning plan. They built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets and the space shuttle, all travelling at maximum velocity, to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the British engineers. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurtled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatter-proof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's backrest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Britons sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the design of the windshield, and begged the US scientists for suggestions. NASA responded with a one-line memo: "Defrost the chicken."

disclaimer

Schnews warns all nuclear scientists if they're gonna put it about with their uranium rods behind closed lead-lined doors they'll be glowing. Honest.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY OF ACTION

October 12th, 1999



Movimento Sim Terra (Landless Movement) - Brazil

Graphic: Martin

Struggle continues in West Papua

In 1963 Indonesia annexed West Papua- a beautiful land of mountains and jungle with over 200 indigenous cultures. The military marched in guns blazing and the multinational mining and logging companies followed soon after. Ever since the tribes have waged armed resistance against the Indonesian army and the exploitation and ecological destruction they defend. Since the occupation began a sixth of the population (300,000) have been killed. Despite the genocide the resistance continues.

Since the elections last year the Jakarta based politicians have been trying to project the caring democratic image. But as the elite stage press conferences in Java, the army are still shooting the demonstrators in West Papua. In the most recent incident in December, hundreds were injured and three were killed at a flag raising attended by thousands. Scattered units of the Liberation Army of the Free West Papua Movement (OPM/TPM) remain in the jungle. On October 4th the offices of the three corporations active in W.Papua were occupied across Britain. The following quote is taken from the communique of thanks sent from the OPM:

"The struggle to free West Papua is not to take away one government and replace it with a new government. We do not want to administer ourselves the capitalist 'profit-making'. It is the struggle between modern society and tribal people. We have a common enemy, we need to work together, throughout the world to make it disappear from this planet. We can only make it happen if we are united. The unity of all people in this world will make it happen. Yi Wa Oi!"

For more information or to get a copy of the 'West Papua Action Update' contact: OPM SG, c/o 43 Gardner St, Brighton, BN1 1UN, or visit: <http://www.eco-action.org/opm/>

Source: Worldwide Resistance Round-up, Peoples Global Action

UNAM Support Demo: Mexico's Biggest in 12 Years

More than 100,000 people demonstrated in Mexico City on February 9th to demand the liberation of students arrested when police regained control of the country's main campus closed by a nine month strike.

The demonstration, which included students, parents of the detainees, trade unions and leftist groups, was the largest in twelve years in Mexico, and came at the height of campaigning for July 2 presidential elections. Chanting "freedom, freedom" the demonstrators demanded the release of the 85 students still held since police took control of the UNAM's main campus on Sunday. They held up banners pledging to continue their strike even though they lost control of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNSM), Latin America's largest university, which they had blockaded for more than nine months. The demonstrators also chanted slogans calling for an end of the Institutional

Ruling Party (PRI)'s 70-year hold on power. Chants of "not a vote for the PRI" echoed across the historic city centre as more than 100,000 people- some estimates put the number at 150,000 people- converged on the central Zocalo square.

Zapatista leader sub-commandante Marcos denounced what he described as the jailing of "hundreds of young students in clear violation of the law, common sense and reason."

"No one can talk of democracy in this country, as long as students fill the jails." He said.

We are everywhere! Solidaridad con los estudiantes de la UNAM! Hasta la victoria!

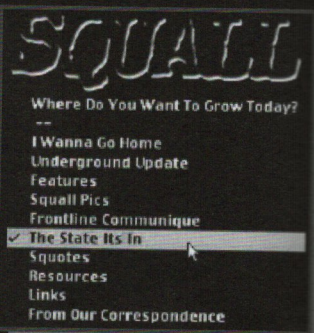
Source: Worldwide Resistance Round-up, Peoples Global Action

SQUOTES

"We are not a market; first and foremost we are a people"

La Falda Declaration, South American Chemical and Paper Industry workers

INDOAMNESIA



One December day in 1975, US President Gerald Ford and his secretary of state Henry Kissinger flew out of Indonesia just as the latest bloodbath began. According to Philip Liechty, the CIA's desk officer in Jakarta at the time: "They came and gave Suharto the green light. The invasion was delayed two days so they could get the hell out. We were ordered to give the Indonesian military everything they wanted. I saw all the hard intelligence; the place was a free-fire zone. Women and children were herded into school buildings that were set alight...and all because we didn't want some little country being neutral or leftist at the United Nations."

As a result of America's McCarthyite whims, over 200,000 East Timorese were massacred in the Indonesian government's attempt to subjugate the independent nation-state. Ever since the CIA helped Suharto assume the presidency of Indonesia in 1967, death, torture and oppression became the norm. Stepping in to facilitate this 'norm' came the United Kingdom - the second largest arms seller in the world - keen to soak up the lucrative arms deals.

David Owen sanctioned the first British Aerospace (BAe) Hawk jet sales to Indonesia back in 1978 worth £500 million and so began an era which would see UK arms companies sell £billions of military equipment to Suharto's regime; the UK government sometimes even loaning the regime money to make the purchases. The rhetoric coming out of the UK government since 1978 was that arms sales to Indonesia were only sanctioned on condition they were not to be used for internal oppression. What farcical obfuscation this now appears given the Indonesian army's backing of the armed militias which rampaged East Timor. Indeed, although the national media in the UK would have us believe Indonesia has only recently turned bad, this long running farce has been clumsily stomping the boards of international theatre for decades. In the grossest indication so far that Robin Cook's "human rights at the forefront of foreign policy" line was insidious nonsense the moment it was uttered, the Labour government have continued arms sales to Indonesia. Between May 1997 and May 1998, the UK Labour Government approved 64 export licenses for military equipment to Indonesia. One week before UN forces went into East Timor in September '99, there were still three BAe Hawk jets on their way to Indonesia. Throughout the entire Labour administration, Indonesian military officials have accepted invitations to attend government backed arms fairs on British soil. Indeed they were due to attend the last Defence Systems Equipment International arms fair on MoD land in September before the British government suggested at the 11th hour they shouldn't come for PR reasons.

Can the present government claim they did not know until recently that British military equipment was being used to massacre, torture and oppress? The answer is clearly 'No'. Back in 1994 when Robin Cook was still trying to impress his credentials on the British political scene, he told parliament that BAe Hawk jets had been "observed on bombing runs in East Timor in most years since 1984". These words now come back to haunt the Foreign Secretary. For Cook has excused the Labour government's continued sale of arms to Indonesia on the basis that they were honouring contracts signed by the previous Tory administration. Hon-

our? If Cook's 1994 assertion was true, the terms of the arms contract with Indonesia had already been broken and, if he had any genuine compunction to match reality with ethical rhetoric, he would have prevented further arms deliveries on the basis that Indonesia were breaking the terms of the contract. However, amnesia proved his preferred choice of action.

Earlier this year Foreign Office minister, Derek Fatchett supported his master's voice thus: "Robin Cook launched a constructive partnership on human rights with the Indonesian government in Jakarta in August 1997, including a number of initiatives on police training..."

Embarrassingly for the foreign office, Indonesian police violently quelled a public demonstration in Jakarta at the end of September 1999, when students took to the streets to protest over a new law passed in Indonesia allowing the government to suspend civil liberties if they deemed it necessary. Using riot control vehicles supplied by Alvis UK and water cannon supplied by Tactica UK, Indonesian police shot dead three students and beat thousands of others.

Even the British judicial system has long acknowledged Indonesia's culpability in internal oppression. In 1996, four female activists were acquitted in a Liverpool court of causing £1.5 million of damage to a BAe Hawk jet bound for Indonesia, on the basis that smashing up its cockpit with hammers could be considered a small crime necessary to prevent a greater one. It was an extraordinary legal precedent. But still the UK government took no notice. Still, troops belonging to Indonesia's notorious Kopassus special forces were receiving counter-insurgency training from a Surrey-based company with the full knowledge of the UK government. It has now been proved beyond all doubt that the Kopassus forces provided direct military support to the right-wing militia which have recently raised East Timor to the ground.

National newspapers are treating the issue as if we have only just acquired the evidence proving the Indonesian government and military to be oppressive and corrupt. The strength of evidence proves that a selective blind eye has been turned to a bloody genocide. The moral authority cited by the UK as its reason for bombing Kosovo lies scattered in tatters.....rather like East Timor itself and the bodies of its men, women and children blown asunder with British weapons.

With a characteristically understated tone, Amnesty International's annual audit of British foreign policy, published at the end of September, expressed what has been bloodily apparent for years: "The Department of Trade and Industry in particular is not meeting its responsibility to promote trade in a manner which is not harmful to human rights."



Graphic: Martin



October 12th, 1999 KPMG Office Bristol:

Local activists celebrate America Discovery Day with an office occupation of KPMG - accountants to Nestle, BAe Systems, Tarmac, AstraZeneca. The action was in solidarity with the Zapatistas in Chiapas, Mexico, who, amongst other things, are resisting Nestle's move onto their land to grow coffee. Later the activists moved up to the Nestles Coffee Shop in the Galleries Shopping Centre, handed out leaflets, ranted at shoppers and generally caused a disruption.

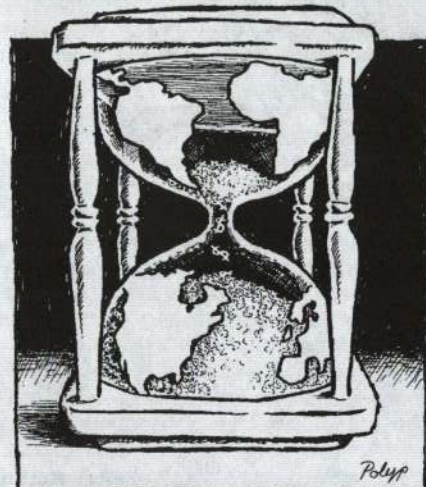


SQUOTES

"The plain fact is that we are starving people, not deliberately in the sense that we want them to die, but wilfully in the sense that we prefer their death to our own inconvenience."

Victor Gollancz

Graffiti





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER PEEPIING TOM

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Issue 232 Free/Donation

RANCID CAMERA

"The time has come to remind the villains that we are there. Use the cameras to search the street for likely looking individuals...zoom in and out, look for faces, potential suspects, potential victims, move the camera around from time to time to let them know you're alert."

-Police Memo to Camera Operators.

The camera never lies. Maybe not, but according to a new study into the rising tide of surveillance in the UK - camera operators, police, politicians and the media lie as regularly about CCTV as Clinton under oath.

"The Maximum Surveillance Society - The rise of CCTV" shows how CCTV evidence is being suppressed and distorted by those in charge of the UK's Big Brother spy camera technology.

WATCH OUT!

Based on 600 hours of research from CCTV monitoring rooms, findings showed 'suspect targets' most likely to be filmed were 'disproportionately young, male, black and working class.' Black men were twice as likely to be filmed as white men, women were often tracked by camera operators for the 'titillation factor', and if you wear a puffa, designer trainers and drive a flash car - more likely than not - you've been framed.

Several instances of CCTV operators turning a blind eye to some of the worst scenes of 'Police, Camera, Actual Bodily Harm' were also recorded. One off duty copper was also filmed coming out of a night-club, shouting racist crap at three black men. When a fight broke out, 20 uniformed cops arrived and arrested two of the men, presumably letting their mate head off for his kebab. The footage was deleted and the police officer responsible never prosecuted.

Other reported incidents included an operator zooming in and catching a police officer "punching a young man inside a police van." On another a man and woman were tracked from the moment they left a night-club, identified as 'suspects' and later picked up and arrested for 'breach of the peace' when the woman stopped for a piss in a doorway. In both cases the camera operators either missed the record button or were busy looking for bra straps through the monitor.

But it's not just the camera operators and police that are busy fuzzing the picture. The first investigation in '95 by the Home Office, was based on information taken from the police, local authorities and private security companies. In Birmingham, the report said, crime levels were up 3 times from when CCTV was first installed. So to avoid embarrassment, when Home Secretary Howard announced a £15 million package for city centre CCTV in November 1995, he censored the Birmingham chapter and released the report in the media 'low' between Xmas and New Year.

VIEWER'S CHOICE

New Labour's track record on distorting the digital picture is as equally impressive. A 2 year study commissioned by the Home Office released on July 15th demonstrated that CCTV does not reduce crime. The research showed that, in Glasgow, crime had increased by 9% over the first year, and also risen in Wales. Yet those findings - virtually unreported in the national press - did not stop Home Secretary Jack Straw announcing a £170 million package for installing CCTV systems over the next 3 years - enough for 40,000 cameras.

There are over 500,000 CCTV cameras in operation in the UK, today, and the surveillance industry is worth £2 billion a year. When no one is watching the watchers, who can say where this CCTV footage goes? At a rape trial in Nottingham earlier this year the suspect was cleared after the defence council discovered a tape which proved the man's innocence. The police had not disclosed the footage as evidence (Guardian 15/7/99).

Local councils are using CCTV to put entire residential neighbourhoods under surveillance, with the footage collected as evidence to prosecute and evict 'anti-social elements.' In Hull, private detectives were hired by the local council to install covert cameras inside the home of a suspected drug dealer on the Bransholme Estate. The edited highlights were eventually shown in court and the person evicted. In Newcastle's West End estate there are 15 'vandalproof' spy cameras monitored by a single 'dedicated' police operation room. And in Wolverhampton,

VEGETABLE OF THE WEEK

The humble brussel sprout. A man managed to escape the long arm of the law last week, after a cop giving chase in Circus Street, Brighton, slipped on a brussel sprout and injured himself. Despite the slip, the police officer still reckons it's his favourite veg. (come off it, no-ones favourite vegetable is a sprout).

ton, education budgets for books have instead been splashed out on a flash 16-strong camera network to watch out for evil crack dealers in the playground.

While the UK is fast moving towards the 'Maximum Surveillance Society' the technology remains vulnerable to human error. Tapes are accidentally erased, networks fail and shit happens. Under the 1998 UK Data Protection Act, everyone has a right to access data and digital images that is held on them - be it bank records CCTV footage for the cost of a tenner. So if you think you've been recorded on CCTV by some perty policeman without your permission then it might be worth looking into. "The Maximum Surveillance Society" - Norris and Armstrong, Berg publishers, 1999. UK Data Protection Registrar, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Web site [HTTP://www/hms.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980029.htm](http://www/hms.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980029.htm)

Privacy International, PO Box 3157, Brighton, BN2 2SS. Web Site [HTTP://www.privacy.org](http://www.privacy.org)

GLOBAL ECHELON DAY

October 21st. Cyber hacktivists are calling on people to send an email containing 50 subversive words and jam the global surveillance system ECHELON which routinely trawls the airwaves and telephone networks for 'subversive' keywords. So kill Clinton's semtex dealing terrorist organisation... [HTTP://www.wodip.opole.pl/~laslo/Echelon-links.html](http://www.wodip.opole.pl/~laslo/Echelon-links.html)

STUDENT TRAINING DAY

Fancy joining SchNEWS's biscuit eating crew? We're having a student training day next Weds (20th) 12 noon at Justice? HQ. Give us a call to sign up for this truly great opportunity.

* Help! Got some spare time on a Friday afternoon? We need someone to drop SchNEWS off round town, and people to help with mail out.

We also need people to help out going through our emails on a Monday - we had 350 messages this week. Aren't we a popular square-eyed bunch.

So the message is - we need help!

Y2K BOLLOCKS OF THE WEEK

SchNEWS hit by millenium bug shocker. Not content with bombarding us with endless emails about the end of the world, Y2K 'enthusiasts' managed to bring down SchNEWS e-mail system this week by sending us loads of pictures about the millenium bug. Can someone please tell us what the fuck a picture of the millenium bug looks like?

RICKY REEL R.I.P.

On 14th October '97 20 year old Lakhvinder (Ricky) Reel and 3 friends were attacked and racially abused in Kingston. Terrified they fled the scene. That was the last time Ricky was seen alive. A week later his body was found in the Thames near the scene of the attack. Despite immediately reporting the attack, no action was taken by for a week, during which time the family organised search parties and interviewed witnesses. When the police search was carried out it took only 7 minutes to locate Ricky's body. That evening, before the post mortem was completed, the police concluded that there was no need to carry out a separate investigation. As a result Ricky's death remains a mystery.

The police's conclusion, that Ricky died instantly having slipped into the river while urinating has not changed despite serious concerns voiced by an independent pathologist. After a second post-mortem, he asked how Ricky fell into the water backwards while urinating; that he didn't die instantly and could have attempted to swim.

Once again it was left to a bereaved family to set up a campaign to persuade the authorities to carry out a detailed investigation and find answers to the following questions; why were the police so slow to respond, why wasn't the racial incident investigated immediately and properly and why did it take until last week for a TV appeal?

The family and campaign have not given up hope. Yesterday a candlelit vigil took place near where Ricky's body was found, and on Oct 20th parliament are debating Ricky's case and the family's rights to access the police report. The following day the family are hopefully giving a petition to Jack Straw at 11am and holding a vigil outside the Commons from 12-1pm to commemorate the anniversary of the discovery of his body.

The inquest starts on Nov 1st at Fulham Coroners Court, despite the family requesting the case be heard in Hammersmith.

Justice for Ricky Reel Campaign, c/o Southall Monitoring Group, Unity, PO Box 304, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 5YR. Tel. 0181 843 2333. Donations to the campaign are desperately needed.

DRIVEN MAD

The Consumer Association have made a promise to lower the price of cars, saying that motorists are being overcharged. But what about the hidden costs motorists get away with?

In 1996 3,598 people were killed, 48,071 seriously injured and 320,302 slightly injured on the roads, using up around 10% of the country's hospital resources. According to the British Lung Foundation, pollution related health problems cost the country £11 billion a year. The overall bill from road transport (air pollution, congestion, accidents, road damage and global warming) costs between a trival £45.9 to £52.9 billion. Surprisingly road users only pay a third of these costs.

As Transport 2000 pointed out, "The private car is responsible for a limited range of benefits for a limited section of the community, and almost entirely responsible for the costs borne by the whole community."

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

"Free For All" is the new play by the **Banner Theatre** who have somehow managed make the governments dodgy Private Finance Initiative (see SchNEWS 210/219) entertaining. It's based on extensive video and audio recordings with people who fought to set up the NHS interwoven with satirical sketches, songs and video projections. It'll cost you £600 + petrol to book, if you're interested ring 0121 440 0460 ** This Saturday is international **anti McDonalds Day**. In Brighton there will be a picket outside the Western Rd branch from 12.30 pm ** Workers in Turkey honoured the appearance of a government Minister at the official opening of an animal hospital in Izmir on **World Animal Day** by sacrificing a ram and calf ** **Morgenmuffel** is a cute little zine full of excellent cartoons and little stories like Isy's cravings for cake and sex. Send some stamps + sae to Box B, 21 Little Preston St., Brighton, BN1 2HQ ** Faster than a speeding bullet, as invisible as x-rays, perhaps a little more detectable than an undercover cop, **microwave weaponry** won't cook yer food and make it taste horrible, no it'll fry yer brain and leave you scared and slightly soggy. Protest peacefully at the House of Commons, 12 pm Tues 19th Oct ** **CND** have organised demonstrations on Saturday 30th October against shipments of nuclear waste from Germany. Transport is going from Brighton. Tickets from the Peace Centre ** Last Sunday over 600 students from across the country gathered in Oxford to launch this year's fees non-payment campaign. Campaign for Free Education PO Box 22615, London N4 1WT. Tel: 0958 556 756 http://members.xoom.com/nus_cfe/

ON THE EDGE

The Caraquan environmental group, who recently stopped a new Tesco supermarket outside Wellington in Somerset being built, need to hear from anyone who wants to play a benefit gig to help them raise cash to fight against the councils next venture. An initial impact study on local trade in the town was carried out by Debenham Thorpe (who work for Tesco's and unsurprisingly found in favour of the scheme) was later found to contain major mistakes. An independent report found that "there was no need for an edge of town supermarket at all." However, the council have since announced that they were much more interested all along in a new development of houses shops and a northern bypass on the other side of Wellington. Contact Caraquan 01823 665592

HAPPY SHOPPER

Students in America held demonstrations at Wal-Mart stores (the supermarket chain that has just bought ASDA) last week after hearing of the sweat shop working conditions

Sacked workers from El Salvador toured U.S. universities last week, telling students about the conditions they have to endure making Wal-Mart's Kathie Lee labels. 15 - 20 hour days, poverty wages and people fainting at work because of the heat. When workers tried to change these conditions, they were fired, black-listed, and their lives threatened.

* **'Managing the Wal-Mart Effect'** a half-day conference all about the companies corporate culture like driving costs out of the system and basically trying to take over the supermarket world. Only £450 + VAT - designed to keep protesters away perhaps? Thursday 18th November at the Millennium Britannia Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1 Tel 020 7247 0367

* The last issue of Ethical Consumer carried a two page article about Wal-Mart. Copies from Unit 21, 41 Old Birley St., Manchester, M15 5RF

* Out of town supermarkets trying to muscle in your area, check out www.sprawl-busters.com/

Inside SchNEWS

MUMIAS DEATH WARRANT SIGNED

After 16 years on death row, African-American journalist and activist Mumia Abu-Jamal (see SchNEWS 228)'s death warrant has been signed and the date for his execution set for December 2nd. A stay of execution is expected to be granted in a few days, however the worldwide protests that prevented Mumia's death in 1995 must be repeated. Protests are planned across the U.S (contact www.mumia.org or www.freemumia.org). Over here there's a Mumia Must Live! meeting at the Anarchist Bookfair this Saturday at 1pm. Contact Mumia Must Live! BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX email mumia@callnetuk.com web www.callnetuk.com/home/mumiaindex

APPEING SUCCESS

New Zealand's Parliament created a world first last week by passing the Animal Welfare Act. The Act bans the use of all great apes in research, testing, or teaching "unless such use is in the best interests of the non-human hominid" or its species. There are five great ape species: chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, orangutans, and humans, and all are in the same genetic family. The recognition is based on scientific evidence that the nonhuman great apes share not only our genes but also basic human mental traits, such as self-awareness, intelligence and other forms of mental insight, complex communications and social systems, and even the ability to master some human language skills.

The Great Ape Project, P.O. Box 19492, Portland, OR 97280-0492 GAP@envirolink.org

* A man who received a baboon liver in an experimental transplant became infected with a herpes virus from the animal and later died. The patient, a 35 year-old HIV sufferer, was cured of the virus after being treated with drugs but eventually died of his liver disease. Scientists from the University of Pittsburgh said the evidence that animal diseases could be passed on to humans through transplants placed a major obstacle in the way of future operations. Dan from Uncaged told SchNEWS "It re-inforces our view that going ahead with animal to human transplants would be like playing Russian roulette with the entire human population."

'The Science and Ethics of Xenotransplantation' £6 from Uncaged, 14 Ridgeway Rd, Sheffield, S12 2SS Tel 0114 2530020 www.uncaged.co.uk

...and finally... Conkerete jungles

Look out kids! Those nasty corporations are after yer conkers. A shadowy organisation known only as ActionAid is attempting to patent conkers under dodgy trade laws which allow companies to patent life forms. The application entitled "Conk 1" is thankfully just a joke but as Isabel McCrea from ActionAid points out, "it highlights the ease with which new regulations on patenting life forms can be used to deprive people of rights they have always taken for granted. Having the potential to charge school kids for playing conkers in the UK is just the thin end of the wedge. Already companies are taking out patents on food crops such as basmati rice, despite the fact that basmati has been grown across Asia for hundreds of years, and has been developed by farming practice through generations. Patenting natural resources is wrong. It is 'biopiracy'. In the Third World it will make poor farmers even poorer if they have to pay royalties."

* The 'patents for life' regulation is due to be discussed at next month's World Trade Organisation summit in Seattle. More on the summit very soon readers.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all paranoids to stop looking behind their shoulders, cos you're making the rest of us nervous!! that's for real

16th Oct Anti McDonalds Day

McSPRINTZ DRIVES-THRU
 11:00 AM - 11:30 PM
 11:30 PM - 12:00 AM
 12:00 AM - 12:30 AM



VEGGIES

15 YEARS OF RIOTOUS CAMPAIGN CATERING

"YOU KNOW YOU'VE MADE IT AS A RADICAL CO-OP WHEN THE POLICE INFILTRATE YOUR BIRTH-DAY PARTY!"

See 'Crap Arrest' SchNEWS 233



Squotes

"The reason Japanese people are so short and have yellow skin is because they have eaten nothing but fish and rice for two thousand years - if we eat McDonald's hamburgers and potatoes for a thousand years we will become taller, our skin become white and our hair blonde."

Den Fujita, President of McDonald's Japan.



The new Superstore ~ a wolf in sheep's clothing?

The W.T.O. is as democratic as it comes.

We are writing the constitution
of a single global
economy.

(Mike Moore,
Director of
the World
Trade
Organisation.)





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Oi, WTO... NO!!

Anybody out there in SchNEWS land got a soft spot for forests, marine creatures, endangered species or clean air? You have? Then start a f*cking museum. If you've a soft spot for exploited, downtrodden, penniless, starving peasants however- don't worry: there'll soon be plenty more...

Yes, folks- the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is taking place in Seattle, USA, from 29th November to 3rd December. A low-profile global fat-cattery of unelected, unaccountable trade bureaucrats from 135 countries, the WTO meets annually to try and remove those little niggles standing in the way of uninhibited free trade-like laws protecting environment, health, human rights and working conditions. Current ruler is one Michael Moore- although fat, speedy and bearded he is, alas, not 'the American answer to Mark Thomas'. He's Australian, for starters.

"Defence of local and national interests should be a democratic right. But nations' ability to reflect cultural, economic and environmental uniqueness is increasingly under attack from the WTO." Tony Juniper, FoE

Top objective this year will be the 'Millennium Round' (MR), the new round of far-reaching trade negotiations aiming to further 'liberalise' the global economy. Not just the latest crap idea to feature the word 'Millennium', the MR is also the latest in a series of developments which represent the most serious changes in global capitalism for many years. Under the existing regime, if a country believes its companies' trading interests are being "unfairly" discriminated against- by environmental laws, for instance, or sanctions against an oppressive regime- it can file a complaint to the WTO. This can result in the 'offending' countries being ordered to change their laws, or get fined and sanctioned; the WTO has already forced the EU to take un-PC US bananas and hormone-pumped beef (see SchNEWS 204/220).

"If the WTO had been around in the 1980's, Nelson Mandela would probably still be in prison"- Chris Keene, Anti-Globalisation Network

And now it's gonna get worse...

1st World governments and trans-national corporations are looking to the MR negotiations to further open up the free market. This would mean incorporating into the regime an agreement very similar to the infamous MAI treaty (see SchNEWS 141 and loads more...).

"As humanity speeds towards ecological disaster, the World Trade Organisation has its foot on the accelerator." Tony Juniper, Friends of the Earth.

supposedly defeated earlier this year. They also seek to 'expand' WTO agreements on agriculture- a main cause of misery for small farmers worldwide-, to eliminate food security policies, to concentrate production in the hands of agribusiness and force GM technologies on an unwilling world. Oh, and they want to expand 'intellectual property' rights, too- which forces countries to give private patent rights over lifetimes to the corporations.

YER SchNEWS GUIDE TO WHO'S GETTINGSCREWED

We've already mentioned penniless banana growers and people who don't want a stomachful of growth hormones. What else? Here's a brief selection...

"WTO rules are undermining 7 of the world's most important environmental treaties"

World Wide Fund for Nature

Farewell, Flipper! Last year, a WTO dispute panel ruled against the US Marine Mammal Protection Act, which banned the import of tuna from countries whose fleets use fishing methods that kill dolphins. Congress weakened the Act, and unsound tuna is now in US shops again.

So long, Shellfish! The US Endangered Species Act banned shrimp imports from countries that do not use devices designed to keep endangered sea turtles out of shrimp nets. In 1995, four nations challenged this law, claiming that it violated the rules of the WTO. Last October, the WTO ruled against the US ban on unsafe shrimp imports. The US government is now considering weakening the Endangered Species Act to comply with the WTO's ruling.

Bye bye, Burmese! In 1996, the state of Massachusetts, appalled at Burma's human rights record, passed a law to discourage state government purchases from companies doing business there. The EU and Japan, egged on by guilty multinationals who were losing business, have challenged the law at the WTO.

Clear Off, Clean Air! On behalf of its oil industry, Venezuela went to the WTO about the US Clean Air Act, which unreasonably demands clean gasoline. This was biased against foreign producers and was thus a 'barrier to trade'. The WTO agreed, and in 1997 the US was forced to rewrite its pollution rules.

(And if they do all that to the USA, think what they'll do to everyone else)

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

Police lost it last Saturday at Veggies 15th anniversary birthday bash. Here's some of the highlights...

* **For shouting 'Oi, mate keep running.'** For such cheek the man's face was scraped across the pavement before he was nicked.

* **For saying "Er excuse me!" to a copper.** For this heinous crime the woman spent 48 hours in Kentish town nick, hauled up in front of a magistrate who refused bail and threatened with two weeks in Holloway. Bailed finally for £250.

* **For putting his hands in his pockets.** A dodgy looking geezer from Manchester was asked to back off as his friends were being arrested. One officer screamed that he had a concealed weapon. He was jumped on and nicked for obstruction.

The more conspiratorial amongst you might well ask how 23 police vehicles managed to arrive in a quiet backstreet in Holborn within a minute of an 'Emergency Back-up' call being made? Did the police know that the Anarchist Bookfair had taken place just down the road and those very same people might be at Veggies party? Why did a police van from the City of London Police attend an incident in (non-City) Holborn. Were they hoping to find people from June 18th? Or was it due to an hysterical copper who ran off screaming into his personal radio 'there's hundreds of them' and asking for assistance, causing a near riot. If you witnessed any arrests, have lost property etc. ring Veggies 0115 958 5666

Farewell, Forests! Eagerly expected is a Global Free Logging Agreement; proposed by the USA, this calls for the elimination of import taxes on forest products, which means increased consumption and accelerated destruction of already endangered forests and a new mahogany table for the SchNEWS office. So it's not all bad...

Concerned? Fear not, people. The world is in safe hands:

"...any interference with free trade and the open markets is anti-environment to begin with. Economic progress and wealth creation are what clean up the environment and minimise pollution..."- Jack Kemp, Competitive Enterprise Institute, writing in the FT

SchNEWS does NOT recommend readers who disagree with Mr Kemp to join in our 'Millennium Round'-up, where WTO delegates are herded into a field to 'debate' with an AK47...

THE FORCES OF RESISTANCE.

Opposition to the WTO is growing. A mass action is planned in Seattle on November 30th. For information and updates about the November 30th preparations around the world, etc. contact: www.n30.org

EVERYTHING YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT THE WTO: Get yerself a copy of 'Demystifying the WTO', an easy-to-read A4 booklet. Contact ASEED Tel + 31 20 6682236 aseed@antenna.nl

NATIVE STATE

Actions called on by the Zapatistas for Indigenous Day, the 12th Oct, to protest at the actions of transnationals - the new conquistadors - against indigenous peoples in Chiapas and other parts of Mexico. The offices of accountants KPMG in Bristol were targeted for their involvement with Nestle who are one of the main investors in Chiapas. The newly opened Nestle cafe in Bristol was blockaded and leaflets were handed out. In York and Newcastle Nestle factories were targeted. In London a demonstration was held in front of the US Embassy where one speaker accused the US government of helping the Mexican army set up paramilitary groups that are operating in Chiapas - "Bill Clinton, you have blood on your hands". e-mail: chiapaslink@yahoo.com. On the same day solidarity events were held to demand that the Colombian government and Occidental Petroleum cancel their plans to drill for oil on the sacred ancestral homelands of the U'wa people. Protestors targeted all ten Colombian consulates in the US and other events took place in Prague, Dublin, Madrid, Amsterdam, Geneva, Toronto, Vancouver, Santiago Chile, Bogota and in the Narmada Valley in India where communities fighting against the Narmada mega-dam project held a 24 hour vigil and sent a message of solidarity. www.ran.org or contact Patrick at rags@ran.org.

* Colombia is going through a grave institutional, political and social crisis - and the good 'ole USA wants to send in the military to sort out the mess. US officials have visited Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela and Panama promoting the formation of a multinational force to intervene including the installation of radar systems in different parts of the country, increased financial support to the Armed Forces and military bases on the frontiers of Colombia's neighbouring countries. There will be a picket next Friday (29) outside the US Embassy 24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 4-7pm Contact: Collective Against the North American Invasion of Colombia c/o 36 Vauxhall Street, London SE11

MUMIA MUST LIVE

A national rally to protest against the signing of the death warrant against Mumia Abu-Jamal is to take place in Trafalgar Square, London on November 6th (2pm). Mumia a radical black journalist, community activist and revolutionary prisoner has been on death row for the past 18 years convicted of the murder of Philadelphia cop. Despite dodgy prosecution evidence, witness intimidation and an ongoing campaign by the right-wing Fraternal Order of Policemen (of which the trial judge, Albert Sabo, was a member) Mumia has continually been denied the opportunity for a retrial. In 1995 international action stopped him being executed. This year on his birthday in April, ten's of thousands of people in both Philadelphia and San Francisco marched for Mumia. He is due to be executed by lethal injection on Dec 2nd. Once again a show of worldwide solidarity could save him.

Next Mumia Must Live! organising meeting
Thursday 28 October at Conway Hall,
Holborn at 7:30pm mumia@callnetuk.com
www.callnetuk.com/home/mumia/

REBEL ALLIANCE

It's happy first birthday to Brighton's direct action forum on Wednesday 27th October 7:30pm upstairs at the Hobgoblin Pub, London Rd. Food and music will be provided.

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"CITY ANARCHISTS STOCKPILE ARMS"

FANTASY WORLD

"ANARCHISTS are stockpiling illegal weapons worth thousands of pounds for a planned riot in the City of London on November 30. In two separate transactions in the past six weeks, at least 34 containers of CS gas and four stun guns capable of delivering a 50,000-volt electric shock were purchased by Reclaim the Streets - one of the groups that wrecked property worth £2m in the June 18 "carnival against global capitalism". The weapons...were imported from France and sold by a gang of nightclub doormen working in the Euston and Camden Town areas."

DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN PROTESTORS

"The revelation is certain to outrage many of the anarchists' sympathisers, who support the cause but do not approve of the increasingly violent tactics used by groups such as Reclaim the Streets and Earth First. This is the first evidence of dangerous weapons being stockpiled for campaigns."

SCARE THE PUBLIC AND GIVE THE POLICE THE RIGHT TO GO IN HARD

"Detective Chief Inspector Kieron Sharp of City police, who is heading the investigation into the June 18 riot, said he was concerned but not surprised by the purchases. 'This is a new and dangerous trend and we are taking it very seriously...They are obviously getting ready for a big one... It fits in with the way these groups are becoming increasingly militant.'"

WHILE WE'RE AT IT, HOW ABOUT NEW TERRORISM LAWS TO HELP LOCK UP THESE ECO-PROTESTORS

"Last month The Sunday Times revealed that the November protest is planned to mirror the riot that occurred on June 18 targeting banks and other financial institutions in the City. Anarchist groups, including Reclaim the Streets and Earth First, have been in contact with their American counterparts to launch a simultaneous campaign on November 30, making it one of the biggest militant protests ever organised. The date has been chosen to coincide with the meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Seattle."

This masterpiece was in last weeks Sunday-Times. Subtitled by SchNEWS

* Help! Legal Defence and Monitoring Group are desperately in need of a hand with monitoring June 18th court hearings and help with fundraising/donations. LDMG, BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX. Tel:0171 837 7557.

* One June 18th prisoner who could do with some letters of support, is Sean Brown BP5610, Huntercobe HMYOI, Howard Nutfield, Henley on Thames, Oxon, R69 5FB

* Pete Loveday, the creator of the legendary Russel comics has done a cartoon version of SchNEWS account of June 18th. Send the office an SAE for a copy. Send us A4 SAE + 40p as well and your get Reflections a booklet on June 18th.

* MAYDAY 2000 - a festival of anarchist ideas and actions April 28th - May 1st. More details from BM MayDay, London, WC1N 3XX. mayday2000-subscribe@egroups.com www.freepress.org/mayday2k

SchNEWS 5th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thursday 18th November

New Maderia Hotel,

Marine Parade, Brighton

8 pm - 2 am £3/4

Ring office for ticket details

SchNEWS in brief

Saturday the 30th is a Day of Action against Huntingdon Death Sciences. This evil company was recently saved by NatWest Bank who lent them £24.5 million when major clients pulled out following an expose revealing an horrendous record of animal abuse. Video evidence shows monkeys being thrown into cages and staff shouting and punching beagles. Meet from 10am NatWest, Emmanuel St, Cambridge. Evening will follow at the labs. Tel. 01223 476596

Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project are having a kids' Halloween Party (31st) with story-telling, face-painting, a bonfire and pumpkin soup Ring Kate on 01273 628535 to see them you're coming. ** The UK's so-called best selling policing magazine (how many are there) **Police Review** has recently featured a couple of articles entitled *Winning the Eco-war* revealing new strategies for policing environmental protests. Important reading - you can see a copy by sending a sae to SchNEWS. ** If you saw Mark Thomas in the box this week and wants an in depth analysis on that Export Credit Guarantee scam - then go

Snouts in the Trough available from The Corner House 01258 473795 or e-mail <cornerhouse.gnapp.org> to obtain a copy. ** More arms than you can shake a stick at - next on is **COPIES** at Sandown Park Racecourse, Surrey on 2nd to 4th Nov. More details from Campaign Against Arms Trade 0171 281 4369 and on 5th Nov you are invited to **TORCH TRIDENT**, transport from all round Britain will take you to Falsane Naval base north of Glasgow, home of Faslane Peace Camp 01436 820901. ** Are you bursting with ideas? even if you've only got one, you can promote it at the **FROME IDEAS FAIR** on Sat 6th Nov, at the Cheese and Grain centre 01373 455430

**** RAISE YOUR BANNERS FESTIVAL** of Political Song will be held at several venues in Sheffield for a week from 12th Nov. contact RYB at PO Box 44, Sheffield, S4 7RN, 0114 249 5100 or www.ryb.org.uk ** Our schools are not for public meeting about the **Private Finance Initiative** scheme in Hackney. Monday 1st November @ White Hart Lane School, 7.45 pm ** **The Right To Protest** Forum meet 1st Thurs of every month (next meeting 4th November) at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London (Holborn tube). Tel 0171 727 0590 email jb1@netlane.com

CHINESE JUNK

The Queens gracious hospitality of the Chinese president Jiang Zemin is motivated entirely by UK plc's greed. Prudential has recently been granted an insurance licence, BP Amoco want to build a petrochemical plant and are among a diverse line of grovelling British companies awaiting the deregulation of Chinese industry and finance in anticipation of WTO membership. Free Tibet Campaign, 1 Rosoman Place, London EC1R 0JY. Tel 0207 833 9958 www.free Tibet.org

...and finally...

Get all fired up for the start of the Hunt Sabbing season (1st Nov) with a raunchy calendar that responds members of the Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn Hunt (phooar). Don't buy too many though, as all proceeds go to those bloodthirsty scoundrels the Countryside Alliance, who need all the light relief they can get after an independent research project on the rural economy trashed their exaggerated loss claims if hunting is banned. "To help bury these bawdy sadists, ring 01273 622827 and leave a contact number.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers having sleepless nights worrying about J18 to just settle down with a nice cuppa Tibetan butter chai - it does wonders for flagging spirits. Honest.

Costing An Arm and A Leg - The AFCEA Arms Fair



The Armed Forces Communication & Electronics Association (AFCEA) Arms Fair held at the Renaissance Hotel, London Heathrow from the 27th - 29th October didn't go without disruptions by anti-arms trade campaigners. While the Belgian parliament deemed the exhibition "politically and ethically undesirable in the European Union", the British Government continues to suffer no such pangs of conscience and continues to play host to human rights abusing companies including BAe and Racal Communications. Britain does a roaring trade in arms to torturing states such as Turkey. (Shame the picture isn't in colour - it's a bloodbath!)



Faslane Peace Camp:
Monitoring the naval base and the Trident nuclear submarine programme.
Tel: 01426 820901.



Pic: Anna

Torch Trident for Guy Fawkes

Faslane Peace Camp, 6th November: Two activists scaled the razor wire at Coulport at 3 a.m. on Saturday and proceeded to the nuclear warhead storage area, where they were discovered cutting the inner fence.

At 8 a.m. state of the art protesting tactics left police confounded as both entrances to the Faslane base were simultaneously blocked.

At the South Gate experienced protesters erected a scaffold tripod, one activist remaining on his metal perch for five hours before he was forced down by extreme cold.

Meanwhile at the North Gate, protesters crawled beneath a coach and D-locked themselves to it, preventing workers from entering the base for 90 minutes. Overall, nine protesters were arrested and released without charge. One of them - "Fungus" - had recently been pulled naked from up a tree at the Manchester Arthur's Wood eviction - a case of activists spreading themselves around!

TRIDENT COMPUTERS GO OVERBOARD IN LOCH GOIL

Establishing an extraordinary legal precedent, three female Trident Ploughshares activists were recently acquitted by Greenock Sheriff's Court of causing criminal damage to a laboratory at Faslane nuclear naval base. After a four and half week trial, the Sheriff ruled that the three women had been justified in dismantling the laboratory after arguing that Britain's nuclear arsenal was illegal under International law. Writing whilst on remand at Cornton Vale Prison, Ellen Moxley, tells the story of how the three women, calling themselves the Pheasant's Union, lobbed the contents of the Faslane laboratory into Loch Gail and hung around waiting to be arrested.

.....Over eight months in the planning, the Pheasants' Union action finally took place on June 8th in brilliant weather on Loch Gail. Ellen Moxley, Ulla Roder and Angie Zelter were really nervous. During the previous two reconnaissance, there had been a lot of police boat/car presence; our small battery operated angle grinder had died; the unreliable inflatable dinghy had a dicey engine. Yet it turned into the perfect action. Ulla was at the spot 4 hours before the start time and phoned with the message: "Beautiful weather." Then the boat, Angie and Ellen arrived in a rented van.

We launched on time (7 p.m.), and in spite of some heart-stopping moments with the engine, soon arrived at "Maytime" - the large floating laboratory complex which tests the sonar signals from Trident. We know now that the Chinese Defence Department can track Trident's movements through geo-magnetic fluctuations and the laboratory on Maytime is more essential than ever to Trident's operation.

We had tools with us to open padlocks but fortunately we didn't have to use them for that. One window into the laboratory was able to be unbolted and in a flash Angie squeezed through. Ellen and Ulla hung a huge black banner, saying: "TP 2000: STOP NUCLEAR DEATH RESEARCH/D.E.R.A.= DEADLY EFFICIENT RESEARCH FOR ANNIHILATION". Helen Steven's beautiful banner had rainbow people pushing Trident into the sunlight and said: "BRINGING CRIME INTO THE LIGHT". Banners made by other Horties said: "CONSTRUCTIVE DECONSTRUCTION" and "TP 2000 OPPOSES RESEARCH FOR GENOCIDE".

Angie and Ulla handed Ellen load after load of computers, printers, monitors, fax machines, telephones, computer disks, papers, manuals etc. Everything went overboard into the drink! Inside the laboratory there was an almost impenetrable cage which housed the mechanism for the model submarine which is used for many of the tests. Angie cut her way in and destroyed (by cutting the electric wires and hammering the circuit boards) the three control panels for the winch and model submarine. Ulla found a sign saying "MOD No Mooring, No Boarding" and propped it up beside the cage! We carefully cleaned up the lot, arranged on the table our police statement, video, Tridenting -it handbook and several photos of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the victims -a good finale to our housework.

Having exhausted the possibilities in the laboratory, we three went up on top of the barge and tried getting into the control room for the vessel. It was protected by hardened



perspex/glass. We tried glass cutter, hammer and cold chisels, and a drill with several bits and almost got through. Above the control room we cut the aerial antenna and superglued/liquid-metalled the moving parts of an outside winch. We then settled down for a picnic. "Newt", a moveable platform, was a few hundred yards away and we thought we might inspect that with a life-raft (as our own boat was now beyond use and we had untied it in the hope it might wash ashore and be retrieved by our supporters). We let down one life-raft which opened in a spectacular manner. We were unsure whether it was right side up, or if it had paddles inside. So we released the second one which fell into the water, its capsule still intact.

By this time 3 hours had gone by and the internal radio started hailing us. We did not want to be caught ineptly trying to control a life-raft halfway to Newt so we agreed to be satisfied with the disarmament work already accomplished. It was an excellent time to have done this work, for the laboratory was between experiments. Before damage was done to any component we made sure the power was off.

When the police arrived they were friendly, having had previous experience talking to TP 2000== people. Throwing out these components felt to Ellen as if she were getting rid of the building blocks of oppression: Trident; the "free" market; the exploitation of children; unbridled militarism; the all-prevailing violence of society; third world debt. This was an amazingly liberating experience. The fact that we three are now on remand for 110 days and will face a protracted trial, we hope with a jury, is a small price to pay for having actually disarmed a Trident-related facility. We send our best wishes to all our fellow pledgers and look forward to reading of their experiences disarming Trident.

Together we can change the system!

SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

- I Wanna Go Home
- Underground Update
- Features
- Frontline Communique
- State It's In
- Squall Pics
- Squall Events
- Quotes
- Resources



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SMASHIN



SchNEWS

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TRIDENT TESTED

"Nuclear weapons have always been perceived as unlawful. Although the defence policy is official, it is not legal. For the last 50 years, the British government and judiciary have refused to look at the legal facts. They have basically said if it is official, it must be lawful."

Angie Zelter

What with the Filthy French and their dirty beef in the press this week, you might - as we did - have missed a little trifle in the news: Britain's Nukes are Illegal! Last Wednesday in Greenock, Scotland, three anti-nuke Ploughshares 2000 women- Angie Zelter, Ellen Moxley and Ulla Roder- were acquitted of malicious damage and of nicking a life raft, after Sherriff Margaret Gimblett ruled that under international law they were right to 'disarm' the research barge 'Maytime' in June this year.

Expert witness Francis Boyle, a top Prof. of International Law, convinced the judge that simply possessing Trident made a nation guilty of 'threatening genocide' - an act forbidden by international conventions, such as the Nuremberg Principles (drawn up in the wake of the holocaust) and an International Court of Justice ruling in 1996, which declared *all* nukes illegal. According to the judge the three were therefore not committing a crime but were acting to prevent crimes taking place- and after a four and a half week trial she directed the jury that under Scottish law they should be acquitted.

"I have the highest respect for these CND women, but I myself am not a CND supporter: I am totally apolitical. I am rather worried about my job after this. I certainly won't be expecting a mention in the Queen's Honours list."

Sheriff Margaret Gimblett.

On June 8th, the women set off in a leaky dinghy and boarded the 'Maytime', part of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) at Faslane Naval Base, Argyll. Armed only with a hammer and screwdriver, they started to chuck computers and lab equipment overboard and expected to have about ten minutes before getting nicked. They ended up being in there for three and a half hours- and had time for a picnic before the MOD Plod arrived!

"The police pretended not to be embarrassed, but I'm sure they must have been" Ellen Moxley.

In court, Bargemaster Iain 'I ain't been nobbled, honest' McPhee was pressed by Advocate John Mayer to explain the function of the barge and its links with the Trident submarines. McPhee was so hesitant and evasive a witness that Mayer stated: "This is not cross-examination, this is dentistry."

Eventually McPhee admitted that the barge conducted important acoustic research for the MOD, that the research related to the operation of Trident submarines, and that the action of the women had had some effect on the ability of the research station to proceed with its work. Nice one!

It's a double whammy for Angie- she was one of four Ploughshares activists acquitted two years ago after trashing British-built 'Hawk' planes bound for Indonesia, where they would have been used, as the court agreed, in genocide against East Timor (see SchNEWS84).

Naturally, the State is not happy with such conclusions and will be launching an appeal about the Maytime case. This won't affect the women, but it could affect any other 'have-a-go-heroes' foolish enough to try to stop the annihilation of millions. After all, as Shadow Conservative Defence Secretary Iain Duncan Smith points out,

"The judgment is quite absurd. What these women have done is immensely dangerous. In damaging our nuclear deterrent, they do nothing but help other regimes who have the intention of harming the citizens of the UK."

Like the bloody Frogs and their mucky beef, eh Iain? Get yer finger on that button!!

*Trident Ploughshares 2000, 41-48 Bethal St., Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NR Tel 01603 611953

*Scottish CND website (Especially useful on Trident) <http://ds.dial.pipex.com/cndscot/> 0171 351 3578 www.gn.apc.org/ecologist

*Aldermaston Womens' Peace Campaign have repeated their call for the Atomic Weapons Establishment - which builds Trident warheads- to be closed down after the Greenock judgement and revelations about appalling safety levels. Apparently it's been 'perilously close' to disaster in the past few months. There's a peace camp outside Aldermaston 12-14 Nov. Tel 01222 396563

DID YOU KNOW?

The UK spends £4 million a day on nuclear weapons

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For chalking on the pavement

Jaggi Singh was nicked during a demonstration in support of jailed black revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal in Toronto, Canada and apparently charged with trespassing!

For tossing a flower onto the grass. Again during a Mumia demo, this time in Portland, Oregon. The man was nicked and fined \$999 for 'offensive littering.' When his friend asked why he was being arrested he was thrown to the ground breaking his arm and hauled away in handcuffs; when a woman tried to intervene she was first pushed into the road narrowly missing a bus and car - then arrested.

For using a megaphone. Same town, same demo, the man was arrested for 'sound violation.'

STOP-PRESS

On Tuesday Mumia was been given a stay of execution after a petition was filed in the courts listing 29 separate issues of constitutional violations during his trial when he was found guilty of killing a cop. The Ex-Black Panther has been on death row for the past 18 years and was due to be killed by lethal injection at the beginning of December.

* Kvaerner-John Brown (UK) is bidding to be part of a consortium to build the Akkuyu nuclear plant in Turkey- right in the middle of a well-known earthquake zone. The Turkish govt. seems keen to ignore reports that environmental and human catastrophe is 'inevitable', but then, the Canadians are stumping up the cash and the Turks get weapons-grade plutonium, so who can blame them? Kvaerner just need Blair and co. to grant something called 'export credit insurance' and the deal is on. This must be stopped! Contact Kurdistan Solidarity Committee Trade Union Group 0171 250 1315

*Following on from Railtrack, don't forget that the next "safety is our number one priority, honest guv" privatisation is...**British Nuclear Fuels Limited!** Sleep well, readers...

DYNAMITE

Two people who absailed down into a quarry, just in time to stop a meadow being blasted by dynamite have had the charges of aggravated trespass thrown out of court. The two protestors were part of the campaign to stop part of Ashton Court Park being dug up by a quarrying firm (See SchNEWS183). The judge ruled that as protestors were still underground fighting the quarry expansion, the protestors actions were excusable under the rather obscure eighteenth century Explosive Substances Act.

DAM BUSTERS

The Solidari@s con Itoiz (SI) and Narmada Valley UK solidarity group scaled the London Eye on Monday protesting against dam-building projects in Spain and India. Two Basque protestors stayed on the wheel for a day and a night, sleeping in tents at the wheel's apex, 145 metres high! The protestors targeted London's £35m prestige millennium bollocks project for its prominent "banality", and dismissed it pithily as a "fatuous spectacle". Martin Errea from Solidari@s said, "the wheel is a really good example of the waste of money in Western society while other people are being displaced and becoming homeless because of projects like these dams."

The Itoiz reservoir has been under construction since 1993. Two of the region of Navarra's presidents from the time of the dam's building are currently in prison, interestingly, for "bribery, theft from the community, and illegal commissions." A Committee created in response to the project found that it was totally illegal, would flood 9 villages and result in great ecological damage. It threatens two valleys that have a very special microclimate, a thriving habitat for many animals and some of Europe's rarest plants. The Spanish courts condemned the project but unfortunately this did not stop construction and the European courts subsequently supported the dam. SI was set up as a result of this defeat and resolved on direct action. In 1996, 8 activists armed with circular saws cut six 15cm diameter steel cables that were essential to construction on the dam. Work had to be halted for 9 months but the protestors are now facing five year jail terms.

In India protesters claim that the Narmada Dam project will leave more than a million people homeless. The project dates back 40 years and has been resisted since work began 15 years ago. About fifteen villagers and activists have been standing in the waist deep waters confronting the submergence of their village. Similar protests and fasts are happening over the area and are being broken up by the police. Narmada UK concluded "The people of the Narmada Valley have resolved to drown, rather than move from their land."

* Activists from Solidari@s con Itoiz will be Brighton next Monday 1st November, upstairs Hobgoblin Pub, London Rd. 7pm.

NarmadaUK@yahoo.com.
SI: www.solidariosconitoiz.org.uk.

MAD-HOUSES

On Tuesday last week the protest camp in Hockley, Essex (see SchNEWS 224) was served with a possession order and on Friday security with cherry pickers moved in to clear tree houses. Developers want to build houses by a nature reserve - spending £150,000 on relocating up to 2000 great-crested newts. This despite a similar relocation in Peterborough ending in the deaths of 10,000 of this rare species.

This Monday a fella from Cornwall who owns some of the land Countryside Residential plan to build on appeared. He hadn't been consulted, and offered the protestors the use of his land for a year for 1p! Weird goings on recently include £11,000 worth of damage by militant badgers, a security guard stapling his finger to a piece of wood, a druid mate of King Arthur's showing up and staying, and the replacement with a teddy bear of a local councillor who failed to turn up at a local meeting.

People are needed. Contact C.A.S.H (Campaign Against Silly Houses): 0831 717815/01702 206353 www.angelfire.com/mt/GBH

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SchNEWS in brief

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is facing its first lawsuit after being taken to court by a group of South Korean unions over its policies "which inflicted a huge damage on the Korean people". It's the first time the IMF has been faced with a damages suit filed by labour unions in the countries to which it has provided bailout funds ** 'Whose Agenda? Development, Democracy and the World Trade Organisation' takes place on Monday 8th November 6 - 8 pm at the House of Commons, 7 Millbank SW1, organised by OXFAM. Hey, even the WTO are turning up 0171 931 9330

** Operation Century is a detailed report about Essex police's covert operation to nail the people who carried out the Rettendon triple murders. Police tactics included terrifying people into spilling the beans by posing as an IRA hit-squad! For a copy send £3 inc p+p cheques payable to Ian Cameron, 10 Knox Court, Studley Rd., London, SW4 6SA ** TAT news covers various travellers issues. It's produced by the Community Law Partnership Solicitors, 3rd Floor, Ruskin Chambers, 191 Corporation St., Birmingham, B4 6RP Tel 0121 685 8595. They've also got a 24 hour emergency eviction hotline 0468 316 755 **

SQUALL in print form is back - not that the magazine ever went away on the internet. Issue One of the new handy sized download version is now available. Send them some stamps and an SAE to P.O. Box 8959, London, N19 5HW www.squall.co.uk ** Green Left is to hold its annual forum this year in Bristol under the theme of "Town and Country - our common future." Among the topics to be discussed are low environmental impact design and lifestyles, transport and access issues, GMOs & the future of organic agriculture/permaculture, as well as local planning issues such as new housing developments. It's at Central Friends' Meeting House, River Street, Bristol. 10.30 am - 4.00 p.m. To book a place ring 01823 321304. ** Platform 6 is a new non-profit making community centre now open in Southampton at 6 Onslow Road. Ring 07980 051929 email platform6@angelfire.com ** There's a screening of Undercurrents 10 - the alternative news video - at the Ray Tindle Centre, 40 Upper Gardner St., Brighton next Wednesday (3rd Nov) 7.30 pm. Just £1 entrance - popcorn available ** There's a national demonstration outside the Newchurch Guinea Pig Farm on Sunday 7th November. At least 10,000 guinea pigs are hidden behind sheds behind Darley Oaks dairy farm to be sold to the vivisection industry. Meet 12 noon Newchurch Village, Staffordshire (A515)

This Halloween Radio 4A broadcasts free speech on the Brighton airwaves on 106.6 FM from 10 a.m till dawn the next morning VEGETABLE OF THE WEEK

Protestors living on site to stop the Chelmsford to Southend bypass have won second prize in a best tomato competition in the local village horticultural show. The prize patch is due to be trashed by another road funded by the government's Private Finance Initiative scheme (See SchNEWS 219). The green-fingered campaigners also came second in the flower arranging section - by putting some sunflowers in a smelly old para' boot! (ok so there was only three entries). They are asking for solidarity actions against the developers Laing. Contact Gorse Wood Campaign 07957 915977

SchNEWS 5th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thursday 18th November - 8 pm - 2 am £3/4
@ New Maderia Hotel, Marine Parade, Brighton
Ring office for ticket details

SLAPPERS

Next month five women from the GenetiX Snowball campaign along with their press officer will be back in court fighting for their right - to go to court! In September last year the six were Slapp'ed * by Monsanto, in what has been dubbed the most "wide ranging injunctions ever seen in British law." (See SchNEWS 184) In April a Judge decided that the six had the right to a full trial. Something Monsanto obviously don't want as a lengthy trial will highlight the dangers of GM technology. So it's back to the High Court for an appeal.

Confused? Well get yourself down to the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London on November 8/9th. 9.30 am. It's essential to ring 0161 834 0295 from 5th November just to make sure the dates haven't changed.

GenetiX Snowball Campaign, One World Centre, 6 Mount St., Manchester, M2 5NS
www.gn.apc.org/pmbhp/gs

SchNEWS VOCAB WATCH SLAPP'S are Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, and are a common weapon frequently used by American companies to silence their critics.

MORE FOUL PLAY

Two Catholic under-11 footie teams have been the latest target from those brave loyalists in Belfast. Last weekend the referee spotted nails on the pitch just before kick-off, a sweep of the pitch uncovering 400 razor sharp masonry nails in the ground that had been planted to injure the mostly nine and ten year olds. The two Catholic sides have to play in a loyalist area as the council has not provided adequate grounds in Nationalist areas. As An Phoblacht points out "Sectarianism in local football is rife with many teams forced to play in loyalist areas being subjected to abuse on a regular basis."

* First Minister David Trimble has announced at a 'Peace and Tourism' conference in Glasgow that he wants Orange Order Parades to be marketed as tourist attractions. His idea is to promote the parades as folk festivals! Is this the sort of folk festival where witch-burning, Klu Klux Klan lynching and Spanish Inquisition style debating are part of the programme?

ON THE HOUSE

In May Conservative Westminster Council unveiled a new hotline for residents to inform on benefit cheats. Within hours a call came in that led, last month, to a successful prosecution and a three month jail sentence for a fraudster who had falsely claimed £9,449 in a housing benefit. The councillor Richard Stirling-Gibb - a Westminster councillor (shamelessly stolen from Private Eye; we knew our readers would love it.)

...and finally...

A 21-year-old Welsh engineering student is recovering in a South African hospital after his buttock baring antics went horribly wrong. The unnamed man ("He has requested that we do not give out any further information," said a hospital spokeswoman) was returning from a sightseeing trip to Stellenbosch when he got the idea to "moon" drivers on the highway out the back of the bus he was riding. He dropped his pants and pressed his buttocks against the back window. The window, unfortunately was also an emergency exit and swung right open. He tumbled out, landing on the highway with his trousers around his ankles, and skidded along the highway in front of astonished motorists. He was listed in a "serious condition" with "severe abrasions and blood loss," but is expected to recover. Stolen from Agitprop www.igc.apc.org/laborart

disclaimer

SchNEWS hopes all readers are having a smashing time.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SPARKLIN'



SchNEWS

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ON THE IRAQ!!

"Whatever its political effectiveness, the success or failure of which is for others to judge, the sanctions regime has clearly had serious consequences for the ordinary Iraqi population, forcing many into poverty, destroying human dignity and taking lives."
1998 World Disasters Report.

How best to celebrate a birthday? With a spot of hypocrisy and a wee sip of genocide UN style. SchNEWS congratulates the UN on the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Human Rights of the Child, the most signed-up-to piece of international law in history, designed to ensure that "there is a place at the table for all the world's children" (Clinton). (Only 2 states never signed it... Somalia and the US). But the UN has broken its promise to Iraqi children, and SchNEWS has iced the words "Imperialist Scum" on the UN's birthday cake. According to UNICEF, up to six thousand children die each month as a direct result of the UN imposed sanctions and 32% of children under 5 are chronically malnourished.

WHOSE WAR IS IT ANYWAY?

"Sanctions are amongst the most powerful and lethal weapons in our armoury." Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State

Even worse than conventional warfare, economic sanctions hit the people harder than governments, and in Iraq they have created a humanitarian disaster. Yet in May 98 the foreign office attempted to contradict hard facts, arguing that

"The government has every sympathy for the people of Iraq. Sanctions are aimed at the Iraqi regime and not at them". But UNICEF estimate that if the blockade continues 1.5 million more children will suffer malnutrition and unchecked illnesses. *"It is clear that children are bearing the brunt of current economic hardship...they must be protected from the impact of sanctions. Otherwise they will continue to suffer, and that we cannot accept."* Heffinck, UNICEF rep. Baghdad.

The sanctions imposed on Iraq are the most draconian ones ever imposed by the UN. The UN sanctions committee (based in New York) has the power to veto any materials from going to Iraq, and can include anything not deemed "essential". The list of banned items reads as both tragic and ridiculous: syringes, chlorine for treating water, isotopes that can diagnose and treat cancers (particularly in demand since depleted uranium was used against Iraq in the Gulf War, raising cancers by 10 fold and causing babies to be born without eyes, limbs, genitalia, and with their organs on the outside of their bodies), ambulances, cassettes and CDs, toys (a necessary component of all nuclear arsenals), wheel-barrows (the most malicious of weapons), shoes and polish, ash trays, beads, Vaseline, saucers, mirrors, ink, swimming costumes, rulers, soap, hearing aids, children's clothes, balls, hair pins...

Before the sanctions Iraq had the best national health service in Arab Middle East, 93% of the

population had access to a hospital. Now children are suffering and dying from preventable and curable diseases due to a massive lack of medical supplies. \$360m. of drugs were imported annually before 1990, in 1996 a mere \$13m. were imported. A visiting child psychologist reported that some children no longer play games, because they reminded them of the dead friends they used to play with.

The UN imposed the punitive sanctions in 1990, initially to get Iraq out of Kuwait, whilst they are now linked to the inspection and monitoring of Iraq's weapons. Last Dec. the US and Britain launched Operation Desert Fox to punish Iraq's repeated non-compliance with the UN arms inspection, and the almost daily bombing has not ended, despite more than 10,000 death toll. Amongst the devastation water and sanitation systems were destroyed, the sanctions prohibit the import of equipment to repair the damaged infrastructure. Before the embargo 90% Iraq's had access to safe drinking water, now only 50% have.

And while the UN plays Good West, Bad East it is worth remembering who supplied Iraq's weapons (during the Kurdish massacre that the sanctions were originally about and before the Gulf war). The US, Britain, Germany and France all have blood on their hands, and it was German companies that sold Iraq materials for nuclear and chemical weapons.

Smell a rat? It seems that the real issue cannot be disarmament. According to former arms inspector, Ritter, *"what has been disarmed is a very high percentage-over 90%"* In 1997 Albright stated that the sanctions would stay until Saddam goes.

The sanctions serve to contain Iraq not only militarily, but also economically. The crux of the matter is that the UN, acting as proxy for the US and its allies, wants to control potential revenue from Iraqi oil sales, impoverish Iraq and force a dependency on foreign imports. The UN's Special Commission (UNSCOM), set up in 1991 to monitor Iraq's disclosure and disarmament of its weapons of mass destruction, turned out to be a cover for US and British spies. It has been expelled from the UN, so sanctions continue with Iraq uninspected and thus the incident sheds light on the West's real concerns. From the horse's mouth indeed, Ritter (one of UNSCOM's key arms inspectors) resigned *"when it became clear that the US and Butler, Director of UNSCOM, were manipulating inspections as a vehicle for maintaining economic sanctions, instead of disarmament. I could not be part of that."*

In 1996 UNSCOM destroyed a veterinary medicines factory, claiming it was producing

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For dishing out free food! People from Food Not Bombs keep getting arrested for handing out free food and drink to the low-income and homeless. 2 were nicked for giving out bagels and juice at UN Plaza in San Francisco. At least 50 heavily armed cops arrived as they tucked in and violently arrested many munchers, confiscating the remaining food. Since the US Dept. of Agriculture reckon that nearly 25 million Americans are so poor they don't get enough food, it's crazy that Food Not Bombs have had over 1000 arrests for sharing hundreds of thousands of veggie meals since 1988. SF Food Not Bombs, P.O. Box 40485 San Francisco, CA 94140 USA.chemicalweapons.org

chemical weapons, that was supplying vaccines cheaply or free to the rest of the Middle East, and so undercutting the multinationals.....It's a stinking rat indeed. Dennis Halliday, former UN Humanitarian co-ordinator for Iraq, also resigned in disillusionment saying *"we are in the process of destroying an entire society...it is illegal and immoral."*

Everything's Albright?

Albright, as US ambassador to the UN in 1996, was asked *"half a million children are said to have died, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. Is the price worth it?"* She replied *"I think this is a very hard choice, but the price-we think the price is worth it."* Would it be worth it if our own kids were starved and bombed because the UN wanted to overthrow New Labour?

*Voices in the Wilderness, an anti-sanctions activist group, state *"we can no longer remain party to this slaughter"*, and challenge the sanctions by delivering medical supplies and text books to Iraq. Set up in the US in 1996 and the UK in 1998 they break the embargo by delivering goods without applying for export licences despite the risk of prosecution

More info.* 'Sanctions on Iraq: background, consequences and strategies' conference 13-14 Nov. in Cambridge, contact Campaign Against Sanctions online@sebwills.org, Clare College, Cambridge, CB2 1TL (to book send £20/£10 conc.<http://welcome.to/casi>)

*Voices in the Wilderness www.nonviolence.org.vitw email: voices@vitwuk.freemove.co.uk tel.0181444 1605, 12 Trinity Rd, London, N2 8JJ. www.peaceaction.org. They will be talking in Brighton on 11th November 7.30pm The Exhibition Room, Brighton College of Technology, Pelham St.

* September's issue of New Internationalist was all about Iraq. Copies from Tower House, Larkhill St., Market Harborough, LE16 9EF www.newint.org/*The Scourging of Iraq, Sanctions, Law and Natural Justice" by Geoff Simons (Macmillan 1998) * "Sanctioning Saddam: The Politics of Intervention" Sarah Graham-Brown (IB Tauris 1999)

SchNEWS 5th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thursday 18th November 8-2am

Live entertainment, DJ's and videos

@ New Madeira Hotel, Marine Parade, Brighton £3/4

Ring office for ticket details

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On The Job

You've probably heard all the fuss about the changes to Invalidity Benefit in the Welfare Reform Bill, but here's a few other juicy titbits the buzzword addicts at the DSS want to lay on you:

'Employment Zones': a designation for areas like Brighton with high unemployment where claimants will be 'farmed out' to private sector companies like Reed or Manpower, who'll reap profits from hassling claimants into crap jobs.

'Personal Capability Assessment': an even stricter 'All Work Test'. Intended to save £780m from Incapacity Benefit and severe disablement allowance by making the tests more rigorous and putting pressure on people too ill to work to find jobs.

'Trailblazers': seems the New Deal hasn't been too efficient 'cos most bosses saw many Dealers as 'unemployables'. Hence 'Trailblazers' - four weeks of intensive training to improve those sloppy 'behavioural skills'.

'ONE- Single Work Focused Gateway': the all-new one-stop-shop for benefits. All yer benefits will soon be dealt with in one building! No more traipsing from dole queue to housing office! Trouble is, whatever benefit you're claiming for, the first question will be "Want a £3.60 job in Sainsburys? If not, why not?"

'Leisure Ratio Assessment': a new test to determine the percentage of yer giro you manage to set aside for drugs, drink and having fun. Those with more than 0.5% are earmarked for 'Trailblazers'; those with more than 4% are shot. NB-only one of the above is a joke.

For full details of the Reform Bill, how it affects you and what you can do about it get issue 7 of Where's My Giro?, From Brighton Against Benefit Cuts, 4 Crestway Parade, Hollingdean, Brighton BN17BL www.muwc.demon.co.uk/

Keep Yer Fur On

A national week of action against the fur trade is scheduled for Nov 13-20th, coinciding with the 'killing season' in Britain's mink farms. The London Day of Action is on the 13th; meet Trafalgar Sq, 11am. London Animal Action (LAA) Tel. 0171 278 3068. LAA is also keeping up a campaign to close down Zwirn's furriers - one of the few remaining in London. Barry Zwirn took out an injunction against activists who had maintained a solid picket outside his Mayfair shop for weeks. Customers dwindled almost to nothing, while legal costs for Zwirn were over £17,000! 'They have made our lives a misery' wails Barry; perhaps you'd like to phone and tell him what you think of his bloody business, too: 0171 629 2747. Zwirn's solicitors (Kingsley Napley, Knights Quarter, 14 St Johns Lane, London EC1M4AJ) are compelled by law to send a copy of the injunction to anyone who asks for it. Expensive - it's 50 pages long and very heavy!!

*The Ministry of Agriculture has announced plans to force fur farmers to increase security in the wake of Animal Liberation Front mink releases; trouble is, security is so expensive most farms could be forced out of business! The ministry suggests security guards, fence sensors, infra-red and CCTV; installment costs could be as much as £156,000 and yearly running costs up to £260,000.

*Horse & Hound, scummy bible of the hunt set, has a freephone number! You know what to do... 0800 316 5450

SchNEWS in brief

Support is desperately needed at the ongoing inquest on the death of **Ricky Reed** (see SchNEWS 232). Contact the campaign c/o Southall Monitoring Group, Unity, PO Box 304, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 5YR. Tel. 0181 843 2333. **** Women Speak Out Weekend** gathering for women interested or involved in activism, London 19th-21st Nov. Tel. 01422 844932 or send SAE to 5 Barkers Terrace, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, Hx7 6AQ. **** Advisory Service for Squatters** need new volunteers urgently. Tel. 0171 359 8814 **** Benefit for the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign**, Gran Baile de Calaveras (day of the dead party) Music, food and bar. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Tel. 0171 272 9619. Fri 19th Nov. 7.30 - Midnight. Tax £7 / 3.50 concs. **** Fighting Indonesia in the Forest** - a talk by a West Papuan tribesman. Wed 10th Nov. 7.30 pm upstairs at the Hobgoblin Pub, London Road, Brighton. **** Prisoners Day of Remembrance**, Bobby Sands/James Connolly Annual commemoration. Sun 14th Nov. McNamara Hall, Camden Irish Centre, Murray St./Camden sq., London NW5. 12.30pm. Entry £1 inc. social. (For more info ring the Wolfe Tone Society on 0181 442 8778.) **** Benefit for Thespionage**, featuring Halo, DJ Cakeboy, Films, Bar, SchNEWS Stall Fri 12th of Nov. 7pm. Upstairs Hobgoblin. £2.50/£2.

Failed Its Test

The Arthur Daleys of this world will be rubbing their hands in glee at this week's announcement that Siemens Business Systems have been named as the preferred bidder to computerise the MOT testing scheme in a bid to stamp out fraud.

Siemens you might remember are the same people who caused chaos in the passport agency earlier this year with their new computer system (see SchNEWS 219). Last month the company got a massive slap on the wrists in a scathing report from the National Audit Office, the taxpayer got a bill of £13 million and the cost of passports may rise to £29 to cover the costs.

Then Siemens did the same thing at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, where once again their computer wizardry left the whole place in more of a mess than it was already (some feat).

So surely the last thing you'd expect is Siemens to get another govt contract. Er...apparently not. And once again it's the Private Finance Initiative (privatisation by the back door to you and me) to big business' rescue.

MARK BARNSELEY

On November 15th, Mark Barnsley will have spent 2,000 days in prison for the crime of defending himself against attackers.

While out walking with his baby daughter (then just 6 weeks old) and a family friend, he was attacked by a gang of 15 drunken students. Despite his injuries and the views of every single independent witness, it was Mark who was convicted of wounding the students and given a 12 year prison sentence.

November 15th is a Day of Autonomous Action in support of Mark. For ideas of how you can help send an SAE to Justice for Mark Barnsley, c/o 145-149 Cardigan Rd., Leeds, LS6 1LJ email barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com

Support to Mark Barnsley, WA2897, HMP Full Sutton, York, YO41 1PS (send letters recorded delivery and enclose a few stamps).

SCHNEWS NEEDS SOME HELP

Calling all writers! We need you Weds and Thurs. Wanna put SchNEWS on the web Friday mornings? Cathy Come Home - we'd love yer laser printer (or anyone else's). Got an external modem for a PC - we can swap it for an internal one.

Inside SchNEWS

39 year old Robert Thaxton has been given a 7 year and four months prison sentence after throwing a small rock that hit a copper during rioting in Eugene, on June 18th.

June 18th was an international day of action against capitalism (see SchNEWS 217/8). In Eugene a parade escalated into violence as cops deployed tear gas and arrested people for rioting. Even the local paper described the sentence as "surprisingly stiff" but police and prosecutors said it was a "clear signal that violent social protest won't be tolerated." But as one resident pointed out "The riot in Eugene that day was sparked by police harassment of the poor community and anarchists."

Take the example of the harassment of the parents of a 15-year-old anarchist, suspected of taking part in direct action against Nike. They were held on their floor with guns pointed at the back of their heads for 3 hours while the police searched their house and confiscated materials.

* Robert now plans to appeal. SchNEWS hasn't got an address, so send letters of support/cash to the Defence Fund, PO Box 1133, Eugene, OR, 97440, USA. www.ainfos.ca.org

* Seattle City Council seem to be getting a little nervous over next month's demonstration against the World Trade Organisation (see SchNEWS 233). Under the Noise Ordinance law which was passed last week, a copper can give you a caution if you make a noise that can be heard 50 feet away. 3 cautions and you face six months in gaol!

Jah Victory!

This week Luton's Exodus Collective were served with an eviction notice to leave Long Meadow Farm, a formerly derelict site that they were granted a tenancy on seven years ago by the then Department of Transport (the owners of the land). Exodus are a grassroots collective working on 'social inclusion programs', doing free dance parties and putting the money back into their community. Police oppression and attempted stitch-ups have dogged their path. Last year Exodus bought the farm, paying a deposit. Since then bureaucratic hassles and misinformation have been used to try and scupper them. This led to the signing of the eviction order. Two of the Collective passed on accurate information to Lord Whitty at the Department of the Environment, Transport, and the Regions. He'd been lied to, and cancelled the eviction order. Sale contracts have now been signed and exchanged. SchNEWS wishes them well for the future. www.squall.co.uk

www.exodus.sos.freeuk.com/

...and finally...

Eisuke Arai is a Japanese debt collector who has obviously been watching too much Monty Python. The former employee of Nichiei told a man whose company had gone to the wall to sell his kidney and eyeball to help pay off a loan. He allegedly told the failed businessman his kidney was worth around £17,500 and his eyeball a bit less. He added "You have two don't you? Many of our borrowers have only one kidney... I want you to sell your heart as well but if you do that you'll die. So I'll help with you if you sell everything up to that". Police are now investigating, while the president of Nichiei said it was a blow to a sector eager to escape it's "loan shark" reputation. How anyone can come to such a conclusion with the average interest rate payment of over 20% is beyond SchNEWS.

disclaimer

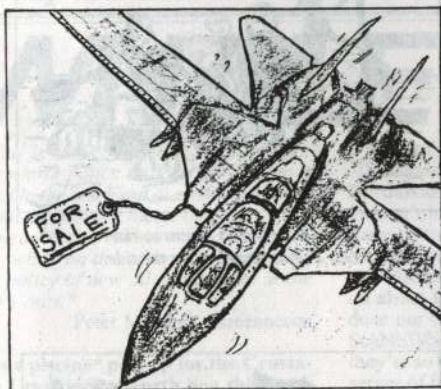
SchNEWS warns all readers not to make a career of it. Hard work never hurt us. Honest

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Sea Action and the arms fair : Sept. 99.



One day, our chums do hear
An arms' fair is drawing near

—ALICE SMART



Murder methods sold for profit
"Ah, hah," they think, "we'd like to stop it"



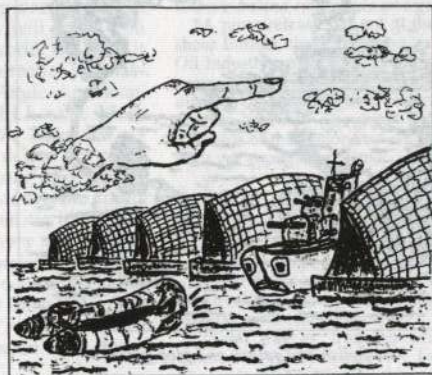
Where Britain will be selling weapons
To nice peace-loving friendly nations



Countries such as Indonesia
Need to protect their poor dictators



Jets & bombs & guns galore
Stop naughty farmers in East Timor



Our heroes have a plan-of-action
Halt warships entering London docklands!



*Our leaders claim they're ethical
But with the truth they're economical*



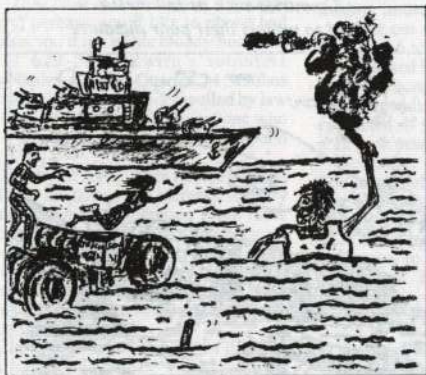
*When the Thames begins to rise
Our chums launch upon the tide*



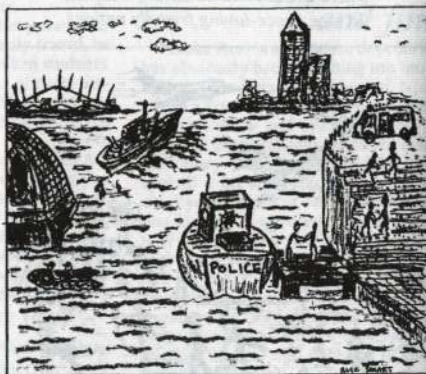
*But too soon police boats have surrounded
Sea Action's mission is confounded*



*Then, yo, ho, ho, lo and behold -
It seems someone's gone overboard!*



*Splish and splash and plop for sure
Into the drink there are two more!*



*But all too soon the fun is over
Our chums handcuffed upon the shore*