



## WHALE OF A TIME

"This is a massive blow for a government whose policy on fossil fuels is in a mess. On the one hand at an international summit on climate change they are agreeing measures to reduce our use of fossil fuels, while on the other hand defending their policy of new oil exploration in the High Court."

Peter Melchett, Greenpeace

It's a piscine\* piss-up for the Crustacean Crew in the North Sea this week joining the Whale Massive in sticking two fins up to marauding oil companies. In a High Court case brought by Greenpeace, Justice Kay last Friday overruled the Blair Junta, deciding that the interests of Britain's dolphins, whales and deep water coral reefs should be accorded higher priority than those of oil exploration.

The case centred on the government's cunning idea that the European Union's environmental laws need only apply to 'territorial waters' within 12 miles of the coast and not the whole 200 mile 'exclusive economic zone' over which it claims mineral rights. Handy, Tony- but Judge Kay reckons it's illegal. Which means in future, oil exploration in the north-east Atlantic, which severely damages the fragile reefs (more biodiverse than rainforests) and traumatises marine life, will be severely nobbled- and conservation areas created.

The judge told the court that Greenpeace's case- that marine mammals can be harmed by oil industry activity- was "substantially uncontradicted" by government and oil industry evidence. Already, the ruling has ballsed up the latest round of oil licensing, and oil companies operating in Britain's oilfields are facing long delays and vastly increased costs. Nice one!

BUT- this glorious news has been overshadowed by the revelation that the world is fucked. Yup, we're doomed. On Friday, as dolphins danced with wasted whales and crabs canned it, the UN Conference on Climate Change in Bonn was being presented with computer predictions from climate experts at the Hadley Centre. Apparently, the world's climate is heating up far faster than predicted- far too fast for natural systems to adapt. Temperatures by the end of next century are likely to be 8C higher than in 1850- before industrial pollution had taken effect.

Most of the Amazon rainforest will die off, releasing millions of extra tons of carbon dioxide- the 'greenhouse' gas that traps the sun's heat. This will also lead to many more 'extreme' weather events- like Hurricane Mitch and the cyclone in India.

While Britain's delegates no doubt bang on about how much they're doing to reduce our contribution to climate damage, SchNEWS wonders if they can explain why they're so intent on tracking down new reserves of fossil fuels- like in the north-east Atlantic, off the coast of St. Kilda (Britain's only natural world heritage site)- even though we've already found four times as much coal, gas and oil as we can afford to burn. For what it's worth, the Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution is aiming to publish by Xmas its investigation into the implications of phasing out fossil fuels. The investigation- in the pipeline for a year- has drilled everyone from Greenpeace to the UK Offshore Oil Association, though the government, not surprisingly, has been less than co-operative. Exxon wouldn't answer questions, BP reckon technology will sort it all out and Shell say oil and gas just ain't the problem- it's coal.

Seems SchNEWS's fave bastards Shell are trying to flog off their worldwide coal interests, and are touting the sell-off as "rationalisation of the portfolio" and "part of the necessary upgrading of the group's performance to bring Shell to the position of top performer".

According to insiders, the real motive for the sale is that the company is acutely aware of how the coal industry will suffer in a more climate-regulated world. But keep it quiet- it might put off potential purchasers, like Rio Tinto and Anglo-American. What if they heard SHELL exec Mark Moody Stuart: "All of the estimated resources of conventional oil and gas could be consumed without raising atmospheric carbon concentrations above the limits suggested by even pessimistic observers. The real problem is the very much larger resources of carbon intensive coal."

If Shell are right and coal is the problem, shouldn't they just hang onto their reserves and ensure they're never dug up? Responsibility? Oh, come on now...this is Business

\*SchNEWS VOCABWATCH: for all you fishystines, piscine = fishy

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

**FOR SLEEPING!** Someone got nicked at Faslane Peace Camp last weekend despite being in bed. The arrest followed a weekend of anti-trident protests which left MOD officials shamefaced and confused. Workers were prevented from entering for two hours as protesters D-locked themselves under vehicles at the North gate and simultaneously blocked the South gate with a tripod. Protesters also compromised security at the base as two activists scaled the razor wire at 3am. They were discovered cutting the inner fence to the nuclear warhead storage area as an impromptu missile attack sent fireworks exploding over the base. Eleven people were arrested and six released without charge.

Faslane Peace Camp 01436 820 901.

**FOR WALKING!** Two people who just happened to be walking past an office occupation of COPEX, (the nice people who organise arms fairs) were bundled into the back of a van by panicking coppers and taken to the local nick!

**FOR SLEEP-WALKING!** A resident of Salisbury was nicked after being found wandering naked around Stonehenge.

Ok, we come clean we made the last one up.

\*Shell was forced from last weekend to shut down its Oil Flow Station at Bonny Port in Nigeria cos of 'persistent community unrest'. Seems in recent months oil flow has been disrupted by locals demanding compensation, social amenities and jobs from the company. With a loss of 100,000 barrels of oil a day, the problems follow similar ones at the company's Forcados terminal.

\* We kid you not - Lego and Shell have developed a miniature solar panel that will power Lego models apparently to "teach children the science behind renewable energy."

\*A press release put out at the end of Off-shore Europe, the annual piss up for the Euro Oil Industry, spelt out the exciting new plans: companies operating in the North Sea are cordially invited to share their expertise with Darwin, Oz- "the new Aberdeen" in carving up the oil fields of the Timor Sea. As if the Timorese ain't got enough problems...

Wanna know more?

The Ecologist has a special issue packed full of cheery facts about climate change. 0171 351 3578 [www.gn.apc.org/ecologist](http://www.gn.apc.org/ecologist)

For alternatives to all this fossil-fuel horror: Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 9AZ Tel:01654 702400. [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk)

\*Solar Energy: from Perennial Promise to Competitive Alternative\*: for a copy of Greenpeace's briefing on this report tel. 0171 865 2556/7 [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)

Energy Saving Trust Info booklets: 0345 277200

## THE COR BLIMLEY COLUMN

Did you know? Group sponsors of the recent high-tech arms fair at Heathrow were CISCO Systems, the people who worked on the Net Aid charity extravaganza. Net Aid's mission statement reads: "NetAid is a long-term effort to build a community of conscience dedicated to providing basic needs: food, shelter, legal protection, human rights and health care. NetAid artists and sponsors are committed to focusing public and political attention on the needs of the world's poorest citizens and to building an online community that is dedicated to change. Join us."

So people did, last week occupying their offices and singing bad versions (are there any good ones?) of D.I.S.C.O. subtly changed to C.I.S.C.O.

\* Surprise, surprise! A report published last week shows that Britain continues to sell weapons to countries with poor human rights records. Nearly £2 billion worth of weapons were exported last year to countries such as Indonesia, Turkey, China, Bahrain, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

## SWEDISH BOMB-SHELL

Bjorn Soderberg of the Syndicalist trade union in Sweden, was shot dead on his doorstep by nazis on 12th Oct. Neo-nazi groups in Sweden are responsible for violent attacks on immigrants, socialists, gays and the disabled; Bjorn managed to upset them by exposing Robert Westerlund, a top nazi who had infiltrated to a prominent position in the main shop workers union, who later left after being threatened with expulsion. On the morning of 23rd Oct, a bomb exploded in the syndicalist union offices in Gavle, presumably to frighten people from attending demonstrations paying tribute to Bjorn and affirming action against nazism, fascism and racism that had been arranged for that day. It didn't seem to put anyone off though - several thousand people participated in the small town of Gavle, 20,000 turned up in Stockholm to listen to speakers and an anarcho-feminist choir, 6,000 marched through Gutenberg and thousands of others showed solidarity in over 20 cities throughout Sweden. For anti-fascist support contact: skvensson@motkraft.net

## BAD ATTITUDE

The world just got a lot more dangerous as the American Senate gave the thumbs up to continued nuclear escalation by refusing to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. More than thirty American Nobel prizewinners criticised the decision claiming there is no need to explode nukes to test their safety as there is adequate technology for the job. Moreover these scientists understand that any tin pot govt can build fission weapons like the one that destroyed Hiroshima, but since the fifties, these have been outmoded by fusion 'hydrogen' bombs, some 750 times more powerful; these are incredibly difficult to build and will always require repeated testing until you've got it right, so by ditching the CTBT, the US is allowing more countries to build or refine some seriously dangerous weapons. The reasons for their decision range from Republican scepticism of arms control to hatred for Clinton who has been pushing for them to sign. But more likely is commercial interests in weapons investment, as Senator John Warner said, "Many of the nuclear systems...are simply not suited to the subtle, and perhaps more difficult task of deterring rogue states...such weapons do not exist today in the US arsenal". Whatever the reasons, this Catch 22 can only profit the arms trade and jeopardise the safety and peace of the world.

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

## SchNEWS 5th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thursday 18th November

All yer usual SchNEWS comedy, performance, films, DJ's and special guest stars.

@ New Madeira Hotel, Marine Parade, Brighton  
8 pm - 2 am £3/4

Tickets from Peace Centre, New Kensington Pub & Klik Klik Whirly Beep Beep Records

## SchNEWS in brief

The inquest into the death of **Ricky Reel** (see SchNEWS 232) this week reached an open verdict. Campaigners told SchNEWS that the family were "delighted with the result". The police had all along claimed that the death of Ricky, who was found dead in the Thames hours after being abused by racists, was just an accident. \*\* The police are furious, spitting mad, weally angry cos a woman who was seriously hurt during the **June 18th** City of London shin-dig has had her charges dropped. The 19 year old student was seriously injured by a police van driving into the crowd at high speed. The police wanted her nicked for possession of a lock-knife. And what about criminal damage to a police vehicle for good measure eh? \* A little menace tells us that the police finally returned the **Reclaim The Streets** Sound System they "borrowed" after June 18th. Nice one! \*\* Witnesses needed urgent. Did anyone see **dockers** supporters being assaulted in the back of police vans just after the first anniversary dock dispute in Liverpool, September 1996 by everybody's favourite the Operational Support Division. Then ring Kieran Dunne 0151 236 1944 email info@mail.liv-unison.uk.co \*\* There's a Crop Protection (**pesticide**) exhibition in Brighton on 16-18th Nov at the Metropole Hotel, with loads of dodgy corporate sponsors and speakers including someone from SchNEWS favourite company Monsanto. Check out their site at [www.bhce.org](http://www.bhce.org) and get down there! \*\* The **Green guide to Xmas** is out now, for an organic, natural and gm-free xmas. £4.99 + 92p p&p to Green Guide Publishing Limited, 271 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 2NU or call 0207 354 2709. The Green Guide for London is also available at £5.99 + 92p p&p \*\* **Tick a Teenth** a play by Paul Light is making a return for all those who forgot it was on last time! Komedia, Gardner St, Brighton, Sun 21st & Mon 22nd 8pm, 01273 647100. \*\* Next summer two men plan to walk from John O'Groats to Lands End to raise money for Bury unemployed Centre and "celebrate 1,000 years of working class diversity, culture, resistance and development". If you can sponsor them contact The Jogle Project, c/o Bury Unemployed Centre, 12 Tithebarn St., Bury, tel 0161 797 4326 \*\* **Platform 6**, 6 Onslow Rd, Southampton, is a non profit making squatted centre including a cafe, an arts workshop, a library, a jamming place, a chill out space, a non commercial cinema, a meeting of minds. More is planned, and a list of empty properties in Southampton will shortly be available. Nice one! 07980 051929 platform6@angelfire.com

## FISHY PIGS

Good news from the High Court last week, when three Law Lords ruled police 'fishing expeditions' illegal. But that's not the same as the 'sport' involving rods, maggots and sitting around for hours in the rain just to boast about how big the one that got away was down the pub later. This is the sort of 'fishing' the police carry out after you've been nicked. The sort of fishing animal rights protestors have to put up with when they come back from a few cheerful hours in the cell to find the police carted off anything they can get their hands on for examination. Not just yer diaries and phone books, but everything from computers, videos, posters, clothes, food and the contents of your shed (weedkiller and sugar gets cops' hearts racing).

The police can still have a good rummage in your dirty knickers drawer, but thanks to the ruling unless you give them permission they can only take down/away they know will be relevant to any court case.

The Law Lords pointed to the European Convention of human rights and said the govt may now have to consider legislation to balance the right to privacy with the right to investigation.

## TRICK OR TREAT

Goblins were out in Saanich, Canada this Halloween, trashing about 1000 trees and seedlings. The trees in a forestry centre owned by Western Forest Productions were grown for GE research to replace temperate rainforests. The "Genetic Goblins" called for an immediate end to 'Frankenscience'. Meanwhile, Reclaim the Genes said it was responsible for destroying 500 evergreen saplings at Silvagen Inc.'s research site at the University of B.C. last week. Getting in on the act this week, 'The World Wide Fund for Nature' published a report that reveals more than 115 trails on GE trees have taken place since 1988 without "proper controls or research into the effects on the environment". GE modification trials on trees mean that soon we can look forward to silent forests, devoid of insects, flowers and birds! The idea is to grow trees that will grow rapidly, resist rot and defy insect attacks. The trees would then be sprayed from planes to kill all life around them! Seventy of the trails are currently being run in the US with a further 5 in the UK. Those bastards at sHELL are currently behind two of these trails genetically mutating eucalyptus trees in Kent to improve growth rates and herbicide tolerance. Astra Zeneca did have a site in Bracknell, Berkshire but naughty activists sneaked in and cut them their poplars down! (SchNews 220) For info on past GE actions [www.tao.ca/~ban/ar.htm](http://www.tao.ca/~ban/ar.htm).

## ...and finally...

A bizarre group calling themselves "Friends of the Stone" are apparently behind the 'napalming' of the Men an Tol and Lanyon Quoit stone circles in Cornwall on Bonfire Night. In a letter to the local newspaper, The Cornishman, the group which has caused serious damage wrote

"For centuries now the meaning of these great monuments has been misconstrued and wrongly passed down through the generations of now uneducated people. You do not deserve the heritage these monuments hold and therefore we intend to act further. By this time next week, Men-an-Tol will be gone. It shall be set up again, correctly aligned with pertinent sacred stones, in my back garden. We now have over 100 followers and this will be a shrine to us and only us. Lanyon Quoit will be destroyed. Better rubble on the ground than a fake prophet, misunderstood and misconstrued by thousands of non-believers."

### disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers we'll put a smile on yer fishface, and then we'll have you over a barrel or it's down the hatch into Davey Jones Locker. Me hearties (pirate version of honest!)



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER FIVE YEARS OLD TODAY!

# SchNEWS

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## DRAG QUEEN'S TERROR

"Animal rights, and to a lesser extent environmental rights activists have mounted, and continue to pursue, persistent, and destructive campaigns. While the level of terrorist activity by such groups is lower than that of some of the terrorist groups in Northern Ireland there is nothing to indicate that the threat they pose will go away."

Home Office consultation paper.

Yesterday's Queens Speech confirmed what SchNEWS has going on about over the past few months, when a new Prevention of Terrorism Act was announced. The bill introduces a new definition of terrorism: "the use of serious violence against persons or property, or the threat to use such violence to intimidate or coerce the government, the public or any section of the public for political, religious or ideological ends."

Oi! you, pulling up that genetically modified test site, you're now a terrorist!

This definition comes from America's Federal Bureau of Investigation and will give sweeping new powers allowing the police and security services to target all those pesky protestors that have been getting in the way of big business making a nice profit.

It will also cover foreign-based groups and dissidents living in Britain, giving police and customs officers powers to seize bank accounts and other assets of suspected terrorists. Would that have meant people in this country supporting the ANC during its armed struggle against apartheid would have been targeted?

Ironically, the new measures are more or less identical to the 1974 Prevention of Terrorism Act emergency legislation, introduced in Northern Ireland, and whose powers were described as "unprecedented in peace time." How ironic that the government announce these brand spanking new sticks to beat protestors with on the same day as the apparent breakthrough in the Good Friday agreement.

SchNEWS, celebrating its fifth birthday today, would never take the opportunity to be all smug and say we told you so but... (See SchNEWS 224 and continuing hysteria about June 18th). With the definition of terrorism now so broad maybe it's time to drop all this direct action nonsense and instead sit at home, watch TV and go on endless shopping sprees...then we will all feel content. Honest.

Twenty Seven new bills yesterday, not all of them bad, but here's a few SchNEWS readers might find interesting:

### TRANSPORT

When the New Labour shadow transport secretary complained that the Tories had dreamt up a crazy new scheme to sell off air traffic control he thundered "Our air is not for sale!" Et, it is now.

### MANDATORY DRUG TESTING

If you find yourself the wrong side of the law, then the police will have the right to carry out compulsory drug tests.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The bill that is anything but.

### POST OFFICE

Rule changes which many fear are the first stages of privatisation.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Includes the end of the right of trial by jury for some people.

### ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

At the moment e-mailers can keep their correspondence private by using software which encrypts or scrambles messages into secret codes. But if the government get their way people could receive a 2 year prison sentence for refusing to hand over their private 'key'.

### MAD AXEMAN

People are needed desperately to help save the remains of ancient forest - Pressmennan Wood, near Edinburgh - from the chop. SchNEWS has learnt that this ancient forest - around 13,000 years old - is being logged again, "for the excellent reason of equipping stately homes with nice-looking timber." The activists say that a single woodcutter has a contract to cut down 369 trees - he's already felled 160 but the rest can still be saved.

A camp has been set up and more people are needed. Tel: 07771 771240.

### REBEL ALLIANCE

Wednesday 24th November  
7pm. Meet at the Hobgoblin Pub  
Get there early as the brewery have taken a dim view of the alliance and we will be going to another venue.

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

**For going home:** Michele Naa-Obed was arrested at the Jonah House Community in Baltimore in June for "leaving the district of Minnesota without permission and associating with felons" and given the maximum 12 months prison sentence. You see Michele had recently spent 18 months in gaol after disarming a fast-attack submarine and part of her parole was that she couldn't return to the house where she lived! While awaiting trial for the new heinous crime of living back home, Michele refused bail conditions which said she should avoid public protest, public speaking, live at a residence approved by the court and associate only with law-abiding persons!

As the Virginia Pilot magazine points out "It's amazing how we become more like the countries we criticise, and worse yet, put sanctions on, because of their abuse of human rights."

### NO BUDGET DAY

New Labour reckon yesterdays Queen's Speech was all about "enterprise and fairness" but there were lots of sticks to bash those who don't want to play the game.

Coupled with last weeks tight-fisted budget, the boot is really being put into those lazy ne'er do wells who refuse to take dead-end low-paid jobs.

It's the end of the "something for nothing" culture (unless your a big business fiddling your tax like Rupert Murdoch) with a new benefits regime that "will be far tougher than people think" with the New Deal for everyone and anyone suspected of fiddling made to sign on daily.

As one commentator summed up "we are moving towards American workfare system, where not taking a job is not an option."

\* If you want to find out more about all these nasty new benefit changes send an SAE for the latest copy of 'Where's My Giro'. Brighton Against Benefit Cuts, 4 Crestway Parade, Hollingdean, Brighton, BN1 7BL.

## DROP TILL YOU SHOP

"The plain fact is that we are starving people, not deliberately in the sense that we want them to die, but willfully in the sense that we prefer their death to our own inconvenience." Victor Gollancz.

As SchNEWS went to press there were just 6 no-shopping days left until the 6th International No-Shop Day on Saturday 27th November.

The Ad-hoc Ad-heckling hit squad will strike in Manchester plus many other cities and towns. All will see sights such as bemused alien tourists and shop free zones. As this day of action is well established, instead of coordinated stunts, everyone is being invited to poke their tongue out at commercialism or a finger in the eye of the absurd excess of throwaway, consumerist culture. So either participate, or participate by not participating.

Adbusters magazine is available from book shops and [www.adbusters.org](http://www.adbusters.org) and Enough, the Anti-Consumerism Campaign can be contacted at One World Centre, 6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS or [www.enviroweb.org/enviroissues/enough](http://www.enviroweb.org/enviroissues/enough)

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

Football fans beware; PVI tells us they are "spearheading an assault on European Soccer". Did this threat come from an obscure Dutch football team heralding the return of the glory days of football hooliganism? Alas no, it is scarier than that! PVI is an American advertising company peddling new ways of getting you to buy more shitty products. Virtual Advertising gets products and logos right inside telly programmes, the USA is lapping it up and it'll soon be coming to a screen near you. By digitally attaching images to scenes before broadcasting. Companies like PVI can create adverts that are, in the words of PVI boss Dennis Wilkinson, "embedded in the magic of the show." So for a match broadcast in both Turkey and England, the sidings, team strips and even the pitch itself could show different brands in each country, even each region, allowing the ultimate in consumer targeting. It doesn't stop at sports advertising - sitcoms and soaps are full of characters 'unrealistically' using no-name shampoos, consuming unbranded drinks and passing anonymous shops, which PVI can easily change to Loréal, P\*\*si or Mac\*\*als. In fact, every episode of yer favourite soap contains thousands of potential sites for 'brand placement' so they can get you watching ads even when you think you're safe from commercial crap - or as Dennis Wilkinson puts it "From tremendous virtual spectacles to subtle product placements that you barely notice, PVI provides the magic. Viewers are being impacted by virtual advertising." And they'll never even know it.

\* *Spy TV: Just Who is the Digital TV Revolution Overthrowing?* edited David Burke (ISBN: 1 899866 25 6) £5.00 [www.whitedot.org](http://www.whitedot.org) "What is all the fuss about interactive TV? Interactive means that when you act, someone at the other end is keeping track, of what you watch, of what you buy online, of your tastes." This book tells you what it will really mean, and how to fight back.

Shamrock Ltd are the largest providers of monkeys for vivisection, if you are outraged that up to 300 intelligent, social animals are caged inside windowless sheds and subjected to a barrage of painful tests before being sold to vivisection labs, then come to the national demonstration at 12 noon on 28th Nov. in Small Dole, West Sussex. Save the Shamrock Monkeys, P.O. Box 3090 Brighton, BN1 3QU Tel 07020 936956

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## SchNEWS in brief

There's a Winter Solstice gathering (21st December) at St Catherine's Hill, Twyford Down, Winchester. Bring friends, mead and cake, music, meriment and magic, camping tat. Needed: yurts/domes, good weather, Tarmac director for pagan sacrifice... Contact tel 01248 750539/ email [sop04a@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:sop04a@bangor.ac.uk) \*\* Late shout for the West

Country Activist Gathering, a weekend of direct action workshops, 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Nov at Calstock Village Hall, Calstock, Cornwall. Tel: 01822 833457 or [WCA99@hotmail.com](mailto:WCA99@hotmail.com) \*\* Corporate Watch has a brand new spanky autumn issue out now. Issue 9 looks inside the heads of corporate men and women, as well as specials on genetics and the Wal-Mart supermarket empire. £3.50 inc. postage from 16b Chervell St, Oxford, OX4 1BG \*\* This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Tree Week, which takes place from 24<sup>th</sup> Nov to 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. Great - except it's sponsored by those well known lovers of the environment ESSO. Contact The Tree Council, 51 Catherine Place, London, SW1E 6DY or [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk) \* Ibogaine is apparently a 'revolutionary medical treatment for drug, alcohol and nicotine addiction', and a speakers tour (including a Dr. Mash!) has been organised in the UK to blow its trumpet. For a list of dates ring 0171 287 2828 \*\* Medha Patkar from the Narmada Dam protests in India will be speaking next Friday (26th) at G2 SOHAS, Russel Square, London, WC1 Tel 07974 125411 email [narmadauk@yahoo](mailto:narmadauk@yahoo).

## HORROR HOUSE

While Europe last week celebrated the tenth anniversary of the end of the Berlin Wall, asylum seekers to Europe might have something to say about the new wall being built around 'Fortress Europe'. Across Europe countries are closing borders and clamping down on refugees. Campsfield 'House' is an Immigration Detention Centre. It is run for profit by Group 4, and supervised by the Home Office. 200 people are held inside Campsfield, most are political refugees fleeing danger, torture and death. They are penned in behind a twenty-foot high, razor wire topped fence. Throughout the centre there are surveillance cameras and relatives wishing to visit are searched before passing through five secure doors. This is a high security prison! There are no procedures for detainees to make complaints. This means when they protest they can suddenly find themselves arbitrarily transferred to HM/private prison without appeal - a threat used to maintain order. Despite this a rooftop demonstration took place at the weekend by about 15 refugees complaining about their lengthy detentions (one has been in Campsfield 15 months).

A big demonstration will be held on the 6th anniversary of the opening of Campsfield - the 27th of November. These asylum seekers are isolated from the world and worn down to accept voluntary deportation. Let them hear that there are people on the outside on their side! Meet 11:00 am, Carfax Tower, Central Oxford, or 12 noon at Campsfield House.

Contact Campaign to Close Campsfield c/o 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX1 Tel 01865 557282 [www.users.ox.ac.uk/~asylum](http://www.users.ox.ac.uk/~asylum)

\* The Home Office have applied for planning permission to convert Oakington army barracks near Cambridge into a detention centre to gao 400 asylum seekers.

\* A network of groups have got together to take direct action against prison building in the UK As they point out "The British state sends more people to prison than any other in Europe and its getting worse." To find out more contact CAGE, c/o 180-188 Mansfield Rd., Notts, NG1 3HW [cage@veggies.org.uk](mailto:cage@veggies.org.uk)

## WOT THE WTO!

"If they [NGOs] are allowed to hijack the World Trade Organisation talks, it will be a dangerous precedent that every government and every global company will regret long after the protests in Seattle."

Business Week magazine

SchNEWS has banged on about the World Trade Organisation (WTO) enough recently (see issue 233), so let's cut the crap and just say that they're an unelected and unaccountable shadowy organisation - effectively the new world govt for multinational corporations. And their next round of free trade madness takes place in Seattle, USA from 29th November to 3rd December.

30th November has been picked for the big day of protest when tens of thousands of people will converge on Seattle and transform it into a festival of resistance. [www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution/wto](http://www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution/wto)

On the same day in London Reclaim the Streets and the Strike Support Group have organised a Reclaim The Railways speakers and music evening between 5 - 7 pm to oppose tube privatisation. The govt want to sell off tube lines to Railtrack - a company more concerned about its £1m a day profits, (fattened by more govt dosh than when the railways were publicly owned) than about preventing accidents like Paddington and Southall.

In Cardiff, there's a Street Party-bring an instrument and dress regal. Meet Band Stand, Queens St. 12 noon.

Up North, there's a *Doing It Up North* action. Bring a sleeping bag and head for the 1 in 12 Club, 21-23 Albion St., Bradford. Tel 01422 844710

\* The Seattle Noise Ordinance where you could be nicked for shouting to loud has apparently been vetoed at the last minute by the mayor, who said "Grunge put this city on the map - we don't want to do anything that might damage that" - so presumably the police will leave us all alone if we turn up in ripped jeans, Nirvana T-shirts and teenage sulks.

\* China this week came one step nearer to joining the WTO, a deal President Clinton said was "good for the United States, good for China, good for the world economy." (Nothing to do with China being the worlds largest 'untapped' market for consumerables) Leaving aside China's dodgy human records, it won't be so good for all the Chinese people. "The cost will be defined mainly by unemployment. The number of people out of work is bound to surge" said one researcher at Beijing's Academy of Sciences. A flood of cheaper agricultural imports could also risk devastating the country's rural economy which supports 900 million.

## ...and finally...

If you haven't got yer boss a Xmas prezzie yet, don't start fretting, cos the Class War 2000 calendar should be right up your street. Anarchic photos and historical dates galore such as 15<sup>th</sup> April. In 1912 Titanic sinks. More children from 3<sup>rd</sup> class perish than men in 1<sup>st</sup> class, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. In 1973 Australia - prisoners riot at Bathurst jail, burning it to the ground, 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. In 1948 London - after a difficult birth due to the size of the baby's ears, Prince Charles is born.

Cheques for £5.50 to 'London Class War' at LCLW, P.O. Box 467, London E8 3XQ.

### disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to get the ridiculous idea to start a weekly newsletter unless (summer) you like sitting in an office when everyone else is on the beach (winter) like sitting in a cold office when everyone is in the pub.

Weekly

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER NOT LYING ARCH

# SchNEWS

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Issue238

Free/Donation

## AGGRO-CHEMICALS

It was around midnight the 2nd December 1984, when a poisonous gas cloud enveloped the hundreds of shanties and huts surrounding a pesticide plant in the central Indian city of Bhopal. As the deadly cloud slowly drifted in the cool night air, sleeping residents awoke, coughing, choking, and rubbing painfully stinging eyes. By the time the gas cleared at dawn, thousands were dead and injured; ranking it alongside Chernobyl as the world's worst industrial disaster, or as one commentator put it "the Hiroshima of the Chemical Industry."

The deadly gas had leaked from the nearby Union Carbide factory, built in Bhopal in 1969 to produce pesticides as part of India's Green Revolution, which promised to increase the productivity of crops and feed the country's poor - but once again only fed the profits of the multinationals.

It could have been any poor country desperate to attract multinationals at any cost. As Jamie Cassels, author of 'Lessons From Bhopal', wrote: "Developing countries confer upon multi-national corporation's a competitive advantage because they offer low-cost labor, access to markets, and lower operating costs. Once there, companies have little incentive to minimize environmental and human risks. Lack environmental and safety regulation, inadequate capital investment in safety equipment, and poor communications between companies and governments compound the problem."

Carbide's safety standards at the Bhopal plant were well below those of a near-identical factory it owned in West Virginia, USA. In fact, safety standards had been deteriorating and ignored for years. Even a report by the company's own US safety team commented on "a serious potential for sizeable releases of toxic materials...due to equipment failure, operating problems or maintenance problems."

But it's not just the company that should shoulder the blame. What little environmental laws there were, were ignored by the state of Madhya Pradesh and an Indian government afraid of frightening off big business.

When the victims protested, their cries were often met with violence. Thousands were arrested, some on trumped up charges such as attempted murder or violation of the Official

Secrets Act. One health clinic was raided, with police confiscating medical records and arresting six volunteer doctors. After 15 years most victims remain uncompensated. Meanwhile, according to 'The Lancet', victims suffering from serious health problems are being misdiagnosed or ignored by local doctors, while Union Carbide claim the pesticide is merely a "mild throat and ear irritant"!

The disaster gave rise to the world's largest lawsuit that dragged on for more than seven years. In the end the company received a slap on the wrist fine of just \$470 million showing just whose interests the Indian government really serve.

### WE ALL LIVE IN BHOPAL

As one Bhopal activist put it "Bhopal is not something unfortunate that is only happening to the people of a central Indian city. It is happening everywhere around the world. The routine poisoning of living systems that accompanies the storage, transport, production, consumption and waste treatment of hazardous chemicals are part of our industrial society. The silent and slow Bhopals that are happening in everyday life often go unnoticed and are seldom resisted."

Bhopal has become a symbol of the way corporations treat humans and the environment. Or as author Ward Churchill puts it: "Union Carbide's success in avoiding prosecution

In 1992 the official death toll for Bhopal stood at over 4,000. However, according to one senior UNICEF official it could have been as high as 10,000. In addition, 30,000 to 40,000 people were maimed and seriously injured, and 200,000 were otherwise affected through minor injury, death of a family member, and economic and social dislocation.

underscores the present reality that transnational companies are lawless monsters roaming the earth."

\* Greenpeace's ship the 'Rainbow Warrior' is currently on a two-year "toxic free Asia" tour and will be visiting India next month to highlight the plight of the victims of Bhopal disaster. \* This year Dow Chemicals bought Union Carbide for £7.2 billion to create the world's second largest chemicals producer. \* A report published by the National Toxic Campaign

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For spreading peace and love.

Two girls in Canterbury who'd cheered up locals for ages by chalking 'fluffy' directives around town urging folks to 'choose love', 'just be' and 'listen to the colour of your dreams' found themselves being forced to 'choose law' by the unamused, spiky hands of the local Plods who, as always, find it easy to 'just be' misanthropic, humourless tossers. Backing the cops up were the local McDonalds, who supplied brushes and water so the girls could be forced to scrub off their positive vibes. To add insult to injury, local rag 'The Kent Messenger' printed up mug shots of the girls three days after the event with the caption 'Have You Seen These Men?'...

and the International Council on Public Affairs, showed that even after the disaster Carbide continued to be "a major discharger of toxic substances into the environment, and a major generator of hazardous waste". In 1988, the company generated more than 300 million pounds of such waste - an increase of 70 million compared with 1987"

### BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Marks and Sparks were caught with their trousers down at the opening of their new Manchester store on Thursday by Superheroes armed with the biggest pair of pants in the city - and we don't mean the Gallaghers. The Underwear Ubermenschen\* unfurled a four-metre pair of shreds and then attempted to pull down all the tasteful trolleys on display in the store. "Y, Oh Y, Our Y-fronts?" panted perplexed employees, before cottoning on after a briefing from the heroes, who included SuperPants and Captain Y-Fronts. For they were from 'Superheroes Against GM Pants', sniffing out stains in M&S's 'organic' gusset: the use of genetically-modified cotton in their otherwise graceful grits\*\*. "GM cotton is undesirable for superheroes and the public alike. It's below the belt and should be removed without delay" said a spokesperson. "M&S have taken many steps to take GM out of their food and animal feed, but this policy is inconsistent if they continue to sell GM cotton."

Don't get yer knickers in a twist, but GM cotton is the product of SchNEWS faves Monsanto and is bred to be herbicide and pest resistant. It has all the inherent risks of gene transfer and increased pesticide usage of other GM crops - and it does nothing to prevent skidmarks, either.

Watch for further actions! More info:0161 224 4846 SchNews vocab watch: \* Supermen, Honest. Ask Nietzsche \*\* Pants. Honest. Ask Vix

## POWER ADDICTS

"A clique of the richest, economically and politically most powerful and influential men in the Western world [who] meet secretly to plan events that later appear just to happen". The Times

Heard all about the 'leaked' minutes from the last meeting of conspiracy-faves the Bilderberg Group? How Russia was given carte blanche to bomb Chechnya, and all the rest? Well you can read the leaked documents IN FULL on the SchNEWS website (Most of the 'surfers' visiting our site since we put the Bilderberg thing on it have been US security agencies and multi-national companies. True!)

## POWER DRUNKS

Ever wondered how you get to be a Bilderberger? Well, there's a kindergarten where you'll learn all you need to know. The British American Project for the Successor Generation (BAP) was set up by Ronnie Reagan, Rupert Murdoch and Sir James Goldsmith in 1985 for the elite of up 'n' coming thirtysomethings from both sides of the Atlantic to be nurtured in the 'special relationship' existing between the two nations. Past members Peter Mandelson and George Robertson have both recently spoken at Bilderberg. BAP has just held its 14th annual shindig (described by ex-member Jeremy Paxman as 'four days of beer') in Harrogate, with this year's theme 'Making Culture Count'. No Tracy Emin here, of course, just Saatchi & Saatchi excess and the like discussing art's role in the global marketplace and in the words of Alison Holmes, chair of the executive committee: "It's all been quite mad, sorting out the world's problems and drinking too much". Quite. BAP emerged in response to worries about the anti-nuke, anti-American drift of the Labour Party in the early '80s and the current co-ordinator is all-round bad egg Lord Carrington, ex-NATO chief and chair of the Bilderbergers for 9 years. Sounds dodgy? Never! As Alison Holmes told a Big Issue journalist: "Bildernut? I've never heard of that in all my life."

## BLAIR WITCH

Cherie Blair went hungry last week after students from the Non Payment Campaign occupied the restaurant at Sussex Uni and cancelled the Chancellor's Society Banquet where Cherie was booked to give a speech. The Uni Chancellor, Lord 'Dickie' Attenborough, displaying shock and horror when told of the Uni administration's coercive tactics towards non-payers, sympathised with the occupiers and expressed support for the cause of Free Education. Despite this 'understanding', the Uni administration is still threatening criminal and disciplinary proceedings against students: there are now 50 refusing or unable to pay the £1025 tuition fees at Sussex.

This action was inspired by the recent occupation at Oxford Uni where buildings were occupied by 200 students from 12th-16th Nov. Their demands were similar to those at Sussex, including an end to the 'residency' requirements which prevents those who have not paid from obtaining their degrees, an end to fee collection by the university and no penalisation of non payers. They encourage others to organise similar action in support of the students everywhere who cannot or will not pay their fees so they can build up the momentum and spread the campaign in the run up to the NUS Demonstration on the 25th. Info: Campaign for Free Education PO Box 22615, London N4 1WT. / Tel: 0958 556 756 http://members.xoom.com/nus\_cfc/ Sussex Non-Payment Campaign, Falmer House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 8DN or e-mail [sussexnonpay@hotmail.com](mailto:sussexnonpay@hotmail.com).

## Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX.

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

## SchNEWS in brief

**\*\*The next Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp** is on Friday Dec 10th (evening) to Sunday 14th (noon) [sian@aldercamp.freemove.co.uk](mailto:sian@aldercamp.freemove.co.uk) **\*\*Happy first birthday to OXYACETYLENE**, a free newsletter about actions and campaigns mainly in the Oxford area. Visit [www.oxfordcity.demon.co.uk/oxyace/](http://www.oxfordcity.demon.co.uk/oxyace/) or send stamps and/or cheques to Box G, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RQ **\*\*Get digging** through the skips and recycle yer old (or new) junk to create an exhibition for the **Cultures of Resistance** celebration of creativity art exhibition from 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Dec at a squatted venue soon to be revealed. Contact [rachred57@hotmail.com](mailto:rachred57@hotmail.com) or 0958 765151 before 5<sup>th</sup> Dec to contribute. **\*\*The Housmans Peace Diary 2000** is now on sale containing an up to date world directory of 2000 peace, environment and human rights organisations, international peace days and more. Send £6.95 plus another £4 if you want to sponsor a diary sent free to third world campaigners to Housmans, 5 Caledonian Rd, London, N1 9DX, UK **\*\*Don't breed or buy while stray pets die** - then **National Day of Awareness Against the Pet Trade** Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, for peaceful demos and leafleting outside pet dealers contact: PO Box 233, Liverpool, L69 7 LF or 0151 228 3730. **\*\*A West Papuan tribesman** fighting Indonesian occupation will be addressing the Worthing Eco-Action meeting on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month upstairs at 42 Marine Parade 7pm, but as they remind us if you're the kind of person who does what you're told you're going to want to stay away! [www.worthingecoaction.org](http://www.worthingecoaction.org) or PO Box 4144, Worthing, BN14 7NZ **\*\*Reclaim the Railways** in opposition to tube privatisation on November 30th in London. Meet Euston Sta. 5pm. Transport from Brighton leaves 2.30pm, Corn Exchange, tickets £3/£5 from Peace Centre **\*\*Shutdown Citibank:** worlds' largest holder of student debt, backed by Japanese loan-sharks who steal clients' organs to pay off their debts. Shut 'em down as part of the international protest at the WTO. 12 noon, 30 Nov, Lewisham. Out of the station and look up! **\*\*Anti-Nato Picket** organised November 30th to welcome Jamie Shea and George Robertson (spokesman and new head of NATO respectively) who are arriving by river for a 'celebratory meal' in their honour at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10. Meet 6.30pm. **\*\***

## IT'S GOOD TO STRIKE!

For the first time in 13 years, British Telecom workers kicked off a series of one day strikes, which began on 22nd Nov. BT staff are walking out from call centres across the UK in protest over the low wages, agency casualisation, battery hen working conditions and constant phone monitoring by management. Despite the fact the company earned over £4.3 billion over 1998, and awarded it's fat cat boss Peter Bonfield with an annual pay rise of £1 million, BT continue to employ the majority of it's staff from agencies like Manpower and Blue Arrow - with no contract, no sick pay, and no job security. Call centre workers, over 70% of whom are recruited from agencies, are electronically logged for Call Handling Times (CHT), and monitored by snooping bosses, who are instructed to sack them if they do not meet 'customer service' performance targets. In June this year 120 workers were sacked from their jobs at the Directory Inquiry call centre in Stirling due to 'regrettable advancements in technology'. As one worker described it, working at BT "is like contracting a microchip tumour of the brain". Fact sheet: send SAE to: BT - Black Technology, PO Box 3157, Brighton, BN2 2SS.

Communication Workers Union, 150 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1RX

## COPS IN RUBBER SHOCKER

Right that's enough of the funnies- this is serious. Why do coppers in Durham and West Mercia Police forces need Rubber Bullets? Looking for a new war to fight? Not just content with introducing a new definition of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (see SchNEWS 237) the government is slowly arming the Police Forces of Britain with Baton guns that fire "solid four inch long polyurethane rubber rounds"- rubber bullets to you and me. Don't be fooled by the name, rubber bullets are killers; so far they've killed 14 people in Northern Ireland, 7 of them children. A recent report by the Belfast based Committee on the Administration of Justice warned that the use of rubber baton guns in Northern Ireland "appears[d] to have become a weapon of first resort" and that the current guidelines for their use were "much too weak" and often ignored. But don't worry cos the police describe rubber bullets as "non-lethal" and promise only to use them in "pre-planned operations..." and only as a last resort, like CS gas. Er... since October '98, when it was launched onto the streets, CS gas has been used more than 10,000 times with the PloD receiving hundreds of complaints- such as that against South Wales coppers, who sprayed and incapacitated a man as he broke into his own home.

"There's a tendency for it to be used to ensure an easy arrest, and that's worrying- if I'm a middle-aged officer who is a bit worried about his abilities to handle a situation, the temptation is to pull out the CS spray and use it at an early stage so that I don't have any trouble"-Peter Moorhouse, chairman, Police Complaints Authority

So giving coppers who can't handle situations baton guns and rubber bullets makes perfect sense then? More info: Committee on the Administration of Justice Tel 01232 232394 fax 01232 246706, also Statewatch (vol.8 no. 5).

PO Box 1516, London, N16 0EW

## ...and finally...

## CITY TRADERS IN DESTRUCTION ORGY

A Hotel had to be evacuated after a late night party descended into chaos and ended in a suspected arson attack reports the Southern Daily Echo. Sixty guests were evacuated from £180 a night Careys Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst when a blaze began after furniture was placed on a log fire in the residents lounge. Damage alleged to have occurred during a party by 11 City traders on a two-day visit to the New Forest. Det Sgt Steve Davies said, "They had just had dinner with plenty of alcohol and began playing a game of indoor cricket." {as you do!} Police said the hotel faces a bill of up to £20K due to damages A police spokesman said "It would appear the blaze began in the residents lounge after a private party got out of hand."

The trip was organised by London based Intercapital whose managing director Paul Newman was reported as saying, "They are just a bunch of boys who got drunk. It was high jinks and a case of boys behaving badly. We will sit down and talk to them and they will pay the repair bill themselves." {just stick it on the Gold card gov} Two of the group arrested on suspicion of arson but released on police bail until January.

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all world domination conspirators if they eat a Cheesey Bilderberger BAP they'll get gas in the pants. Then they won't be content. Honest!

# SELECT COMMITTEE SLAMS SECRET AUTHORITY

The Home Affairs Select Committee has strongly criticised the United Grand Lodge of Freemasonry for being unco-operative with a parliamentary examination on the influence of masonry on public life.

In its 2nd report, published in May 1999, the Committee states: "We particularly regret that it was only possible for this Committee to obtain the co-operation of the Grand Lodge by compulsion. We did not do so lightly, but only after being faced with months of prevarication and obfuscation."

The Select Committee had asked the United Grand Lodge - representing 350,000 exclusively male UK freemasons - to provide a list of its members involved in infamous cases of corruption including that involving the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad (disbanded 1989). According to the Committee's 2nd report published in May: "The West Midlands Crime Squad was arguably the most complained about unit in what was the most complained about police force in the country." However, when Committee chairman, Chris Mullins MP provided the Grand Lodge with a list of those involved, the Grand Lodge dragged its heels on confirming their masonic status. The Committee report notes: "We regret that it has taken the Grand Lodge five attempts to arrive at a definitive - if it is definitive - list of masons in the Serious Crime Squad." Doubts over the accuracy of the Grand Lodge's reluctantly given information were further exacerbated when the Committee discovered that one of the names not confirmed by the United Lodge was subsequently discovered by the Committee's chairman to be a mason.

The Select Committee's first report, published in 1997, called for a publicly available register of all masons working in the police and judicial system. Home Secretary, Jack Straw, accepted the Committee's recommendation but only confirmed a voluntary declaration scheme which has since proven to be a farce. Ernie Hanrahan, head of the Police Federation representing rank and file police officers, has already publicly urged his members not to co-operate.

From the scant compliance with voluntary questionnaires, the Select Committee estimates that between 5-10% of professional judiciary (judges etc), 5-20% of magistrates, and as much as 48% of the Crown Prosecution Service are masons. There are no breakdowns for the police as yet.

The Select Committee report concludes: "Progress has been slow, particularly with the police.....We call on the government to speed up the process of establishing the registers of masonic status among the police and other parts of the criminal justice system, and to announce a firm timetable for completion of the exercise..... Additionally the names of all those who have failed to indicate whether or not they are masons should be published; such persons should not be allowed to exempt themselves entirely from the process simply by declining to co-operate."

Responding to indications from Jack Straw that the final register of names might be limited in its public accessibility, the Select Committee also states: "In the absence of any compelling reason to the contrary, we support full public access...."

Finally we look forward to the extension of such disclosure into other areas of public life such as local authorities and Parliament."

Full background investigative articles on Freemasonry and the Home Affairs Select Committee investigation are available in the SQUALL website features section.



## Squotes

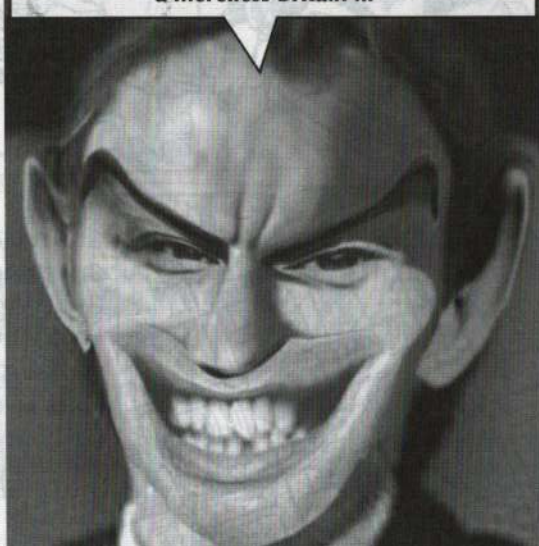
"It's not everyone who's been given a golfing lesson by the President of the United States! I certainly had the best instructor I could possibly have."

**Tony Blair (The Daily Telegraph 19/5/98)**

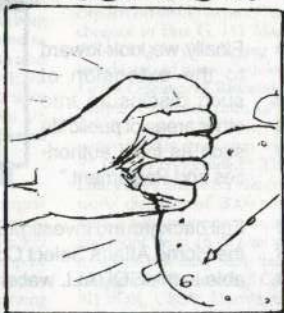
"So I told him how to hold the club, how to stand, how to swing..."

**President Clinton on Tony Blair (The Daily Telegraph 19/5/98)**

....A fair Britain ... but ... unavoidably ...  
a merciless Britain ...



# SUNDAY MORNING PLEASURES...



WHY would anybody get up at 6 on a Sunday morning? WHY? Well, what if you're a really hardcore social revolutionary and the best way of building revolution is doing a stall at your local car boot sale?



We sell cheap anarcho books and pamphlets, and hand out free info.

TOPTIP: ! bits of elastic fastened over the table stops stuff blowing away!





Of course, you get a few nutters



or just people who, uh, have slightly misunderstood



but you meet lots of interesting people, too..



Sometimes, it is really rewarding (and sometimes, we make lots of dosh as well)



last Sunday, a busking santa stood next to us.



and at 1 o'clock, we pack up, go back home and SLEEP.

IT'S A WTO SHUT DOWN!



## WARNING

Reading adverts  
can influence your  
purchasing behaviour  
and undermine your  
attempts to consume

## ETHICALLY

BEWARE EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING

Public Service Announcement  
issued by the  
Subvertising Standards Authority

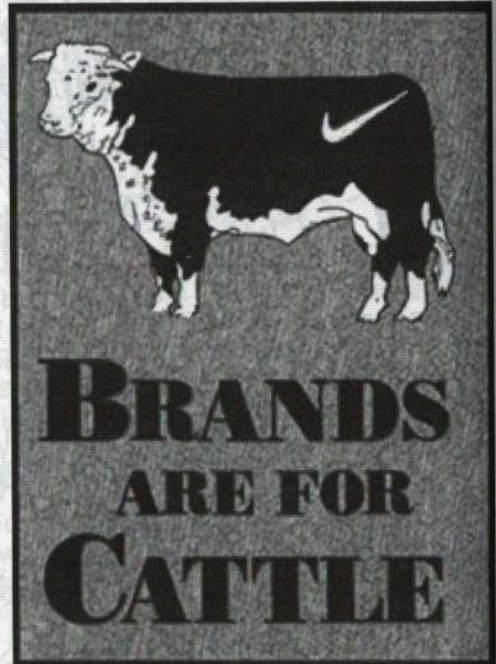
**No-Shop Day Sat  
November 27th**



## SQUOTES

"The time for the war of the powerful to speak has passed; we will let it speak no more. It is now the time for the peace to speak, that we all deserve and need, peace with justice and dignity."

*Clandestine Indigenous Revolutionary Committee-EZLN General Command, Mexico*





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER US VERSUS U.S.



# SchNEWS

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## SEATTLE'S A GAS

"I came here to get arrested - let's get back out there tomorrow" Dan, protestor, Tuesday night

"My Trade Minister went to Seattle and all I got was this import quota" T-Shirt for sale, downtown Seattle

"Whose Streets? Our Streets!" Everyone!

Thousands of people are marching on Capitol Hill; the police are at a loss, their most vicious tactics ineffective against the masses gathered in the streets. The alliance of workers, environmentalists, students, human rights activists, anarchists, in fact everyone from the Church of the Underground Elvis to the Wobblies is rock solid. Hundreds of arrested protestors have cut their plastic handcuffs with nail clippers, barricaded themselves in the buses used to take them to the nick and are refusing to even give their names... yes, the SchNEWS team is in Seattle for what was gonna be a nice quiet winter holiday, and seems to have stumbled on America's biggest protest in decades.

As SchNEWS went to press downtown Seattle was still in chaos: riot police in armoured cars (called Peacemakers!) sped through the battle zone lobbing tear gas at anyone in the streets, while protestors still held many parts of the city centre, effectively shutting down the city for a second day running. A state of emergency has been declared, Martial Law is in force; a curfew declared every night between 7 and dawn in the centre of town and residential areas. The National Guard are on every street corner arresting anyone, riot cops still loosing tear gas at a peaceful student demos we write. For those Poll Tax/June 18th veterans who reckon they can handle the odd copper, riot police here are better armed than the average Storm Trooper, and the policy seems to be gas first, beatings and arrests later. On Wednesday afternoon a spontaneous march on Bill Clinton's hotel by the Steelworkers and hundreds of protestors was broken up by a constant tear gas barrage, gassing hundreds of shoppers, passers-by and people driving home. TOP TEAR GAS TIPS: Although we're not sure about toothpaste under the eyes, SchNEWS can confirm that vinegar on a scarf does help you breathe more easily.

SchNEWS has been bangin' on about the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for a while

(see SchNEWS 233, 190), but now as US Senator Pat Hayden says, "Yesterday no-one knew what the WTO was. Today the whole of America knows it as a household word, and they know it is bad."

Media attention focussed on the violence, but as one protestor said, "I don't think it's right to hurt someone, but property destruction is not violence." SchNEWS favourites like McDonalds, and the Bank of America lost their windows, while shops were pillaged.

Seattle is a pretty laid-back city, considering the amount of coffee consumed, so this was the first time the National Guard has been in action in modern times. An example of the hypocrisy which characterises American politics - in a country where you can buy rifles over the counter, the mayor announced that having a gas mask is illegal!

The WTO is a shadowy organisation that for the past five years has been busy dismantling labour and environmental laws under the guise of 'free trade' (see SchNEWS 220, 204, 187). Effectively this amounts to world domination by multinational corporations, fronted by national govts, with surprise, surprise the good ol' U.S. of A running the show. Seattle is the location for thrashing out new agreements, and activists have been arriving for over a week to show their opposition. The aim of the protests was to shut down the meetings - and shut them down they did, with Tuesday's opening ceremony delayed, then finally abandoned as delegates were stopped from entering the Conference centre. Thousands laid siege, blocking the streets in the face of tear gas, pepper spray, concussion grenades, and rubber bullets.

Many have been injured, protestors and delegates alike complaining about the cops' reckless and enthusiastic use of weapons. The crowds were later joined by a 40,000 strong union crowd, worried that the WTO will mean even greater job losses, worse working conditions, lower pay, less job security and greater profits for bosses. Students and schoolchildren walked out, and taxi-drivers with their own grievances went on strike, as buses were under siege round the Western Hotel in a situation reminiscent of Custer's last stand.

By Wednesday the protests were smaller, any-

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For juggling! Someone was nabbed by the taste police at the WTO protest in London on Nov. 30th for 'going equipped to cause wilful criminal damage'. And not even for trying to single-handedly bring down international capital. No, for twirling fire chains. His clothes were seized, his house searched, and then he was released until the cops can prove he'd set light to one of their vans.

one daring to raise their voice facing arrest and being shipped off to a naval base. The pre-conference hype had been immense, making Seattle the world's most clued-up city on the WTO. Everyone had an opinion, most unfavourable. One garage attendant told SchNEWS the WTO was "a global conspiracy to make us all eat poison shit"

An aircraft flew over on Sunday spelling out 'People Not Profit'; a 4-page spoof section of the Seattle Post Intelligencer was slipped into thousands of the papers. You could buy t-shirts, caps, and a whole range of other merchandise - even the local strip joint was getting in on the act. Seattle has become a wealthy city, symbol of a 'revitalised economy' and home to Microsoft and Boeing. All this despite a massive homeless problem, the same poverty found in any American city and new laws recently passed to sweep the poor off the streets. As one local paper asked, "Is Seattle nuts?" As Texas DJ and former senator Jim Hightower put it, "they got the fat cats, we got the alley cats." Preparations for the arrival of the WTO included a federal grant and a stash of hidden medication in the event of a major biological or chemical attack!

This was the 2nd time Clinton had flown into mass protests over the WTO, last May in Geneva, he saw 5,000 protestors, when cars were torched, offices occupied and trashed, etc (see SchNEWS 168). Clinton's hopes of ending his presidency on a high note, making up for last year's indiscretions and showing the U.S.'s command of international affairs has gone up in smoke. Last year the WTO were complaining about a low press profile, now it probably wishes it could crawl back into its murky world of secret tribunals and hope the protests go away.

## ANTI-WTO CRAZY

On 25 Nov. 5000 French farmers with their sheep, ducks and goats, feasted on regional products under the Eiffel tower in protest at the impact of trade liberalisation. On Tuesday, 800 miners clashed with cops, ransacking a tax office and burning cars in 2 towns in eastern France.

The more random 'Spackparade' in Berlin left police confused as protesters waved mock banners demanding more order, more security and 'wealth for eels' (a pun on wealth for all).

In Iceland anti-American protests targeted a military base and embassy demanding "Yanks Out" (a promise still unkept since WW2).

At the home of the WTO in Geneva, a city of only 300,000 managed to produce 5,000 protesters made up of farmers and city-dwellers, expressing their solidarity with the struggle against globalisation; the farmers gathering at the UN building and the city folk marching on the international banking district.

Food Not Bombs served up in Prague, and supermarkets were leafleted.

On the 24th in India, 300 scaled the fence of the World Bank building, covering it with posters, graffiti, cow shit and mud, while others sang slogans and traditional songs at the gate.

In London over 1000 gathered outside Euston Station in support of rail and tube workers, and for a privatised and safe rail network. Speeches were made, drums banged, and people partied (despite the dull presence of Socialist Wanker Parasites). Everything was peaceful until the rally had ended and some protestors charged the cops in the return of rabid riot ravers ruckus. A police van was set alight and protestors and lots of heavy-handed cops pushed each other around. Arrests were made, capitalism was mentioned, people went home. And remember folks: you're not obliged to say anything to the cops or have your picture taken! Earlier in the day there were protests in Trafalgar Sq about asbestos, and outside Citibank, about student fees.

In Leeds city centre, around 50 protestors (and yet more SWP sads) were faced by over 300 cops. In the face of these daff odds, people wandered around, handed out leaflets outside scummy companies, and generally had a laff.

A disused garage and an old Toll House, soon to be "luxury flats" have been squatted in Totnes, South Devon to draw local people's attention to the WTO. In Cardiff a procession marched through the centre of town. In Halifax a Nestle factory was occupied and a banner dropped outside; 16 were arrested.

## HUNTINGDON DEATH SCIENCES

The good folk who brought you the closure of Hillgrove cat farm are now set to bring you the demise of vivisection Huntingdon Life Sciences. The labs, in Cambridgeshire, will be targeted by 'avin' it mass protests until they close. Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Campaign promise the biggest actions yet. HLS holds 70,000 animals at one time and was seriously undermined by campaigners a couple of years back before being bailed out by Nat West. The first national demo is set for Dec 11: details/leaflets/etc 0121 632 6460. Last Sunday's demo against Shamrock Monkey Farm in Sussex saw activists blockading Brighton town centre while the riot squad and EG units waited on a country lane 20 miles away. Nice One!! Save The Shamrock Monkeys PO Box 3090, Brighton BN1 3QU tel: 0702 093 6956

## Subscribe!

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## SchNEWS in brief

Check out [www.geocities.com/newburybypass](http://www.geocities.com/newburybypass) for a huge archive about your favourite road \*\* 2 hospitals are being closed to make way for a **Private Finance Initiative** (see SchNEWS 210/219) 'superhospital' with losses of beds and jobs. Demo. on Sat 11th Dec, 11 a.m. Selly Oak Hospital: details c/o B'ham TUC, The Union Club, 723 Pershore Rd, Selly Park, Birmingham \*\* **meals without squeals?** this vegan recipe book for just £2.80 is right up yer street, from VIVA!, 12 Queens Square, Brighton \*\* **9 Ladies** need your help! Stanton Moor, the Nine Ladies Stone Circle and related areas of the Peak District are in serious danger if the application to re-open two dormant quarries is accepted. Tel 01332 663031 \*\* Got a **spare video camera?** A Brighton activist heading to Arizona to document the forced relocation of Navajo Indians desperately needs video equipment. Contact SchNEWS office \*\* Don't know what to get the folk this **Christmas?** Check out Green Books, AK Distribution and Pluto Press catalogues. Green Books 01803 863260 [www.greenbooks.co.uk](http://www.greenbooks.co.uk); AK Distribution 0131 555 5165; Pluto Press 0181 348 2724 [www.plutobooks.com](http://www.plutobooks.com) \*\* Ethical Xmas pressies? check out the **Fair Trade Fair** at Kensington Olympia 2, 10th - 12th Dec. More info P.O. Box 1001, London SE24 9NL [www.globalpartnership.org](http://www.globalpartnership.org) \*

## Car Sick

This week, John Prescott incurred the wrath of car-lovers with his proposals for higher fuel duty and city road tolls. Even Scum readers demanded a series of one-day car drivers' strikes to show John that they won't be pushed around - so now brave 'Two Jags' announces the money raised is to be spent on more roads rather than public transport. Yep, folks...time to dust down Swampy and prise him out of his Ammani 'cos 37 bypasses and motorways are planned over the next 7 years. And of course, there's also the Fat Hypocrite's sell-off of London Underground, although he's ousted Railtrack from this process, but privatization goes on nonetheless, including a widely criticised plan to remove air traffic control from the public sector. Overcrowding, high fares, delays and accidents are all a result of shareholders' concern for profits rather than people. But before you unpack yer climbing harness, get a copy of *Statewatch*. Cops are calling for new legislation to combat road protestors. In an interview in Police Review, Chief Constable Stephen Green calls for new laws and police powers to deal with non-violent protest and a change in definition, 'upping' road protest from public order to terrorism!! *Statewatch*: P.O. Box 1516, London

## SchNEWS AGGRO GUIDE: Mayday 2000

**MayDay 2000**, a 4-day gathering to be held across London from 28 Apr. - 1st May 2000. Conceived at the Bradford '98 conference and born at the June 18th action. Plans include workshops, speakers, into-the night discussions, stalls, a bookfair, film festival, art exhibition, footie tournament, tours of revolutionary London, a MASSIVE Critical Mass bike ride, plans for a permanent social centre, top gigs, parties, a May Queen event with a twist, maypoles, mayhem and a MASS ACTION in London on Monday May 1st to celebrate "our diverse struggles against capitalism, exploitation and the destruction of the planet." Any offers of help organising the festivities are welcome, as are donations. MayDay 2000 BM MayDay London WC1N 3XX Email enquiries to: [mayday2k@email.com](mailto:mayday2k@email.com) Discussion group: [mayday2000-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:mayday2000-subscribe@egroups.com) [www.freespeech.org/mayday2k](http://www.freespeech.org/mayday2k)

## Inside SchNEWS

While you're all out 'avin it over the winter hols, spare a thought for those locked down and send a card, or better still a letter. It's important to support those who are serving time for trying to make the world a better place, and contact with the outside world can really make someone's day. Don't forget it could be you... Here's a list to start you off, for more info on letter-writing and prisoner support contact London ABC, 27 Old Gloucester St, London WC1N 3XX [londonabc@hotmail.com](mailto:londonabc@hotmail.com)

Harold H. Thompson, #93992, N.W.C.C., Site 1, Route 1, Box 660, Tiptonville, Tenn. 38079, USA

Edward Mark Williams, P15135, E Wing, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Rd, London W12 0AE

Mark Barnsley, WA2897, HMP Full Sutton, York YO41 1PS

Burley William, 097234 - A1 - P110GW, Box 221, Raiford, FLA 32083, USA

Hannah Thompson, CF 49997 - 01.20, HMP Eastwood Park, Falfield, nr. Wootten-Under-Edge, Glos GL12 8DS

Andrew Kerry, HMP Swaleside, Eastchurch, Kent ME12 4AX

Pablo Locke, MM2797, HMP Kingston, Milton Rd, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 6AS

Richard Gilbert, DP4786, Houseblock 3, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thamesmead, London SE28 0EB

Will Hudson, HG0089, D Wing, HM Prison Blundeston, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 5BG

John Bowden, B41173, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs WR11 5TZ

Tim Pockett, JW1522, HMP Littlehey, Perry, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 0SR

Raphael Rowe, HMP Kingston, Milton Rd, Portsmouth PO3 6AS

\*\* And another prisoner's being held in relation to June 18th. Letters of support: Darren Sole CW 9599, HMP Wandsworth, P.O. Box 757, Heathfield Rd, London SW18 3HF

## ...and finally...

After years avoiding anything more strenuous than rushing to the shops for a pack of biscuits, SchNEWS was very surprised by the results of a survey into people's attitudes to work published in the Financial Times this week. We're not sure who was interviewed or if they come from the same planet as we do, but here's some of the 'statistics' that had us running to get on the sick:

- \* 10% said they go to work because they enjoy it
- \* 2% go to work for the company of others
- \* 79% are 'very' or 'fairly satisfied' with their job
- \* 89% would seek work at once if made unemployed
- \* Managers are rated as 'very good' or 'quite good' by a staggering 78%

And the survey said, "Are you out of your fucking minds?" On the basis of the above, some employees are too unimaginative to think of anything better to do, have no mates outside the workplace, and love being ordered about by power-crazed nutters. The results might surprise those who continue to endure shit working conditions, get paid virtually fuck-all, and are on a one-way fast-track route to old age with no pensions.

### disclaimer

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



Pics: Timothy Allen

## Mock Trial For Shell

**Activists conduct a mock trial of Shell Oil and the Nigerian - Government outside Bow Magistrates Court, London on November 30 1999.** The action, one of a series which took place around London on the day, highlighted the complicity of Shell and the Nigerian government in an environmentally and community devastating quest for oil in the Niger delta.

Nov  
30th  
over  
'ere

## Squotes

"The collapse of the Global marketplace would be a traumatic event with unimaginable consequences. Yet I find it easier to imagine than the continuance of the present regime."

*George Soros, financial speculator.*

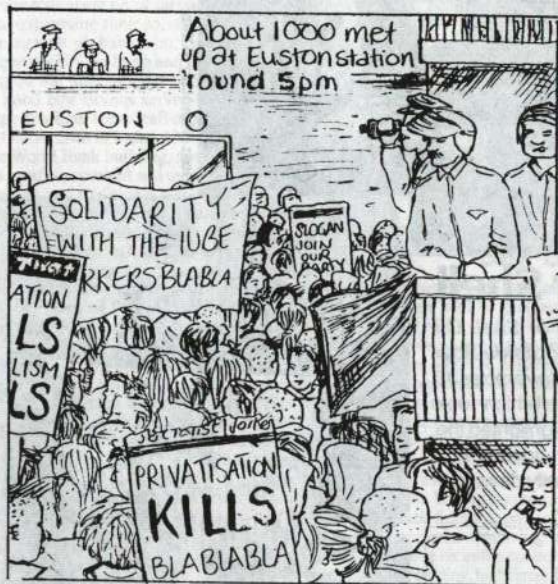


Pic: Simon Chapman

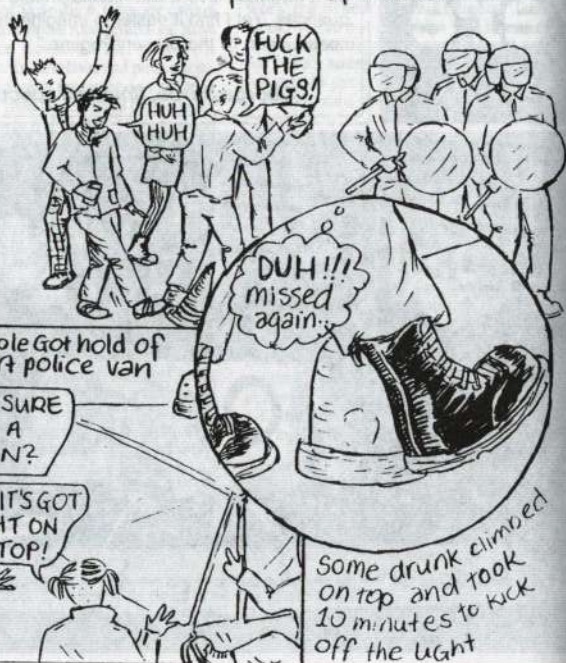
**Activists in Bristol devise an impromptu Game Show where the World Trade Organisation defeats ordinary citizens to win control of the globe. Spin that Wheel of Misfortune!**

# November 30th a day of action

The World Trade Organisation was meeting in Seattle, USA. People all across the world were planning actions and demonstrations against this, exploitation and capitalism. In London, a rally was called, and the cops decided that after June 18th, they needed to turn up in force.



there was a fair bit of chaos





It was all a bit random and the thousands of cops around seemed very well prepared.

HM, I FEEL CRAP LEAVING EVERYONE BEHIND TO GET NICKED...

The headlines in the papers were over the top, as usual...



I GUESS WE SHOULD HEAD BACK THEN...



Meanwhile in Seattle, about 70 000 people were occupying streets and blocking the venue for the WTO talks. But the forces of darkness had mobilised as well.



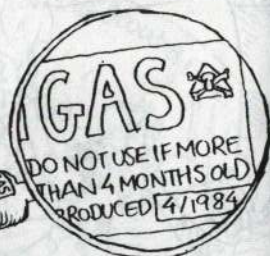
A curfew was called, the National Guard sent in, rubber bullets and nerve Gas (!) were used...



The police threw these things into the crowd that exploded on impact scattering shrapnel - ball bearings coated with rubber!

Ow?

FUCKIN HELL  
LOOK AT  
WHAT  
THEY  
USED!



But protesters, too, helped with the policing: a 'non-violent' line was pushed, even extended to damage to property!

STARBUCKS\*

GAP



But some stuff was still smashed ☺

The WTO talks were externally and internally disrupted - and abandoned in the end without results!



ALSO: In France 800 miners stormed government offices \* In Nigeria, the conflict between the people of the Niger Delta and oil companies escalated with the occupation of oil platforms \* In Switzerland 5000 surrounded WTO & UN HQs, and the power supply to the WTO HQ was sabotaged \* WA-HEY!

NO VIOLENCE!!



In one instance, a 'non-violent' mob hospitalised some people trying to smash Niketown! American hippies are mad!

FREE MUMIA AB

VANDALS SPOILING  
OUR LEGITIMATE  
PROTEST, TUT TUT.

Some people even cleaned up graffiti! Why don't they just go and join the police?!

While in England lots of people woke up with steaming hangovers



and some found themselves in court...



# CRASH, BANG, WALLOP, WOT A PICTURE

Eyewitnesses at the N30 anti-capitalist demonstration at Euston Station report that one individual in particular sparked violence before rapidly leaving the scene. Anthony Fielding saw first hand how the trouble started and his testimony makes for a sobering read.

It was a good turn out, for a cold winter's evening. The Carnival Against Capitalism part 2. On the same day as the World Trade Organisation held its big meeting in Seattle, a large public meeting outside Euston station voiced dissent against global corporate control. People from all walks of life were there. At 5 pm, there was the initial influx of protesters, drumming and dancing, good vibes, a party atmosphere. Sometime around 6 pm, the speakers started. The positive vibes continued, but some hecklers were shouting various remarks. Most of the crowd ignored this. After the speakers had finished, we were treated to a song, and then back to the drumming. Some of the crowd dispersed.

I took a walk around to soak up some positive vibes, and noticed a man wearing a hood and scarf round his face, kicking and shouting at three regular policemen. They shrugged it off, and were not provoked. As his violence increased, so the policemen defended themselves, but without force. I have seen police brutality many times, but this was the model of restraint. It was obvious that his actions were to provoke a response, and in turn, an excuse for a ruck. I shouted at him to stop, getting in the middle of it; either one of us could have walked away, without police interference. I thought that the majority of people in the area would have agreed with me; that this was just one guy, with a problem, and nothing more. But within 60 seconds, the police were moving away, and a charge of protesters were coming at them, spurred on by this guy's cries of "come on then".

group of "anarchists" or "hardcore trouble makers", to give them their media friendly titles. It

was no surprise that the burning van was front page news.

Multi-national companies, the target of the protest, try to discredit activists who take direct action against them, as "thugs" or "terrorists". These same companies influence the majority of people in this country every day, through the newspapers and television stations they control. Many people base their opinions and decisions upon information received from these sources. If there is a riot at a protest, all that is reported and remembered is the riot. As it is obvious that violence at a protest, redirects attention away from the protest itself, then could we not conclude, that the people responsible for starting this and other riots, are doing so to lessen the impact of the direct action itself? It's possible that these people who start and maintain riots, are not sympathetic to the efforts of the particular pressure groups who are involved in the protest. I was there at the very start of the trouble. I saw one lone man kicking and shouting at passive police officers who were not being threatening in any way. They were unarmed, and not fighting back after having been attacked by this one lone man. Due to the crowd's automatic association of "them" and "us", the police were rushed by the crowd. The

The masked man who started the whole thing off, dipped out of the crowd, before reaching the police at the other end and left the scene. The riot had started, and took its usual course. A van was left in the area of the protest and the bait was taken. Some people tried to persuade the "mob" to leave it alone. Most people stood silent. There were cameras everywhere. Only the rioters and the curious remained. The van was smashed up and set alight and as the fumes overtook the area, I noticed a group of riot police appearing on the left. It looked like a good time to leave. I headed into the small park-like area and got out on the far side. I heard from a friend who didn't get out, that the riot police did "snatch and grab" missions into the crowd later for specific people caught on camera.

If the rioters thought they could achieve anything positive by fighting the police, their energy was misplaced. All that was achieved by starting a riot was to create a story, with pictures, discrediting the protesters, their efforts, and the issues. There is a lot of good footage to discredit the protest, when a van is set alight by a



Here's that gratuitous burning van pic anyway

## SQUALL

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imagery of violence against the police force, coupled with the cries of "come on then", led an otherwise peaceful gathering into an unprovoked attack on the police. Let's not forget that there were more than enough riot police, with full body armour, shields, batons and a strategic advantage. With the area of the protest surrounded, they too were just waiting for the excuse to fight. In a combustible atmosphere such as this all you need is the spark, to set off the flames. But who would want to turn a party into a riot? The police in Seattle were seen to be out of hand, because they were fighting a predominantly peaceful gathering. The police in Euston, on the other hand, were seen to be "dealing with a situation". The rioters handed them the excuse they needed, to legally beat the shit out of anyone in the area. During the worst of the fighting, I stood under a tree a good distance from the action, where I remained still and silent. This was, it seemed, too much provocation for some of the riot police, who came and battered me around the body, whilst insisting that I "fuck off". I wondered to myself, "where do they want me to fuck off to?", as people were being attacked by the police for trying to leave the area!

If the people at the protests spoke out more, to defend their right to protest and to be heard, without interference from destructive elements, then the pressure would be in favour of peaceful protest. It

is interesting to note that everytime the rioters stopped, the drummers started, and everytime the rioters started again, the drummers stopped. There is

a difference between civil disobedience and violence directed against symbols of authority. Fighting police and burning vehicles directs attention away from the objective of the protest. It also helps the Government to pass new laws to deal with "public order".

There are going to be more laws passed to constrict our already limited "freedom", jus-

tified to the media attentive public with film footage of June 18 and November 30 showing only the fighting and the burning vehicles. The more violence there is the stronger support there will be for extra police powers and more public order laws. The most effective weapon, is information. At present, it looks like the majority of people are still waiting for the "truth" (whatever that may be), to be delivered to their homes, in easy to digest forms, through newspapers and television. Whilst this is far from ideal, it is the way it is; and when protests turn into riots, it turns peoples attention away from the issues at hand and alienates the very people we need to support us! The corporate interests have no worries in the propaganda war, as long as the so called "hardcore", keep feeding the media mind control machine with enough ammunition to effectively neutralise our voice. The most important people to reach, are those who don't protest, those who are unaware of the issues, and those who are part of the corporate political system, including the police.



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Date	Time
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From To	Meet at
EUSTON STATION	



further info: <http://www.gn.apc.org/rtb>  
PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY

**Global WTO Action Day: Seattle was great but the London Euston action was a bit poo.**



# K.O. THE WTO

With the World Trade Organisation still reeling after the recent protests and failed trade negotiations in Seattle, Si Mitchell finds out why the world is suddenly taking a stance against the WTO and its stealthy ambitions.

"There are 25 million milk producing animals in Mongolia, but in the city market places you can only buy German butter. Similarly last year Britain exported 47 million kilograms of butter to Europe while importing 43 million kilograms from the same countries. Here in Devon, New Zealand butter is a quarter of the price of local butter. It's insane."

Founder of the Dartington based International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC), Helena Norberg Hodge, is unimpressed by well travelled dairy produce. To coincide with the World Trade Organisation's Seattle conference at the end of the month, ISEC's parent body, the International Forum on Globalisation, is holding its own 'teach-ins' to alert people to the need to reverse the global economy, messianically being pursued by corporate bosses and politicians alike. In his document 'Small is Beautiful, Big is Subsidised', ISEC's US programmes director Stephen Gorelick, argues that the efficiencies of scale, at the heart of global trade, are a fallacy. "Governments are encouraging growth at every level. This is costing people their jobs, and breaks down the community fabric that depends on healthy local economies; they are eroding democracy and widening the gap between rich and poor and irreparably damaging ecosystems and human health across the planet." From education, to aid, to infrastructure, the quest for growth is insidious. From Bodmin to Bangalore we are told that local customs and knowledge are inferior to the glossy prosperity fed to us by Western media. While people in the poorer south are goaded to be like those in the affluent north, northerners are made to feel 'greedy', and responsible for the plight of those in the south.

"It's more complex than that," says Norberg Hodge. "We need a shift in direction towards localising economic activity to strike a balance between international trade and production at home."

This is not about people in colder climates going without bananas, but about doing away with the unnecessary intensive, mass scale, production and transportation of goods, and the petrochemical pollution that entails. A recent study in Germany, found the ingredients of a single tub of yoghurt had travelled 1,000 km from four different countries. In Arkansas the US government are stumping up \$90 million to build an airport that will handle poultry-carrying 747s with the aim of opening up Japan as "a boom market for US fresh chicken imports". Somerfield supermarkets transport Cornish Cauliflower flowers to the north of England to be wrapped in cellophane to be brought back to the West country for sale.

In 1970 there were over 100,000 dairy farms in Britain. That figure has been halved and small farms are continuing to disappear at the rate of 100 a month. The biggest ten per cent of farms now account for half the UK output. Gorelick says: "Export led agriculture usually demands large scale monocultural plantations, industrial scale machinery, and

heavy chemical inputs; but it does not require many farmers, and a large portion of the agricultural labour force is left redundant." Britain has shed 88,000 rural jobs in the last ten years. Despite this, governments continue to oil the wheels of growth. Fossil fuel and nuclear power plants, megadams, motorway networks and airports are of little use to small traders. Treaties and regulations implemented by the WTO and EU may benefit multinational cross border businesses, but they regularly penalise the local traders, whose plight is inaccurately touted alongside that of the megacorps in media calls for 'trade freedom'.

It is unfortunate that it took the jingoism, unleashed in the latest siege of the Anglo-French trade war, for people to consciously connect export led trade and the decimation of Britain's farming industry. If it wasn't for the corporate quest for maximum payback from minimum outlay we may not be living in dread of hormone injected US beef, GM food, vanishing forests or melting ice caps.

"I think our biggest enemy is narrow focus, more than conscious evil intention," says Norberg Hodge, referring to the blinkered arguments that surround poverty and pollution. "The government and corporate elite are so fixated with growth that they refuse to contemplate alternatives." She goes on to criticise some environmentalists and some of the leading NGOs - who see globalisation as part of the solution - for refusing to see the link between aid projects and the destruction of local economies and culture. The previously self sufficient people of Ladakh in northern India are being encouraged to grow flowers for export to Holland. Many like them, forced by indebted governments courting international monetary aid, have their lands turned into production lines for the richer nations. Microcredit systems of small loans promoted by The World Bank shackle previously stable, though less cash intensive, economies to the notoriously corrupt and unstable speculative currency market. The cash crop system has no need for the majority of rural people who flock to the cities to compete for jobs that don't exist.

What money is left in communities is soon sucked out. "Studies indicate that of the money spent in a typical McDonalds, nearly 75 per cent leaves the local economy," says Gorelick. A DETR report in 1998 found new UK superstores to be taking up to half the trade of local food retailers, while the National Retail Planning Forum calculated each new store caused a net loss of 276 jobs as local traders cut back or closed.

## SQUALL

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However pressure can be brought on the politicians, companies and self styled international trade police such as the WTO. People all over the world are rejecting the monoculture. Buy local campaigns, community banks, tool lending libraries, ecovillages, LETS schemes, community supported agriculture and farmers markets are all on the increase.

Dave Lang, a livestock farmer from South Gloucestershire, was on the brink of bankruptcy when he joined a farmers market. He now trades in 20 small town markets a month all within forty miles of his farm. "The public can talk to the actual producer (a stipulation for stall holders) and find out how the crop was grown or what the animal was fed on, they can even come down to the farm to see," says Lang. "People are amazed by what's in season and have lost touch with what food tastes like." Unlike McDonalds, 100 per cent of the money spent at a farmers market goes into the local economy.

There are over 40,000 members in Britain's expanding network of 450 Local Exchange Trading Schemes (LETS). Participants receive credits for their contributions which are traded for services from other members. Babysitters trade with language teachers, and therapists with hairdressers. "It's not just for those that can't afford it. It's about taking things into your own hands, uniting communities and building up old and new skills," says Rae Orr from Letslink UK. As they act outside of the mainstream economy LETS trading does not register on conventional prosperity scales.

Kalle Lasn, editor of Adbusters magazine, says that the corporations driving this global economy, are merely doing what we programmed them to do. He suggests that each shareholder should be liable for 'collateral damage' to bystanders or environmental harm.

"If you reap the rewards when the going is good, why shouldn't you be held responsible for that company when it becomes criminally liable." He feels that fewer shares would be traded and the worst offending companies would collapse. "Instead of simply choosing the biggest cash cows, potential shareholders would carefully investigate the backgrounds of the companies they were about to sink their money into. They would think twice about buying into Philip Morris or Monsanto.

"We must rewrite the rules of incorporation in such a way that a company caught repeatedly and wilfully dumping toxic wastes, damaging watersheds, violating anti-pollution laws, harming employees, customers or the people living near its factories, engaging in price fixing, defrauding its customers, or keeping vital information secret, automatically has its charter revoked, its assets sold off and the money funnelled into a superfund for its victims."

Company bashing legislation is unlikely, hampered not least by the 'revolving door' between government post and boardroom seat. Transport Secretary Steven Norris now heads the Road Hauliers Association and GM retailer Lord Sainsbury chairs the select committee scrutinising GM crops. This is no new phenomenon. In 1953 General Mo-

tors president, Charles Wilson, was appointed US defense secretary. "What's good for General Motors is good for the United States," he said before pushing a 41,000 mile interstate highway system past Congress as a 'national security' measure. (In the 1920s the same company along with Standard Oil and Firestone Tyres was found guilty of buying up and systematically destroying the street-car systems of over eighty US cities. Each company was fined a laughable \$5,000 and car dependency was born.) Economist and author of 'When Corporations Rule the World', David Korten, likens global capitalism to a cancer in the world economy. "Curing the capitalist cancer to restore democracy, the market and our human rights and freedoms will require virtually eliminating the institution of the limited-liability for-profit public corporation." He told SQUALL: "We need radical campaign finance reform to get big money and corrupt politicians out of politics. An immediate agenda is to stop the WTO from negotiating new agreements that further weaken democracy and speed environmental and social breakdown. The WTO should be closed, while we establish mechanisms under the United Nations to regulate transnational finance, and trade."

There have been small victories. In May 1998 the New York City Attorney General revoked the charters for Tobacco Research and the Tobacco Institute, on the grounds that they are tobacco-funded fronts that serve "as propaganda arms of the industry". While last year the people of Arcata California voted to "ensure democratic control of all corporations conducting business within the city." Recent events in the Microsoft saga suggest that even the ridiculous wealth of Bill

Gates may not guarantee his stranglehold on PC system software. All farmer Dave Lang asks for is "a level playing field" to compete with artificially cheap mass-produced imports.

Helena Norberg Hodge believes we must reconnect with our immediate environment. She says region specific education is fundamental to this, not ignoring other cultures, but being more aware of our own. Using local produce does help the local economy, it requires less energy, packaging, preservation and transport and enables those in other communities to look to meeting their own needs with

their own resources. "We need a shift in the balance between international trade and production at home. We need to move away from the 'teenage boy culture' that demands mobility, independence and a fear of growing old." Wolfgang Sachs, project director at Germany's Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy told SQUALL that it is not about bringing Southern developing cultures 'up' to our level of lifestyle and consumption, but about reconfiguring our own 'developed' societies to consume and impact less. "We need enthusiasm, competence and passion, a different kind of imagination. Things are happening but they are drops in an ocean. But even drops can change the colour of the water." The message is simple. Think global, act local.

## QUOTES

"...the value of luxury goods sales worldwide - high fashion clothing, top-of-the-lines autos... - exceeds the gross national products of two-thirds of the world's countries"

*The Economist, 5/1/91*

"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"

*Business Week, 20/3/95*



# SEATTLE 30th November 1999



**"It's raining fat cats and dogs of war" - delegates getting escorted into the WTO meetings.**



**Tear gas used by Seattle Police was found to contain carcinogens.**

# CANCER SPRAY

Seattle Police responsible for gassing demonstrators opposing the World Trade Organisation Ministerial conference in November have admitted using a cancer causing chemical against the peaceful protesters. Seattle Police Department 'Material Safety Data Sheets', recently obtained by the Washington Toxins Coalition under the US Public Disclosure Act (the equivalent of the Freedom of Information Act we haven't got), reported that the tear gas used during the week of November 28 1999, was mixed half and half with the solvent methylene chloride.

Methylene chloride, used industrially in paint stripper, is classified as a Category 1 carcinogen by the UK Health and Safety Commission. The American National Library of Medicine's Toxnet website lists symptoms of exposure to the chemical as: "Lethargy, mental confusion, headache, tingling of the limbs, acoustical and optical delusions, and kidney damage, increase risk of spontaneous abortion, coma and death."

Russell Sparks, a student from Bellingham, Washington who was tear gassed on December 1 told SQUALL: "I felt like I was on fire. A middle aged man near me passed out, eyes open, shaking, dry heaving, twitching at the shoulders. I tried to help but my eyes were burning."

Article Two of the Chemical Weapons Convention specifically excludes chemicals used in domestic situations, making it legal for governments to chemically quell riots as they see fit.

A Seattle Police spokesman told SQUALL that aside from their handguns, "all the weapons carried by the police are non-lethal". Further comment has been suspended until completion of an internal review of the week's operations. Leon Esaki who travelled from Sussex to oppose the WTO, said: "I was gassed and sprayed at least four times totally unprovoked. After

I got home I was short of breath for a week or more, experienced pains in my kidneys and developed mouth ulcers."

Dr Ray Jones, an Open University toxicologist, said: "Methylene chloride will go through the skin quickly and into the blood stream. It is very soluble in fat. Many carcinogens don't take effect for ten, twenty or thirty years, by which time it would be impossible to trace the cause." Jones added that the body would metabolise the chemical into formaldehyde - an even more toxic category three carcinogen. "Spraying methylene chloride onto someone is very irresponsible," he said.

Def-Tec, the Wyoming based company which produced many of the chemical weapons used in Seattle, denied its products had any safety problems. The Seattle Police Department (SPD) received serious criticism over its handling of the protests. Residents of the city's Capitol Hill district complained of gas choking them in their homes. One woman was reported to have miscarried her baby, and SPD Chief Norm Stamper resigned.





An activist  
tries out his  
latest foot-  
wear

**DON'T BOTHER**

Child  
Labour  
Profits

**NIKE**

Police and business go hand  
in glove- a Nike logo on the  
Seattle cops' gloves



All pics: Nick Gobbing

# BATTLE FOR SEATTLE

## Wooden bullets and butt plugs on Capital Hill

After spending the afternoon gassing and concussion-bombing union marches, commuters and shoppers in the downtown area, the stormtroopers of Seattle unleashed their most demented attack on the city's bohemian/gay district, Capitol Hill, around midnight on Wednesday December 1st.

Faceless, numberless riot police and national guardsmen shot repeated volleys of two-inch diameter wooden bullets (similar sized rubber bullets were referred to as butt-plugs by protesters), plastic (marble like) pellets, stun grenades, tear gas and pepper spray at a crowd of around 1500 residents and anti-WTO protesters.

"My neighbourhood is under siege by police," said Nikki Reed, a Capitol Hill resident. "There's tear gas in my apartment and a helicopter buzzing my home."

Residents, old and young, had come out to see why the police felt it necessary to set up a 250 officer defence line at the intersection of 11th and Pine. Ex-councillor, Brian Durdowski, took vote canvassing to extremes as he stood besuited in the thick of smoke and missiles, tears pouring down his face saying: "I will not let the police hurt you." The words 'stable door' and 'bolted' sprang to mind. The protesters filled Pine Street and were congregating at the Pine and Broadway crossroads. Despite claiming to 'maintain the downtown curfew zone', the police lines were on the uptown side of the crowd. (Doh!!) When they charged they were in fact pushing people back towards the no go area. Vans of cops were carrying out drive by, indiscriminate, pepper-spraying on Broadway (Think of Stoke Newington Church Street with homeboys). Despite spending three hours of lunacy firing at protesters, the cops never really tried to drive them from the streets.

**AN ORDNANCE MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO CARRY GAS MASKS IN THE CITY HAD BEEN PASSED THAT AFTERNOON. (BUT EVERY COP WORE ONE)**



Pic: Nick Gobbing

# 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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Cylindrical wooden and rubber bullets were fired at the crowd, gashing wounds on faces and leaving welts on legs and bodies. The thunderflash of exploding stun grenades echoed around the buildings as tear gas cannisters bounced among the protesters (This gas was stronger than the stuff used during tuesday daytime - when vast numbers of press were present - twenty four hours later I can still feel it clogging my chest and have quite intense lower back pains as my kidneys try to eject the poisons). An ordinance making it illegal to carry gas masks in the city had been passed that afternoon (but every cop wore one).

.....protesters scattered, unable to breathe or see, crying out for water.... others helped collapsed casualties by splashing the toxins from their eyes.

Police chief Norm Stamper commended his officers' "restraint". The only restraint shown that night was by the besieged residents. The weeks of workshops, non-violence training and arrest solidarity carried out by the Direct Action Network at their 420 Denny Street Studios were being taken to uncomprehensive literal extremes. I only saw one missile thrown back at the police lines. Calls of non violence were met by gunfire.

**"I DON'T GIVE A SHIT WHERE YOU COME FROM BUDDY.....BURN THE FUCKING FLAG!"**

Multinational outlets of KFC and Chevron (think Niger Delta and Ogoni massacres) in the area both escaped any damage - the 'non violent protest' crew were still trying to act

within the law even when the police had long since rejected legislative restriction or morality. Mayor, Paul Schell, creating a martial law situation, had suspended the constitution within the city.

"One UK protester who asked if any US citizens present would be offended if he torched the stars and stripes was told: "I don't give a shit where ya come from buddy. Burn the fucking flag."

A few took the opportunity of the policed chaos to do some pocket shopping: "Hey young thugs. Lets go loot the fucking Texaco - they're the fucking KKK."

The morning's attack on the steelworkers' march into the cordoned off downtown area, led the entire workforce of America's west coast dockers to walk out of work in solidarity with the treatment of their union brothers.

Evening demos attracted more arrests and indiscriminate gassing. A planned anti-gentrification action planned for the Belltown district was literally bombed out of existence.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER CHUFFED TO BITS!



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# BARE BREASTS & RUBBER BULLETS

*"They never knew what hit them. They had assumed it would be business as usual, the way it had been for decades. Rich men gather, meet, decide the fate of the world, then return home to amass more wealth. It's the way it's always been. Until Seattle."*  
Michael Moore, U.S. comedian (not director general of the WTO)

*"The very fact that the World Trade Organisation is global headline news is a sign of our power, for the high priests of capital fully expected their summit to be convened in the usual frat\* boy secrecy. We have done our part to help blow away both their cover and their aura of invincibility. Never again will the economists and technocrats be able to decide the fate of the world...in anonymous tranquility."*

The Aggressive Panhandlers\*\*

*"They are worried about a few windows being smashed. They should come and see the violence being done to our communities in the name of liberalisation of trade."* A Philippino leader

As the gas cleared over Seattle after another uneasy stand-off with the black clad robocops, word on the street last Friday was that the talks had collapsed. There would be no millennium round agreement by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The people on the streets had won a stunning victory.

**And what a victory it was.** Who would have thought, even a year ago, that sixty thousand people would turn to greet delegates of the World Trade Organisation. Who'd have thought that trade unionists would be marching with environmentalists - people dressed as turtles marching with sacked steelworkers, the topless lesbian avengers mingling with farmers. Churchgoers with the anarchist black-block.

The mass protests helped focus worldwide attention on what the WTO really stands for - and it crumbled under the pressure.

Forget all their talk about 'free trade', the WTO is nothing more than a nasty little organisation fighting for the rights of multinational organisations to dismantle every country's labour and environmental laws (see inside for more details).

Groups like SchNEWS have been shouting from the rooftops for ages about this,

but no one seemed really bothered cos let's face it economics is hardly the sexiest subject in the universe. But last week's event changed all that, with seven days of protest that shook the corporate world.

*"It is important to acknowledge the fact that we made history this week. No amount of corporate spin doctoring or liberal hand wringing can diminish this reality."* The Aggressive Panhandlers

## WHERE'S THE ORGANISATION?

"My mother's a member of the Women's Institute and they organise their fetes better than this." U.K. Trade Minister Steven Byers who went to the WTO and got hit with pepper spray for his trouble.

It started quietly enough on the Sunday with a few hundred people demonstrating outside The Gap over the sweatshop conditions workers have to endure to produce the company's clothes. Then on the Monday there was a demonstration by the turtle posse pointing out how the WTO had ruled America's Endangered Species Act illegal. Later, French national hero Jose Bove, who recently demolished McDonalds, demonstrated outside his favourite store as a protest against U.S. sanctions on French cheese. Things were hotting up. The last thing the U.S. President must have expected was to be flying into a city under a state of emergency with the National Guard on the streets?

*"If you were alive, the police gassed you. People coming back from work, kids, women, everyone. People would go out of their houses to see what was happening because these tear gas guns sound like a cannon - and they would get gassed."*

Eyewitness account from Jim Desyllas

Tuesday morning and already thousands are on the streets blocking roads and stopping delegates from getting into the WTO Conference centre. The opening ceremony is abandoned and talks delayed for more than five hours.

Around 10 a.m. we have a taste of what's to come as riot cops, with 3 foot clubs & dressed like Darth Vader, start spraying CS gas into the faces of people peacefully blocking the roads. One man commented, "When the gas masks came out we knew they were planning to use pepper spray on the people sitting down. The crowd was pleading with them.

We locked legs and arms and I pulled a banana over my face, covering my mouth and eyes. People began screaming in pain. I felt a blow from a club, the cops were beating people as well. A police officer pulled my hand away from my face and pepper-sprayed me in the eyes. The rest of the crowd pulled people to safety and began washing their eyes with a solution of baking soda and water to counter the effects of the blinding pepper spray."

By mid-day 30,000 trade unionists joined the demonstrations, "I'm not a trade barrier" reads the marching turtles' banner; giant puppets weave their way down the streets, superheroes slide round corners, cloaks flying, a group of Father Christmases march along waving at the crowd, doubling over with laughter, "WTO? Ho, ho, ho." A Reclaim The Streets sound system blasts out funk, rappers rhyming "WTO, it's gotta go". SchNEWS meet Mexican, Indian and French farmers, Tibetan refugees, steelworkers, striking cabbies, anti logging and deforestation protesters, all experts on the WTO, its power and its direct repercussions on their lives. These people are no random mob, they have gathered from all over the world to be heard and no matter how many issues are at stake here they speak with one voice, united in their opposition to an institution which has no respect for the ordinary people of the world. They are calling for an end to sweatshops, to child labour and the erosion of environmental laws and the third world debt. These people are well informed, well organised and determined.

As one Labour correspondent put it, "Ten years ago, who would have thought that Teamsters and kids in dreadlocks would be marching together, let alone under the banner of 'fair trade'?" "I never got on with environmentalists until I realised we were all fighting for the same thing," said Dan Petrowski, a Michigan steelworker who was made redundant four months ago. Still, what did that matter to the police who lost patience with the crowd spraying them with jets of gas like water cannons again and again?

SCHNEWS US-UK VOCAB WATCH

- \* Frat - fraternity, secret student society.
- \*\* Panhandlers - beggars.

SPECIAL SCHNEWS REPORT ON SEVEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE CORPORATE WORLD

Meanwhile, groups of anarchists went shopping. McDonalds, Niketown, Gap, Starbucks and the American Bank all had their windows smashed. One man from the UK told SchNEWS, "Even as a pacifist I was pleased. No-one was hurt. It seemed trivial in comparison to the scenes I had witnessed earlier. This wasn't violence against people it was violence against the property of some of the world's most hated multinationals."

As early evening approached with the crowds remaining on the streets, and the Clinton administration leaning on the mayor to do something quick, the National Guard were called out for the first time in Seattle in modern times. A no-protest zone and a 12 hour curfew placed in the downtown area - the first time since the second world war. This seemed to be the signal for the robo-cops to unleash an arsenal of weapons against anyone who got in their way for the next 24 hours. SchNEWS is used to a bit of argy-bargy with the police but this was something else.

## BUTT-PLUGGIN' IN THE USA

"Hey! Check it out - these motherfuckers are firing butt-plugs at us," called out one grinning member of the crowd brandishing a two by four inch rubber bullet.

As night drew in the forces of darkness began pushing people into the city's bohemian/gay district, the Capitol Hill residential area. This was way out of the no-protest zone, and it infuriated locals who came out of the streets in their hundreds. Seattle Gay News takes up the story. "Numerous accounts from witnesses all describe excessive force by police who appeared to have no real reason to be on Capitol Hill. The area is outside of the curfew and no-protest zones. One resident told us, 'I haven't been marching, but when the cops turn your neighbourhood into a war zone, it's time to get involved.'"

**WEDNESDAY** "The intolerance of democratic dissent, which is a hallmark of dictatorship was unleashed in full force." Vandana Shiva, director of Research Foundation New Delhi.

Early morning and the mass arrests begin. If yesterday's show of force by the authorities was meant to scare people from demonstrating then they were mistaken. Thousands of people are regrouping at a steelworkers rally. People grow restless at the speeches and start leaving for the no-protest zone. "Whose streets? Our streets!" everyone chants. One man explained to SchNEWS what happened next, "Eventually we were pushed onto the main road with shoppers, protesters, cars, buses. They're not going to gas us here, are they? I thought. A second later an explosion followed by a barrage of plastic bullets, gas, pepper spray, concussion grenades. Mental. People sitting in their cars were gassed, people leaving work. Everyone."

The police say they are using non-lethal weapons but one man reports listening to a local radio station when a man calls in weeping - his wife had been attacked by the police while leaving work and she lost their child - she was 4 months pregnant. A doctor blamed this on the gas.

It's getting scary, the town centre is emptying of people as the curfew approaches. The police are roaming around everywhere, kitted-out in the most bizarre Stormtrooper meets Ninja Turtle outfits and riding everything from bicycles to a huge tank-like thing, inappropriately named the 'Peacekeeper'. If you aren't falling head over heels with laughter, your legs are being shot out from under you by rubber bullets!

Still, if it's scary for the demonstrators at least the WTO delegates aren't having much fun. One New Zealand delegate confides in us that there is confusion inside the conference, and in the evening everyone is holed up in their hotels unable to leave.

## THURSDAY

Residents and students march, chanting, from Capitol Hill to join a farmers rally, "Ain't no power like the power of the people 'cos the power of the people don't stop". Thousands then march towards the County Jail where hundreds of protestors are being held, most not giving even their names. The jail is surrounded by people holding hands. A temporary autonomous zone is established as people keep vigil, sleeping, eating, making music and speeches demanding the release of our brothers and sistas. A party evolves outside the jail as people drum, sing, juggle and dance, chanting "This is what democracy looks like". At the windows we can see the silhouettes of prisoners arms waving as they dance in solidarity.

## FRIDAY EVENING

These people just don't give up. A couple of hundred have gathered at the Westin Hotel to support some people who have d-locked themselves to the hotel's entrance.

It's here that SchNEWS hears the news - the talks have collapsed. There will be no millennium round. It doesn't quite sink in.

Inside the Conference centre, the delegates from the poorer countries complained that they were being sidelined, while the world's elite held secret 'green room discussions'. Most of the world's poorest countries have neither the capacity nor the means to implement even the previous round of talks which finished five years ago, let alone take on board a whole new round of negotiations, and couldn't even afford to have a permanent representative in Geneva where the rolling talks are held. (30 countries couldn't even afford to send delegates to Seattle!).

One high-level U.S. journalist said, "The talks failed because of the protests. They failed because of the chaos. They failed because Clinton pushed the labour working group. And they failed because the Southern hemisphere rebelled." The U.S. labour movement forced the Clinton Administration to ensure a working group on labour, which would, in particular, seek to eliminate all global child labour and encourage unionisation. Clinton's speech served to enhance the irony when the Mayor of Seattle declared a "no protest zone" around the Niketown and Nordstrom department stores but encouraged people to keep shopping there. The citizens of Seattle were free to shop for merchandise made in sweatshops, they just couldn't complain about

## WE WON YOU BASTARDS

"We want a new millennium based on economic democracy, not economic totalitarianism. The future is possible for humans and other species only if the principles of competition, organised greed, commodification of all life, monocultures, monopolies and centralised global corporate control of our daily lives enshrined in the WTO are replaced by the principles of protection of people and nature, the obligation of giving and sharing diversity, and the decentralisation and self-organisation enshrined in our diverse cultures and national constitutions." Vandana Shiva

What SchNEWS did see last week was how the thin veil of democracy so easily falls away when those in power are really threatened. That the Chief of Police has since resigned gives some indication of how out of control the robo-cops were.

But what was far more important was that ordinary people made history last week. The thousands of diverse groups that had come together to challenge the corporate power that is taking over our world. And for a week at least, we won.

## ACTS OF SOLIDARITY

\* The Longshore and Warehouse Union shut down the Port of Seattle and dozens of ports along the West Coast.

\* Seattle taxi-drivers chose November 30th to strike over worsening pay and conditions. When SchNEWS asked one taxi-driver about Starbucks he told us, "I don't drink there - they're capitalist bastards." And what if other taxi-drivers break the strike? "They'll get shot buddy!" Just like English cabbies eh?

\* The Firebrigade Union refused to turn their fire hoses upon the protesters despite repeated requests from the police.

\* One delivery boy handed over his pizzaz to the demonstrators outside the Westin Hotel, rather than give them to the right-wing talk radio station presenters who had ordered them.

## SOME OF THE BEST BANNERS

'If you think the WTO is bad you should hear about capitalism'; 'Eat pussy, not cows' (that one courtesy of the Lesbian Avengers).

'WTO - practice safe trade' (on a massive green condom made of 30 foods)

## WTO LUCKY DIP

After riots in Geneva and Seattle SchNEWS asks what city will be the lucky winners for the

## THE BATTLE OF SEATTLE

Wednesday 15th December 8pm

Film and talk by the SchNEWS crew at the Cultures of Resistance squat 168 Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1. Opens daily 2pm-9pm. During the evening a programme of events. Squat opens Mon 13th - till 18th, Tue Expose Cinema, Wed Experimental music Fri Cabaret and Sat Cheap cafe every evening. Space available for workshops/groups call 0958 765151

## SO THIS IS FREE TRADE?

Many western multi-nationals hop and skip between the North and South, relocating to discourage unionisation or to keep wages low. Nike first started to manufacture its trainers in Taiwan and South Korea. When workers attempted to organise for better wages in the 1970's, Nike pulled out and started production in the Peoples Republic of China and Vietnam, where the workers can be paid 19 cents or less an hour to produce \$100 trainers.

# WORLD TYRANNY ORDER

*"The rules set by the secretive WTO violate principles of human rights and ecological survival. They violate rules of justice and sustainability. They are rules of warfare against the people and the planet. Changing these rules is the most important democratic and human rights struggle of our times. It is a matter of survival."* Vandana Shiva, Director of the Research Foundation for Science and Ecology

The World Trade Organization isn't familiar to most people, but it should be. It is, essentially, our unelected global government. Again and again we hear homage to the 'free market'. 'Liberalisation' is the mantra of global decision making. Reduce government rules and the free market will bring about economic growth which benefits us all, we are promised.

But reality is very different. For most of the world, we are anything but free. The giant multinationals are concentrating power and wealth at an alarming rate. Just one man, Bill Gates, has as much money as 450 million of the world's poorest people. The WTO has become the vehicle for liberalisation, with the multinationals at the wheel. It has the power to punish governments who 'interfere' with free trade, leaving the field wide open for multinationals in pursuit of profit. **WHAT'S THE SCORE, CORPORATE WHORE?**

The WTO came into existence on the 1st January 1995 promising the world enormous economic gains. Instead its rulings have produced a "race to the bottom" in labour, social and environmental laws. Since it was created, every environmental, health or safety policy it has had to rule on, has been deemed an illegal trade barrier.

In fact the very threat of being taken to the WTO court has made countries water down legislation. And who makes these rulings? The majority of the tribunals are made up of men that meet in secret in Geneva, relying on documents never made public and on anonymous "experts" to make decisions and issue reports that the public cannot see until the hearing. There is no appeal procedure. Once a tribunal has declared a country's law WTO illegal, the country must change its law or face trade sanctions.

Developing countries generally do not have the money and expertise either to bring cases to the WTO or defend themselves before the WTO, thus enabling powerful companies and countries to flex their muscles, make threats and generally act like bully boys.

*"In its short five years of existence, the WTO has had wide-ranging impacts on jobs, wages and livelihoods and on international and domestic environmental, health and food safety laws as well as economic development, human rights, global trade and investment. These impacts have not been systematically studied nor have they been well covered in the press. As a consequence, most people around the globe lack an awareness that their lives, livelihoods, food and environment - indeed, their very futures - are being shaped by a powerful new institution."* Vandana Shiva  
Public Citizen

## DON'T BELIEVE US?

*"Free trade is not leading to freedom; it is leading to slavery. Diverse life forms are being enslaved through patents on life, farmers are being enslaved into bi-tech slavery, and countries are being enslaved into debt and dependence and destruction of their domestic economies."* Vandana Shiva

Here are just some of the lesser known examples in the WTO's 'Race To The Bottom'

### U.S. Weakens Clean Air Act

The first attack on environmental laws came just a few months after the WTO was introduced. Venezuela challenged a US Clean Air Act regulation that required gas refiners to produce cleaner petrol. Venezuela claimed it was biased against foreign refiners who could not meet the high standards. Despite getting no where by lobbying Congress or by appealing through the state courts, the usual democratic and judicial systems, they finally went to the newly established, unelected, unaccountable WTO.

A WTO panel ruled against the US law as it was a barrier to Venezuelan trade, allowing countries to now export dirty petrol which results in ozone depletion, smog, health problems, etc.

### Child labour

In WTO rulings, there is no discrimination (good so far.) between products on the basis of *where* or *how* they are produced (Oh.) It is the final product to be traded that counts, at the minimum possible cost, rather than the conditions under which the product is made. Child labour, forced labour and sweat-shops all help to bring the cost of trading down and keep the WTO bully-boys happy.

### Voluntary eco-labelling could be illegal

Eco-labelling is a hot and sweaty subject in the WTO, with many far reaching consequences if they ever reach a final verdict. Labelling gives a consumer choice between ethical and non ethical products. It doesn't mean that companies must abide by certain ecologically sound standards, rather it is an incentive for certain companies to make their products more appealing to the ethical consumer. The WTO is pushing to forbid such distinctions as it discriminates products on the basis of where and how particular goods are made (see 'child labour example'), which is WTO illegal. The choice for ethical consumption therefore becomes a barrier to trade. In the case of "dolphin safe" labelling on tuna in the US, despite much publicity over the issue, fishermen are still allowed to use the large nets that kill dolphins, and use the dolphin safe labels, as long as they return to shore claiming that no dolphins were caught in their net.

### GMO labelling is WTO-illegal

Likewise, potentially damaging foodstuffs are not allowed to be distinguished from definitely safe alternatives. Hazards such as allergies to hidden ingredients, and the ethical choices of vegetarians and religious believers are entirely overlooked. US delegates are hell bent on protecting industry at any costs. This is despite polls showing 93% of Americans favour labelling of gmo products.

### WTO limits access to medicines in poor nations

Patents are the ultimate in corporate ownership, giving pharmaceutical companies exclusive rights on particular medication, taking control of local markets and resources. After 7 years of US pressure and threats, Thailand finally gave in and amended its 1992 Patent law by disbanding their Pharmaceutical Review Board (PRB), which controlled medical prices in the country, as it went against WTO rules.

### Infant Formula Law weakened

Guatemala passed a law, based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) code, restricting the promotion of infant baby milk formula over breast milk for infants. This included banning packaging and advertising that may mislead illiterate parents into associating the formula with the good health

of their child. This infuriated Gerber Foods, multinational baby food manufacturers, whose trademark depicts a fat healthy baby. Gerber threatened Guatemala with WTO action under its Trademark Protection laws. The mere threat of WTO action was taken seriously by the Guatemalan Government who subsequently changed their law in favour of Gerber! Milk substitutes have been responsible for the deaths of 1.5 million infants a year according to UNICEF.

### Small business over megastores

The WTO pampers to the needs of multinational companies rather than small localised businesses. Many of the trading rules implemented actually work adversely for smaller companies; chartering banks in foreign countries, relocating factories, acquiring foreign firms and global marketing campaigns.

### Burmese dictatorship law challenged

Massachusetts stopped contracts with companies that have links with Burma, a nation renowned for human rights abuses through its military regime. This action protects the tax-payer from supporting the dictatorship. Yet by considering human rights issues, the WTO claims that Burma is at a disadvantage. Military dictatorship is, after all, irrelevant to trade (Hmmm...)

### CANADA GROVELLING TO WTO

Canada has been one of the leading advocates in asking other nations to rethink their environmental laws in accordance with WTO standards. Canada is intent on selling off its old growth forests and natural resources, reducing their own environmental protection budgets by more than 40%, in the drive for economic profit. Canada is concerned over the EU's decision to restrict both the consumption of seal pelts and the purchases of furs from animals trapped in inhumane ways. Canada wants to continue and expand the sales of seal skins and wild animal furs trapped in the north.

Canadian lumber industries are also concerned at some European countries' decisions to restrict purchases of wood and paper products that are clear cut or come from old growth forests. Canadian industries are challenging these environmental decisions using the under WTO to try to force the countries to buy Canada's wood and paper clear cut from their last old growth forests.

Canadian agricultural officials are also using the WTO to challenge the US food and school lunch vouchers system. If the vouchers are defined as "domestic agricultural subsidies" then the whole welfare system may be come under the tyrannical boot of the WTO.

And don't forget Asbestos-the French have banned the substance. So Canada, one of the world's largest exporters of the lovely substance cried out for their trade chums in the WTO to sort out the French. Canada has claimed that even if the ban doesn't violate any WTO rules, then they are at least eligible for compensation as it impairs the expected trade benefits promised to them in the last Round of WTO negotiations.

According to the United Nations, in almost all developing countries that have undertaken rapid trade liberalisation, wage inequality has increased, most often in the context of declining industrial employment of unskilled workers and large absolute falls in their real wages, in the order of 20-30% in Latin American countries.

## WHAT HAPPENED IN JAIL

Up to 600 people were arrested herded onto buses and taken to a nearby naval base. Most refused to get off the buses after being denied solicitors and went for over 13 hours without food or water. The next day people were taken to the County jail where many were tortured. One man Bistrot said he was denied phone calls for 50 hours and had his glasses removed which were never returned to him. He was in leg irons and handcuffs for fourteen hours. During the tear gassing session downtown (the day before he was arrested), he decided to lie down until the police had run past him. When he thought they had run past, he lifted his hat off his face, and at that moment two officers held him down, took out canisters of tear gas, unscrewed the tops, and then poured the tear gas directly into his eyes. The medics who treated him were afraid that he would suffer permanent eye damage and poured water into his eyes for two hours. But this was nothing compared to what he and 47 other prisoners experienced in the downtown jail. Prisoners were attacked by "henchmen" who locked the protesters together in a circle with handcuffs and leg irons. The prisoners were then separated. Bistrot witnessed guards spinning men with dreadlocks around in circles above the ground by their hair. "The guards continued to assert that [they had developed] a new science and that there will never be a wound." Then he related this 'new science', which was a form of torture that involved bending the arm back and twisting the fingers.

### EYE WITNESS REPORT

"There was an old lady there. She had gone downtown by bus to buy something. This lady was in her 70s and I saw her trying to run, but she couldn't breathe. She was in shock. I carried her to a building entryway. She was gasping, terrified. She had been in Germany, and it was like she was having flashbacks. The tear gas sounds like gunfire and there were helicopters overhead, sirens, cops on horses, everything. So anyway there I was with her in this building and she wanted to go to the hospital but there was tear gas everywhere and I was afraid if I tried to move her she'd be gassed again. I went to this line of cops and begged - I mean begged - these riot police

to help her. They ignored me. They shot rubber bullets from four feet away into the face of a guy next to me, broke all his front teeth. I want to emphasise, these protesters were NOT violent people. They were the most non-violent people I have ever seen. Even when I was screaming at the cop, this girl came up to me and said, "Do not scream. This is non-violent." These people were too much to believe. They must meditate all the time."

### EYEWITNESS REPORT

"The local news stations were reporting on the broken windows of businesses and not the broken bones of protesters. They reported on things like 'police fatigue'. Which I assume is when your arms get tired after you beat people for hours. They talked - and continue to talk about - the extreme 'restraint, open mindedness, and gentleness' displayed by police."

## WIDENESS BY THE NUMBERS

- Estimated number of people shot with rubber bullets by police: 500 +
- Estimated number of people shot with rubber bullets by protesters: 0
- Estimated number of people gassed and pepper-sprayed by police: 1,000 - 3,000
- Estimated number of people gassed and pepper-sprayed by protesters: 0

Essential website  
[www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org)

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## AND IT WASN'T JUST SEATTLE

**UK London:** Euston station: Readers probably know the score. 2000 demonstrators turned up to protest against the privatisation of the underground. An unmarked cop van was overturned who then took over half an hour and several attempts to set the van on fire! Finally the van caught and was surrounded by around 30 photographers, at which moment police decided to clear the station. Lots of good media-riot shots, and - well SchNEWS is not one to get all conspiratorial and paranoid but the very next day the papers are full of stuff about the new Prevention of Terrorism Act (if you're interested in this campaign email [news@bigissue.com](mailto:news@bigissue.com)) The Construction Safety Campaign held a demonstration outside the Canadian Embassy, because Canada are presently trying to get the WTO to overturn a decision to ban asbestos.

The Lewisham branch of Citibank was picketed by students. The bank is one of the major holders of student loan debt. This follows the global trend to underfund and privatise services, such as education, as part of the expansion of free trade with student grants being scrapped in favour of personal loans. **Covent Garden** magistrates court: The President of Nigeria, and Shell were put on trial by Nigerian exiles and British environmental activists. President Obasanjo, and Mark Moody-Stuart (of Royal-Dutch/Shell) faced a people's court to answer a number of charges relating to human rights abuses and environmental devastation in the Niger Delta. Unfortunately this was only street theatre and not the real thing. In **Leeds** city centre, around 50 protesters were faced by over 300 while they handed leaflets outside scummy companies. In **Halifax** a Nestle factory was occupied and a banner dropped outside. A procession marched through the centre of Cardiff calling for the WTO to be scrapped. A disused garage and an old toll house, soon to be "luxury flats" were squatted in **Totnes, South Devon**.

**Holland: Amsterdam:** Wot no plane ticket? No problem, 100 cheeky Dutch activists turned up at Schiphol Airport where official WTO sponsors Lufthansa, Northwest Airways and United Airlines had planes going to Seattle. Unable to brag tickets for this year's party in Seattle the protesters held a sit down in the check-in hall.

**Italy: Padua:** A peaceful demo in front of the genetics Exhibition "Bionova" attended by the top managers of GMO companies was attacked by the police. **Milan:** A group of 'White Coveralls' occupied a McDonald's, locking themselves on the building front and hanging enormous banners denouncing neo-liberalism and its effects. **Rome:** Another group of White Coveralls occupied the HQ of the "National Committee for Biosafety", hanging banners against GMOs and the WTO.

**Germany: Berlin:** A parade was held in the city with demonstrators carrying banners with mock slogans and banners demanding more order, more security and 'wealth for eels' (a pun on 'wealth for all') confusing the local police who busied themselves protecting luxurious restaurants and expensive shops. **France:** Altogether 80,000 people joined protests across the country. **Paris:** 20,000 gathered to express a range of complaints, for example some made the link between the WTO and Mumia Abu Jamal, the black activist currently facing the death sentence in the US. The week before 5,000 French farmers with their sheep, ducks and goats feasted on regional products under the Eiffel Tower. **Toulouse:** Small groups invaded the main commercial street of the town with a sound-system and hung big anti-WTO signs on Christmas decorations with long sticks as subversive Father Christmases were busy giving capitalist rotten fruits to passer-by. **Dijon:** 40 activists occupied the Dijon Industry and Business Institute and a bank agency in the financial district. While 10 of them wearing D.I.Y. "Enslaved By Money?" shirts were block-

ing off the entrances of the two buildings using D-llocks and arm-tubes, other groups threw fake blood and money on the pavements, glued posters on the walls and shops around, put up banners, played loud metallic drums, screamed in megaphones, gave out free tea, coffee and flyers about capitalism, anarchism and sustainable D.I.Y. alternatives. 800 miners clashed with cops, ransacking a tax office and burning cars in 2 towns in eastern France.

**Iceland:** Anti-american protests targeted a military base and the US embassy demanding "Yanks out" (a promise still unkept since WWII).

**Czech Republic: Prague:** Food Not Bombs served up, and supermarkets were leafleted.

**Turkey:** The Working Group of Turkey Against the MAI (that's the ill-fated Multinational Agreement on Investment, folks) and Globalisation held a nine day 3,500 km march from Nov. 22nd-30th against the WTO and global capitalism. In Bergamo, there were protests against the Eurogold Corporation, which plans to operate a gold mine there using cyanide-based extraction methods and against seaplaned thermal and nuclear power plants.

**Switzerland: Geneva:** At the home of the WTO, 5,000 people demonstrated, farmers gathered at the UN building and city folk marching on the international banking district. Meanwhile, electricity was cut at the WTO HQ for 2 hours.

**India: Bangalore:** Several thousand farmers from the district of Kamataka gathered to protest at the central train station before heading towards Mahatma Gandhi's statue. At the end of the demo they issued a 'Quit India' notice to Monsanto, telling them to leave the country or face direct action. Another notice was issued to the Indian Institute of Science, which has permitted Monsanto to do its research work in its premises. **Anjar (Narmada Valley):** A demonstration with bullock-carts took place, with more than 1000 people from around 60 villages participating in a colourful procession. **New Delhi:** 500 participated in a 3-day Dharma (sit-in) at Raj Ghat, where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes are buried, to protest against a proposed dam in Maheshwar. The following day 11,000 protest postcards were delivered to the German embassy while a demo took place outside asking them to pull out of the project. Later a statue symbolising the WTO was burned at Raj Ghat, and the 500 activists committed themselves to Gandhi's vision of a self-reliant, sustainable, solidarity-based India composed of village republics. The week before, 300 scaled the fence of the World Bank building, covering it with posters, graffiti, cow shit and mud, while others sang slogans and traditional songs at the gate. **The Philippines: Manila:** 8,000 union members and activists attended rallies in front of the US Embassy and near the Presidential palace to protest Philippine membership of the WTO.

**Central Philippines:** Thousands attended rallies against the 1995 Mining Act, which allows 100 percent foreign equity in local projects but has been challenged by tribespeople who say natural resources are a heritage that should not be exploited by overseas companies. There were actions in loads more countries but we don't know what they were. So there! \* There's a meeting to discuss further tactics in the light of the failure of the Seattle WTO Ministerial meeting on Sat 15 Jan, 2pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

## ...and finally...

After the protests comes a shopping plea "Downtown merchants say the best way to help now is to shop" reports the Seattle Post-Intelligencer "Boy, if they want to help us, come down and shop."

**disclaimer** May the force be with you, readers. And we don't mean the fucking police force Cor blimey! - last week SchNEWS said we want a safe and privatised railway system. We meant nationalised.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! END OF THE 20TH CENTURY FOR YER



# SchNEWS

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## More S&M than M&S

"It is no exaggeration to say that this decision will have the most disastrous impact on the UK textile industry for more than half a century... they are guilty of an act of cold-blooded betrayal!"  
Des Farrell, National Secretary GMB Union.

Marks and Sparks, that good old fashioned British institution, whose carrier bags once boasted that they sold only British-made goods have now ditched that sales ploy in a desperate bid to placate angry shareholders who have seen their cash go down the pan.

M&S's overpriced and sub standard clothing will have been blamed for their staggering 43% fall in profits this year. In a bid to recoup these losses they have resorted to the new trendy fashion (popularised by GAP) of employing child labor to churn out the same old tat. Their recent run of "bad luck" has also seen M&S plummet from 11th to 151st in the most admired companies poll revealed in this month's "Management Today" (see back page).

M&S said they would use "aggression and determination not seen before" in a bid to restore those oh-so important profit margins. All mouth and no trousers? These lot are all crappy trousers and no morals. The threatened aggression was demonstrated last month when they cancelled contracts with British textile firms in favour of buying clothes manufactured in dodgy foreign back-street sweatshops making 4,000 workers, mainly women, jobless & cashless in time for Christmas! (goodwill to all men and the seasonal tinkle of cash registers-consumer heaven) Not so cheering for Santa's little helpers in Indonesia working for for less than 50p for a 10-hour day. With 1 in 4 of the UK's 300,000 textile workers employed solely in making goods for M&S, more redundancies are expected in the New Year pushing the number up to at least 8,000. Can't you just hear their hot toddy glasses clinking as the company directors congratulate themselves on their business prowess, and tough shit to the trusty employees of yesteryear.

"M&S say their customers don't care where their clothes are made" says Des Farrell of the General Municipal Boilermakers, who will be demonstrating on British highstreets in the run up to Xmas in a desperate bid to mobilise consumer

power to save these workers jobs.

Stella Rimmington, ex boss of MI5 has been hired to track down a new director for the corporation using all her secret service skills. Ms Rimmington's appointment comes complete with security worthy of the frosty spy catcher. SchNEWS was informed by M&S that they were not prepared to answer questions over the phone but would send a glossy greenwashed propaganda pamphlet to interested parties. We're still waiting!!! It has proved easier to find info about the highly secretive Bilderberg group than good old M&S. (For more info on the Bilderberg group see the SchNEWS web site.) Presumably their investigations into this interested party have revealed an unhealthy preoccupation with parties of the techno variety.

Indonesian trade union and labour rights advisers have pulled-up M&S on switching their production to the Indonesian textile industry and investing in clothing produced by grossly underpaid child labourers. They have revealed that working conditions in the factories M&S patronise are so bad that employees are developing chronic health problems made worse by living in slum conditions as a result of their shitty wages.

So, to be a happy shopper, next time you're in M&S check the label b4 you buy, and remember folks, don't get palmed off with all that sweatshop bollox, let them know you've had enough of our high street

### SchNEWS FAREWELL MESSAGE FOR THE MILLENNIUM

SchNEWS is having a three week winter break cos we deserve it. Unless the Millennium Bug nutters were right and civilisation collapses, the next issue will be out on 7th January 2000. Now, if you're looking for a New Years resolution why not help SchNEWS out next year. Although it's only two bits of A4 and therefore obviously isn't much work at all (honest), somehow it miraculously comes out most weeks. But we can always do with more people getting involved. So, why not come along to our next Training Day on 12th January... Ring to book your place now.

\* If you bought raffle ticket numbers 5, 32 or 60 at our birthday bash and want to claim your prize give the office a ring quick sharp.

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For hiding from the rain!

A resident of Faslane Peace camp was shopping for candles in Glasgow City Centre last week, when it suddenly started to pour down with rain. Diving for cover in the nearest shop doorway to shelter and roll a cigarette, she was immediately arrested for Breach of the Peace and kept for six hours in a cell. Well that's one way of keeping dry.

For preventing kids being run over!

Derek Potter was arrested after building his own zebra crossing outside his cafe in Swansea. Derek sent a petition to the local council after his six year old daughter suffered a broken leg after being hit by a car. The Council replied that they had 50 requests for crossings but could only afford to build one this year (does that mean it would take half a century to build them all?) So Derek went out one evening, installed battery operated beacons and railings and began painting the zebra crossing himself, before being nicked by the cops. "I had to do it in the middle of the night when there was little traffic around," said Derek. "The playground is just over the road and children are always risking their lives to get there."

Don't forget to keep sending SchNEWS yer crap arrests

stores putting profits before people, we ain't buying it any longer. Keep the Xmas stress levels down by buying your presses from ethically-sound shops who are members of British Fair Trade Shops. Or better still, don't bother shopping at all.

### DOWN THE PAN 2

The Teigngrace campaign has had its second and final victory this week. In brief the open cast mine company, Watts, Blake and Bearn (WBB) dig up beautiful stretches of land to mine for white china clay which is then exported to Germany to make toilets. The Germans were shitting faster than the company could find clay, so they decided to extend their quarry, which meant redirecting two rivers, trashing old orchards and digging up badger sets. A camp was set up in the summer of '97 to call for a public enquiry, which they got.

Two years later the villagers of Teigngrace have just won the public enquiry! WBB are to pay £100,000 in costs to both the Teigngrace Parish Council and the Devon Wildlife Trust. The land is now in the pipeline to become a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) Nice- One! ps. SchNews would like to note that plans on how to build compost toilets are now available in German from all recommended retail outlets.

## BIG UP BIG BUSINESS

After the collapse of the World Trade Organisation talks in Seattle (see last weeks SchNEWS) the Financial Times has been whinging on that people are increasingly seeing big business in a bad light. So SchNEWS would like to repair some of that damage by reporting on the "Oscar's of the British business world." At the beginning of this festive month Tesco scooped the award, given by Management Today, for the most admired company for a record breaking three consecutive years, while Sir John Browne of BP Amoco won Britain's most admired Chief Executive.

**TESCOS** out of town shopping centres - get 3 green-sites destroyed for the price of 2!

**BP AMOCO** Top-dog polluters of land, sea & air with dodgy connections to the Colombian military

**Runners-up include SchNEWS faves like VODAPHONE** Who backed the Newbury Bypass, then got permission to build a massive new HQ in greenbelt land beside it, after bribing Newbury Council that they'd leave if they didn't get their own way.

**GRANADA GROUP** As the Public Sector Privatisation Unit told SchNEWS "Even though Granada are on the low pay commission, they actually fought hard to keep the minimum wage as low as possible." Cos we all know pay keeps yer profits higher.

**UNILEVER** You might not have heard of these people but they are one of the worlds biggest food and household goods corporations and they've got their dirty little fingers in every pie from tea plantations (they own 20% of the tea-market) to animal testing. They're also big on human rights - which is why they lobbied the World Trade Organisation (remember them?) to get them to overturn a Massachusetts law which refused to award public contracts to companies that do business with Burma.

**ASTRA-ZENeca** We have this lovely company to thank for the first introduction of commercial gm novel foods to Europe, in the form of tomatoe puree.

SchNEWS just can't see why big business are having such a hard time and so would like all our readers to use this the season of goodwill as an opportunity to love thy corporate neighbour and spend, spend, spend making sure they've got enough capital for the next millennium.

\* According to some estimates, the value of City Christmas bonuses could exceed £1 billion to be shared out amongst a few thousand how-do-they-manage-living-on-the-breadline stock-brokers, investment bankers and the like. Again we ask our readers to spare a thought for them this Yuletide.

Or maybe take out a subscription to Corporate Watch magazine, 16b Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG www.corporatewatch.org. Send an SAE for a copy of their resources list with all the dirt on the oil industry, supermarkets, genetics etc.

\*Is somebody taking the piss - this year's American Business Ethics award was on its way to McDonalds when the whistle was blown by an animal rights group that McDonalds mistreat their animals before killing them and sticking them in buns.

Business Ethics magazine reckoned the company deserved the gold-star award for its "excellence in environmental management" such as recycling. (SchNEWS points out, if people ate off proper plates with knives and forks in the first place, then there wouldn't be a problem with recycling.) The magazine added, "We see you as a giant that is trying to step carefully." Pass the recycled sick bag.

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## SchNEWS in brief

French firefighters, some of them wearing gas masks, clashed with police by the Eiffel Tower this week, tearing down protective barriers and throwing stones and bottles injuring 53 coppers. Rather ironically, the police used water cannons on the firefighters who want earlier retirement and their job's officially considered a "risky profession", which would provide them with extra benefits.\*\*

There's a **Winter Solstice Celebration** and Full Moon Party at Catherine's Hill, Twyford Down, Winchester. (Dec 21/22). They need yurts/domes to stay warm and cosy and a Tarmac director for a pagan sacrifice. Bring booze and cake! Tel 01248 75039 email sop04@bangor.ac.uk \*\* **Primal seeds** "exists to challenge corporate domination of the global seed supply." www.primalseeds.org \*\*

**Spiral**, is a new womens centre in an environmentally-welcoming squat at 402 Queensbridge Rd, Dalston E8, free entry. For info 01712542227 or Email: ROSTENKA@Netscapeonline.com \*\*

**Leonard Peltier**, the imprisoned Indian leader who has been languishing in an American jails for the past 23 years has just written a book, 'Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance' published by St. Martin's Press. \*\* A new camp has been set up to defend **Stanton Moor** in the Derbyshire part of the peak district. The site is under threat from a proposed quarry development that recieved planning permission in 1952 - permission that would never be approved if it went up for planning now. The camp has good local support, especially since the quarry company has been threatening villagers with violence, including a local shop for having a stop the quarry petition! Tel 07977748436. HTTP://pages.zoom.co.uk/~nineladies

## NARMADA OFFICES RANSACKED

The Save The Narmada River campaign office in Gujarat, India, has been ransacked, and an activist threatened at knife-point, by pro-dam vigilantes. The campaign is fighting against the destruction of their valley against a series of large dams that is already displacing hundreds of tribal folk from their ancestral land. The issue is sensitive in Gujarat as many people have been duped by the widespread propaganda of the State Government who, needless to say, have vested interests in the proposed Narmada dams.

Six men stormed the building. The one activist in at the time was beaten up, held at gun and knife point, and told to leave Gujarat or face dire consequences. Documents were burnt, the computer was destroyed, and money was stolen. The office has been receiving threatening calls since October, warning the protesters that they will be killed if they do not leave the state.

For an excellent lowdown on the campaign, read For The Greater Common Good by Arandhati Roy.

For more info contact narmadauk@yahoo.com

## Roll-up, Roll-up for yer crimbo pressy Special SchNEWS crimbley-they're-practically-giving-them-away book offer

SchNEWS Round issues 51 - 100 £5 inc. SchNEWS Annual issues 101 - 150 £5 inc. SchNEWS Survival Guide issues 151 - 200 and a whole lot more £6 + £1.20 postage

All three yours for £15 inc. postage. In addition to 50 issues of SchNEWS, each book contains articles, photos, cartoons, a "yellow pages" list of contacts, comedy etc. All the above books are available from the Brighton Peace Centre, saving postage yer tight gits.

## GLEN OF THE COMEDOWNS

Last week, the supreme court rejected an appeal by environmentalists who have been trying to stop the building of a £20million dog carriage-way through the Glen of the Downs.

The Glen is a beautiful broad leaved forest between the Sugar Loaf mountains in north county Wicklow. Wicklow County Council is widening and expanding the Arklow-Dublin road, linking Larne with Paris. The men and machines are bludgeoning miles of oak, beech and hazel, and aim to cut down 2000 trees. The Glen of the Downs was proposed as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by Duchas, the Irish Government's heritage service, and should enjoy the protection of European Law. However, bureaucratic bullshit came to the rescue of the forces of environmental destruction as officials took 4 years too long to send a list of SAC sites to the EU, prompting them to threaten withholding Structural Funds from Ireland.

Eviction of the longest Irish road protest started on 10th December, and despite local ones and people up trees, some trees were felled because there weren't enough people to defend the whole site, so ring the number below and get yourselves down there.

What with roads being a much more eco-friendly method of transport than trains, as part of the National Development Plan, the National Roads Authority received £4.8 billion, while the public train system received nothing. Ireland, long famed for its *unbelievable* traffic jams and congestion caused by the fast pace of modern life, may soon breathe a sigh of relief. According to the National Road Authority, "there will never be another traffic jam in Ireland. Congestion can become an unpleasant memory for the people of Ireland." Just like the trees and habitat they nurture. Directions etc from Dublin Friends of the Earth: 0035 31497 3773/3740 or website www.emc23.tp/glen/news.htm

**Urgent:** Hockley Protest camp in Essex, set up to prevent 66 luxury houses being built on greenbelt land, is being evicted too. People desperately needed. Tel: 08381 717815 for directions and info.

## FOOD GRAB

Last week the Chateau Champlain hotel in Montreal, was invaded by the "Commando-bouffe" who 'reappropriated' buffet food and brought it outside to a 100+ waiting support demo. People then marched along a street chanting slogans, eating and giving food to beggars and street people. The bouffe commented "These food-grab actions are done during the Christmas season, when we hear all this crap about helping the poor and homeless. The poor should just help themselves, which is what they did today."

## ...and finally...

Looking for a Christmas present for a loved one whose feeling all paranoid about their job security. SchNEWS may have just the answer to push them over the edge, and make 'em have a thoroughly miserable Yuletide.

"How to Dismiss Staff" is the catchy title from the Employers Institute that has apparently been selling like hot-pants and has been godsend to some employers already. "We needed to dismiss Tim or face disaster. This book showed us how." This is a practical, step-by-step guide for employers to give their workers the heave-ho quickly and efficiently on issues such as lateness and having a life, without having to cough up unfair dismissal damages.

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to attend any illegal gatherings or take part in any illegal activities. Always stay underneath the mistletoe. In fact just stay in, watch the Queen's speech and go on endless present opening spree filling your lives and homes with endless consumer crap....then you'll feel content. Honest!

# 2:30am, Jan 1, 2000 AD, Newcastle upon Tyne, England

Whilst the official millennium events celebrated UK plc, underground free parties were still deemed unacceptable. Phil Rigby reports from Newcastle on the riot squads new year present to the geordie ravers.

Newcastle is buzzing as thousands of revellers take to the streets to celebrate the dawn of the new millennium. A council organised event on the Quayside has just ended and hundreds of partygoers are looking for where to go next. On the outskirts of town, an 'illegal' rave has been building up to its climax. The venue for this party is an old disused railway workshop, the very building in which Stephenson first built his 'Rocket'. A good 400 people are dancing and partying, everything is fine.

A collective of approximately 25 people had spent the previous 3 days preparing the building to make it safe and usable. Fire exits were available and well marked, fire extinguishers had been bought and placed at every exit, Stewards equipped with torches and walkie-talkies were positioned around the venue. Even safety lighting had been installed especially for the event. There was a first aid team organised and water was freely available, but the police weren't to know any of this.

A patrol car had discovered the party, and called for assistance. A full police riot and crowd control unit was already on standby, and was dispatched to the scene of the 'crime'. AT LEAST 30 police officers with batons and dogs stormed the building, stopped the music, and herded the bewildered dancers off the dancefloor and out into the street.

With a few hundred people now objecting quite strongly to having their New Millennium celebrations ended in such a fashion, the police started to get nervous. When it became clear that some of the party people were going to get 'nasty' by shouting and, in some cases, swearing, the police decided to employ riot control tactics, forming a wall of officers to sweep down the street, with dog handlers in front, driving the crowd down a tunnel underneath the Central Station. This too, was found to be slightly distasteful by the crowd, who objected more strongly than ever. This unwillingness to co-operate now really upset some of the officers in the front line. With adrenaline pumping, they enthusiastically administered some real 'justice' to the closest of the group and set dogs onto the people who were just out of reach. One lucky young girl in her early twenties, about 5ft4inch in height and eight stone in weight, fell on the ground as she tried to run away, and found herself fighting off both the teeth of a psyched-up alsation, and the fists of a 14 stone police officer. The majority of the crowd dispersed quickly now, visibly shocked by the 'style' of policing on display. Several arrests were made, and one person who was dragged off in cuffs (after being arrested for suggesting an officer

was 'way over the top and should pick on someone his own size') now alleges he was assaulted by his arresting officer once taken to the police station. (He wasn't actually charged with an offence.) He is now looking to press charges.

Is this the way to punish people for dancing in an unauthorised venue? Does partying in the wrong place really warrant violence and intimidation? We think not.

The party was organised by a collective called 'Rabble Alliance'. The idea was to have a free alternative to celebrate the New Year without £100 tickets and £4 pints. The rules of the event, clearly on display around the building stated: "Respect the venue and leave it in a better state than you found it. Don't disturb the neighbours. Look after each other. No drug dealing."

Frontline Communique's arrive direct from correspondents and are presented without SQUALL edits.

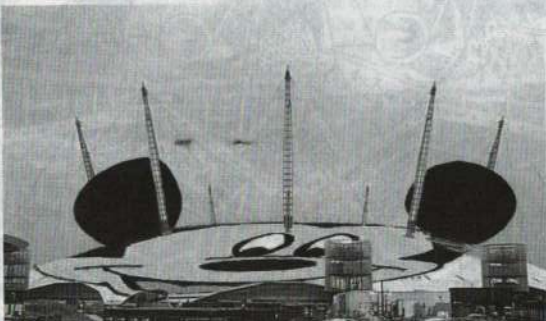
## SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--  
[I Wanna Go Home](#)  
[Underground Update](#)  
[Features](#)  
[Squall Pics](#)

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[The State Its In](#)  
[Quotes](#)  
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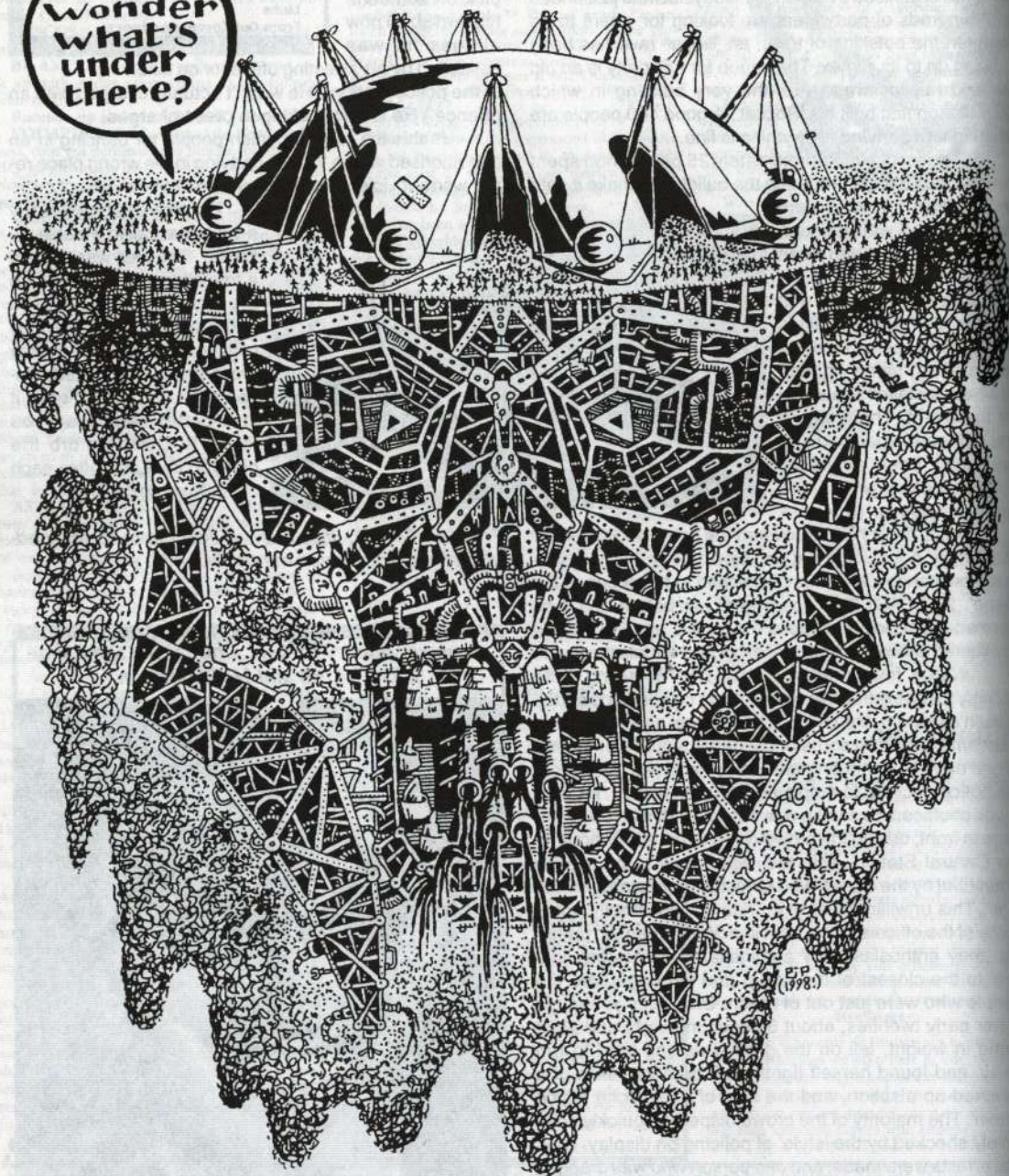
...A power hungry Britain ... but at the same time  
a RUTHLESS and HARD Britain.



Download an animation of this from [www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk)

# AT LAST IT'S 20000!

I  
wonder  
what's  
under  
there?



P.D.  
(1998)



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER TERROR-BILL



Friday 7th January 2000

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

Issue 242 Free/Donation

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?

# STATE OF TERROR

Are you digging a tunnel to prevent a road from being built through your neighbourhood? Have you pulled up a few Genetically modified crops from your local test site? Maybe you spoke at a meeting where a member of the Animal Liberation Front, for example, also spoke? Well I'm afraid to tell you that you are soon to be deemed a **TERRORIST!**

The government are starting to realise that protests are not going away, that people are getting more advanced and organised by using such new technology as telephones and the internet! To combat the outrageous behaviour of people meeting up in public spaces and discussing issues, the government have introduced the glorious, updated, newly improved.... **Terrorism Bill!**

Terrorism, in it's hot off the press state, is now "the use of serious violence against persons or property, or the threat to use such violence to intimidate or coerce the Government, the public or any section of the public for political, religious or ideological ends."

This new Bill, which is being fast-tracked through parliament, is targeting environmental groups, animal rights protestors and anyone who shows a social or moral conscience.

If you intended to destroy GM crops coz they are contaminating your local organic farm, you will have less rights than a person who was involved in deliberate assault and robbery. Basically, you will be classed the same legally as the **lobo nail bomber!**

## FIT THE BILL ?

At present, the only organisations listed are those associated with Northern Ireland. But the Bill gives the police or government the power to add to this list. Reclaim The Streets, Earth First!, Animal Liberation Front have all hit the headlines recently as leading persistent and destructive campaigns against property. By demonising a group, organisation, or sector of a community, you can legitimise a treatment of them that is seen as 'fair punishment' by the general public. This is exactly what happened with Northern Ireland, the coal miners, the anti-poll tax demonstrators, etc.

Under Clause 3 of the new legislation, it will become an offence just to be connected with the new definition of 'terrorists'. If direct action organisations are being targeted as potential terrorists, then it is only a short step to 'proscription'. Once an organisation has been proscribed 'terrorist', it will become a criminal offence to belong to that organisation, to openly support it, or to speak out at a meeting where members of that organisation were also speaking. The Bill

is scare-mongering people against joining organisations, regardless of whether or not they personally take part in criminal activity.

In fact, you won't even have to be directly involved with the organisation. The Incitement clauses of the Bill (clauses 57-59) would make it an offence to support by words alone an armed struggle in a country outside the UK. Those supporting such struggles as the Zapatistas in Mexico, or the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka, will be under investigation.

Under the same clauses, there is a danger that refugees who have fled from repressive regimes to this country will become a legitimate target of the police merely because they support the overthrow of that regime.

CLAUSE 38/39 states that the police will be able to arrest, without a warrant, anyone they reasonably suspect as being a 'terrorist'. You won't have to actually have done anything. The powers of stop and search will be extended to include strip searches without a warrant, and failure to comply will result in a three month sentence.

As well as this, new rights are being given to the armed forces with regards to searching premises if they have reasonable suspicion of the property containing munitions and 'wireless transmitter or scanner'. Does this mean that we could be listening to Pirate Radio Terrorism FM? Or that John Peel and Jimmy Saville were once terrorists in their early radio career days? The wording of the Bill is ambiguous and open to misuse thru' misinterpretation.

Clause 18 states that it will be an offence not to report any knowledge of 'terrorist activity'. This has far-reaching implications for investigative journalists who could face up to five years in jail for not grassing people up.

## HISTORY OF THIS BILL

The Bill is going through its Parliamentary stages at an alarming rate, and looks set to become law sometime this autumn. It will replace both the Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1974, and the Northern Ireland Act of 1973. These two Acts have led to some of the worst human rights abuses in this country over the last 25 years, contributed to miscarriages of justice and have led to the unnecessary detention of thousands of innocent people, mainly Irish. This new Bill blatantly ignores the European Convention of Human Rights.

The original Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act was rushed through Parliament in 1977 in record time - first presented to Parliament on a Wednesday it was law by Friday morning. Not a single Labour MP voted against it.

Despite what the government said at the time, the

PTA was never meant to convict people or prevent bombings - it was introduced to prevent the Irish community in Britain from expressing its support for a united Ireland. Less than 7% of the more than 5,000, mainly Irish, people arrested under the PTA in Britain in its first seven years were charged with any offence at all, although many were detained for days without charge.

The PTA has been widely used to expel innocent Irish people from Britain and prevent Irish republicans from speaking in Britain - In 1982 Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness were both banned from entering Britain to speak. The Act has also been used to remove prominent opposition figures during 'difficult' times for the government - the week before the death of hunger striker Bobby Sands, 30 leading republicans were arrested under the PTA, subject to 'extended detentions', then released without charge.

If you think SchNEWS is getting its knickers in a twist for nothing then here's an example of the PTA working in Ireland.

Bernard O'Connor, a teacher from Enniskillen, was arrested under the PTA in 1977. His first interrogation session in Belfast lasted for over three hours. He was forced to stand on his toes, bend his knees and hold his hands out in front of him and was hit in the face when his heels touched the ground or he lost balance. Every time he denied taking part in bombings and shootings he was hit again. That afternoon, three detectives tried to get him to admit lesser charges to avoid 35 years in jail. Then at night the brutality really started. He was stripped naked, beaten up and forced to do press ups continually. His underpants were placed over his head and he was threatened with being choked. He was then threatened with being handed over to the death squads of the Ulster Volunteer Force. These interrogations continued until he was released without charge on Monday night.

**Want to know more??? \* Liberty**, 21 Tabard Street, London, SE1 4LA. Tel: 0171 403 1904.

**\*discussion list** [ralph@blagged.freemove.co.uk](mailto:ralph@blagged.freemove.co.uk) [www.blagged.freemove.co.uk/law.htm](http://www.blagged.freemove.co.uk/law.htm)

**\*Brighton Against Benefit Cuts** January 11<sup>th</sup>, upstairs at The George Beard Pub, 7:30pm, Gloucester Road, Brighton, to plan for a large gathering on Sat, 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**\* Manchester EF!** Mon 24<sup>th</sup> January, 7:30pm, One World Centre, Manchester. Michelle 0161 442 8635 or Chris 01942 513 792

**\*Cultures of Persistence Squat**, (see in Brief) 13th January, 7:30pm, to discuss a strategy to mobilise against the Bill.

## DEALING IN COMPASSION

Ruth Wyner and John Brock are not heroin dealers. The police admit they have never been involved in dealing. But that didn't stop a judge sending Ruth and John down for 5 and 4 years. Their offence? They supposedly allowed the use and supply of drugs on the premises of Wintercomfort, a drop-in centre for homeless people in Cambridge, (some of whom are drug users). As Director and Assistant Director, Ruth and John had banned people who were suspected of dealing and were monitoring the use of the toilets to try and stop people using drugs there. However, they refused to hand over lists of suspected dealers to the police.

Ruth and John were charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971). Judge Haworth explained, "If the defendants were unwilling to use any reasonable means that were readily available to them to prevent the prohibited activity, then they were permitting the act." Of course, there is a massive gulf between the legal interpretation of 'reasonable means' and the point of view of people providing a service for the homeless. By law, if you fail to close down your project when other measures are ineffective you are permitting the prohibited activity. Also, by law, sharing, swapping or giving constitutes supply, so 2 people sharing a spliff is the same as large scale smack dealing on your premises.

This case has some grim implications for homeless facilities. In fact, this ruling could apply to any institution where some people may use drugs; schools, for example, or pubs and clubs. Will head-teachers risk imprisonment if dealing is found to take place on school premises? The only answer seems to be body-searching people on entrance to homeless centres, and how would you feel if you were searched every time you went home at night? Chances are, you'd stop going home.

This law effectively criminalises all homeless workers who work with drug users. We need some constructive progress such as establishing links between homeless centres and drugs rehab centres; the ruling only serves to further exclude some of the most marginalised people in our society. For an information pack contact Release 0171 729 5255 [www.release-inh.demon.co.uk](http://www.release-inh.demon.co.uk) Letters of support to Ruth Wyner, EH6524 HM Highpoint, Stadishall, Newmarket, Suffolk GB8 9YG & John Brock, 3M 4946, HM Bedford, St Lyses St. MK40 18G.

## BUTTERFLY TOUCHES EARTH

After living in an ancient redwood she called "Luna" for the past two years, Julia "Butterfly" Hill came back to Earth just before Christmas. Julia was part of the Headwaters campaign to stop one of the last remaining redwood forests in America being clearcut (see SchNEWS 195). She came down after reaching an agreement with the company. Her supporters have pledged to pay \$50,000 to Pacific Lumber to make up for lost logging revenue, while the company agreed to spare Hill's redwood and a 2.9-acre buffer zone around it. The company will donate the \$50,000 to Humboldt State University for forestry studies. Well ain't that just swell.

[www.enviroweb.org/headwaters-ef/](http://www.enviroweb.org/headwaters-ef/)

## SchNEWS in brief

The end of an era. The **Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp** has ended. A council approved sculpture will be erected on the site to commemorate 18 years of campaigning for nuclear disarmament. \*\*

SchNEWS readers will be shedding tears over the sacking of Nick Hudson, editor of the **Dover Express**. Unfortunately it wasn't for his paper's continued racist rantings about asylum seekers ("While labour luvvies dribble...we are left with the backdraft of a nation's human sewage and no cash to wash it down the drain") - that didn't earn him the boot but an article attacking Hoverspeed did. \*\* One for yer diary: 'Anonymity: the use of pseudonyms and initials in anarchist discourse and the tyranny of box numbers'. It's part of the regular Friday meetings of the London Anarchist Forum at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London (nearest tube Holborn) 8pm. More details 0181 847 0203 \*\* Support those arrested for the alleged involvement in the **Smash Genetics** action last year, when an AgriEvo maze test site in Lincolnshire was destroyed. Trial begins on 18th January at Lincoln magistrates Court. Contact GEN 0181 374 9516 \*\* Carry on squatting! After 'Cultures of Resistance', they're back with **CULTURES OF PERSISTANCE!** From 10th-16th January 2000 at 168 Tower Bridge Road, London. Including an art exhibition on The City...its drawbacks and some positive solutions. If you want to use the space contact [rachred57@hotmail.com](mailto:rachred57@hotmail.com) or ring 0958 765 151 \*\* **The Earth First! Winter moot** is in Oxford on 28-30th January. More details send SAE to c/o URGENT, Box HN, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RQ email [wintermoot@yahoo.com](mailto:wintermoot@yahoo.com) \*\* Feeling marginalised by the orthodox anarchist left? Well if you're a 'druid, odinist, folk autonomist' or part of the 'hermeticist anarchist underground' then pop along to the **Anarchist Heretics Fair**, they offer a chance to discover the unknown and alternative side of anarchy. For info ring 0181 459 5520 or e-mail [hermet@synarc.freemove.co.uk](mailto:hermet@synarc.freemove.co.uk) \*\* **Bloody Sunday** national demo, Sat 22nd January. Meet 12 noon @ Whitehall Place, London. For info. Tel 0181 4428778, e-mail [1CNwork@aol.co.uk](mailto:1CNwork@aol.co.uk) \*\* Support **Gill Emerson**, come along to Canterbury Crown Court, Chaucer Road at 10am on Thurs 13th January to show your solidarity at the appeal trial. Gill was arrested during the National Front march in Dover last Jan. Fighting fascism is no crime. \*\* **The Haringey Solidarity Group** are having a crisis meeting next Monday (10th) to discuss the future of the group. If you care about it's future get along to the Wood Green Labour Club, Stuart Crescent, N22 8pm

### SCHNEWS TRAINING DAY

Wednesday 12th January 12 noon  
We need people to get involved with SchNEWS so why not make a belated New Year's resolution and help out? Ring office for more details (oh, and we lost all our ansaphone messages over Xmas).  
\* Have you got a spare PC? SchNEWS will give it a loving home.  
\* After helping the homeless for 25 years, the excellent Advisory Service for Squatters are looking for some new recruits. Want to make a difference? Ring 0171 359 8814

## Talking of terrorists...

Sixteen people are up on conspiracy charges after - wait for it, around 50 people entered the Nestle factory in Halifax and climbed on the roof and up a chimney to unfurl banners such as 'People and Planet Before Profit'. The action was in protest at the meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Seattle (see SchNEWS 240), the police reckon it had more to do with a desire to do some burglary. Because you often see burglars in groups of 50 in broad daylight, with banners and leaflets marching into corporate offices. Their next court appearance is on Tuesday 22 February, 2000. Halifax Magistrates Court, Harrison Road, Halifax, 9.30am onwards, and they are asking for people to turn up outside for support. Contact The Nestle 16, 10 Broughton Street, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8JY Tel 01422 844710

\* 'After Seattle - What next?' Meeting Saturday 15th January Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. London WC1 (nearest tube Holborn) 2pm-5pm. Speakers will include Barry Coates, Director of the World Development Movement, and activists from the Nestle action.

## Meeja Ho Massive

Over in the States, corporate media whores ABC NewsOne, CBS Newspath and Fox News Edge have merged their info sources. This means that although the 3 companies will still be competing to forcefeed soundbite bullshit to those canny Yanks, the news they have access to will be essentially the same spin-doctored bollocks.

## ...and finally...

SchNEWS scribe in millenium crap arrest shocked! For proclaiming the end of the world!

This gag didn't go down to well with everyone on New Years Eve at the Golden Gate of Jerusalem. In absence of any doomsday prophets, our man decided to act the part before the eagerly expectant media circus "And when the seven seals are broken open on the day of judgement, and the seven angels blow their trumpets - when the third angel blows her bugle..." (this rant lifted directly from the film Naked - film buffs take note). They say that in comedy timing is everything. Lead balloons go down faster at certain times, and in certain climates. The holy city is one such climate. The international journalists were all beside themselves with joy; the Israeli police less so.

The bendy man was released without charge, but the police did ask why he had a dress, holy bible, half a bottle of vodka and some necro \* cards in his bag.

\* These cards are similar to kidney donor cards except they say 'I support sexual liberation. I want to help others experiment sexually after my death. I request that after my death

A) My body be used for any type of sexual activity B) gay only c) straight only d) I do not wish my body to be dismembered or disfigured during necrophiliac sex (you get the picture)

### disclaimer

Schnews asks what are all the Y2K nutters doing with all their spare time these days? Answers on a postcard not necessary. Honest.

## Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX.

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

# Cambridge Two

**HM Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk 17/02/00**

Ruth Wyner (Director) and John Brock (Manager) were jailed for five and four years respectively in 1999 for failing to tell police that drug dealing was going on in the homeless drop-in centre where they worked. It took police five months of undercover operations, including hidden cameras, to determine the extent of the problem but the judge ruled that, although they were not involved in the drug dealing, Wyner and Brock should have known about it and told police. The staggering sentences meted out to the two social workers has dire implications for UK social workers.

In a short message sent from their cells Wyner and Brock talk of their shock at the sentences and of prison life. The farce of the case was further exacerbated when Ruth Wyner was asked to help with confidential counselling in the prison where she is incarcerated. Her letter to Home Secretary, Jack Straw, follow on from their short messages.

**Prisoner EH6324 Ruth Wyner wrote (17/02/00):**

"The shock subsided after two or three weeks, during which other inmates were very kind, and helped me a lot. It is a sobering situation, one in which you have to use all your strength to stay intact.

An irony for me is that at Highpoint there is a Listeners scheme in which local Samaritans are training inmates to help their fellows to limit the pain of this situation. I have been accepted on the training scheme and during the first session, the importance of complete confidentiality was emphasized. For everything, I venture, even drugs? They insist this has to be so, saying that otherwise Listeners could not gain the trust of those they seek to help. The irony is bittersweet: it was to a considerable extent by upholding confidentiality that I got into this situation in the first place.

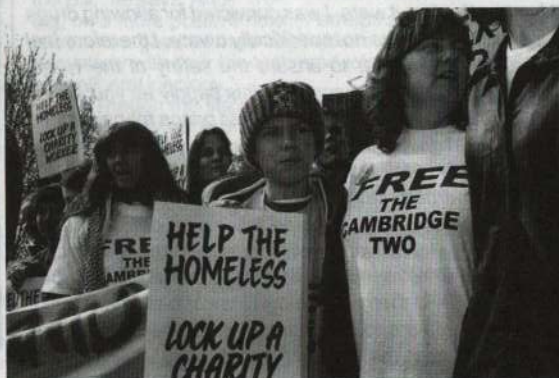
I am enormously proud of my family, overwhelmed, greatly lifted and deeply humbled by the energy and commitment people have given to the campaign and by the many letters and cards I have received. They are a great help. The ongoing support for Wintercomfort is a great joy to me, the staff and volunteers are loyal and dedicated, a wonderful bunch of people. My thanks to all."

**Ruth Wyner EH 6524, HM Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9YG**

**Prisoner EM4946 John Brock wrote in Jan 2000:**

"A brief description of how I feel, what life is like for me at the moment and my thoughts in the case/campaign.

Disbelief at the charge, shock at the Judge's summing up and jury's verdict, devastation at the sentence, depression, fear and bewilderment at being locked in prison.



Missing my wife and family more than I can express.

I am not a natural crusader in righting life's wrongs but more of a reluctant individual thrown into what is rapidly becoming a national issue. I will, however, defend my innocence and vehemently refute suggestions that I or my staff team knowingly turned a blind eye to anything.

I have always been open and honest about the problems and how we tackled them.

Prison life is impossible to describe. Suffice to say that my fellow inmates treat me fairly and those prison officers I have contact with act in a professional and thoughtful manner.

I am truly humbled by the level of support and outrage



**Protestors calling for justice for Cambridge Two, 25th March, London**

expressed by many either directly to me or through the action group."

John Brock EM4946, HM Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9YG

**Ruth Wyner's letter to the Home Secretary 12.2.00:**

Dear Home Secretary,•

I wish to report to you the fact that Class A and B drugs are being supplied at this prison, where I am currently being held, as well as at other prisons.

As Director of the Cambridge charity Wintercomfort, "Number One" as it were, I was convicted for allowing drugs supply of which I was not specifically aware. I therefore feel it is my duty, in order to ensure the safety of the Home secretary, to make you aware of this supply as you are, of course, the "Number One" in regard to prison management.

After all, I do not want to see you doing a 5-year stretch as I am. This is my first offence.

I was charged under Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. At court, my judge directed that my co-defendant and I were guilty if we "were unwilling to use any reasonable means that were readily available ... to prevent the prohibited activity." Furthermore, Judge Haworth directed that if there was a failure to implement these means effectively then the offence was also committed.

These reasonable means included, according to the judge, closure of the project. The failure to adopt such a measure if other measures to stop the activity had failed would, Judge Haworth said, indicate an unwillingness to use a "reasonable" step and as such be evidence of permitting drug supply.

You may also wish to note that in questions to Paul Boateng, M.P. in the House of Commons on 31.1.00 (nos. 164-7 inc.), Peter Bottomley M.P. was informed that in 1999 there were 17,789 positive drug tests in prisons and 13,409 proven cases of unauthorised uses of a controlled drug in prison. Over the same period, 823 visitors were arrested for bringing drugs into prisons.

In my case, Wintercomfort banned those caught dealing or using illicit drugs at its day centre. But there was additional dealing that was caught on a secret police surveillance camera, of which we were not specifically aware.

We were, however, said in court to "know" because we had discussed our concerns about drug use at the project with, among others, the police.

The similarities are striking: the prison service has caught some dealers but clearly not the majority of people dealing on prison premises, visitors or inmates.

Your methods are clearly ineffective. As you live under the same laws as I do, I believe you are liable to arrest. Or would you like me to perform a citizen's arrest on the governor here?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely  
Ruth Wyner

(copies to Anne Campbell MP for Cambridge, Peter Bottomley MP. Shelley & Co, solicitors, Alex Masters, Chairman of the Cambridge 2 Campaign).



**BOCM Pauls**, a company which manufactures more animal feed than any other company in the UK and allegedly uses GM ingredients in most of its products, was targeted by Newcastle-based genetics group GeneNo! for an action on the 14th of December. The company's cattle feed mill at Chilton Industrial Estate, County Durham was 'visited' by a number of cows - two of which scaled two large grain silos and dropped a banner reading "NO GM Animal Feeds".

No one was arrested and later a letter was faxed to the Chief Executive at the Head Office in Ipswich explaining the reasons for the action.

BOCM Pauls is allegedly one of the companies involved in the contaminated animal feed scandal which led to the BSE crisis.



# RAISING TERROR

The Terrorism Bill currently racing through parliament with barely a smatter of mainstream dissent looks set to be one of the most liberty-corrosive pieces of legislation for decades. Si Mitchell examines the implications of Jack Straw's latest attempt to remove the last of our residual rights to protest.

*Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948. - Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.*

*Terrorism Bill 2000. - (1) A person commits an offence if - (a) he collects or makes a record of information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism [as defined by the state], or (b) he possesses a document or record containing information of that kind.*

"Somehow the threat to the stability of the state has given way to threats to the corporate estate. That will be the basis for the new definition of terrorism. That is a desperately dangerous path to go down."

Alan Simpson is one of the few British politicians to be genuinely shaken by Jack Straw's introduction of the most overtly political law and order legislation since Hitler's proscription of the Jews.

The 2000 Terrorism Bill, currently whistling through the House of Commons and likely to be law by Autumn, has generated little in the way of Parliamentary outcry (unlike its 1974 predecessor, The Prevention of Terrorism Act) despite proposing to outlaw various fundamental democratic rights, including the right to possess or pass on information.

The Bill is text book divide and rule stuff that will criminalise dissent and marginalise dissenters by threatening their wider support base with unlimited fines and lengthy jail sentences.

Home Secretary Jack Straw has given terrorism "a more modern definition" to combat "both the current and future terrorist threat". All this and new "special" powers for the police breaching existing British and international law.

## Moving the Goal Posts:

Taking their lead from the popular press, who liberally label anyone not overjoyed with creeping global destruction as eco-terrorists, New Labour have redefined terrorism as: "The use or threat, for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, of action which a) involves serious violence against any person or property, b) endangers the life of any person, or c) creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public.

Simon Hughes MP was a lone voice trying to secure amendments during the Bill's committee stage: "The Bill changes the definition of terrorism as understood by the man or woman in the street." Hughes refers to the Oxford Dictionary description of: "The use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims."

The bones of the new definition are taken from the FBI's own anti terror legislation where property takes precedence over democracy. Both government and big business have made no secret of how much the cost of direct action irks them.

**WEARING AN ITEM OF CLOTHING OR DISPLAYING AN ARTICLE TO AROUSE REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT HE/SHE IS A MEMBER OR SUPPORTER OF A PROSCRIBED ORGANISATION" COULD LEAD TO ARREST AND A TEN YEAR SENTENCE AND UNLIMITED FINE.**

Barrister, Ralph Smyth, currently working at the Council of Europe's Division of Public & International Law, was one of the first to criticise the Bill. "The differentiation between those taking action for moral reasons and those doing so for

naked greed is illogical and shows how the obsession with the invisible hand of the market has clouded the minds of those responsible for the Bill," he says. Adding, on a more positive note: "Perhaps some creative activists could argue that multinationals are endangering the public's safety with their bio-tech products for the advancement of neoliberal ideology."

Though the state and its agents are liable under the domestic provisions of the bill, the chances of a successful prosecution are slim, and they are still exempt for any overseas incitement. Propaganda watcher, Noam Chomsky, explains the guiding principle on how the state defines terrorism: "Their terror is terror, and the flimsiest evidence suffices to denounce it and to exact retribution; our terror, even if far more extreme, is merely statecraft, and therefore does not enter into the discussion of the plague of the modern age [terrorism]."

## Parliament - An act of terror

Straw's own logic may go some way to explaining the proposals. "If we look back over the past 25 years, we can see that the [anti-terrorism] powers have been used proportionately," he says, without reference to the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six or the 98 per cent of people detained under the existing Prevention of Terrorism Act who were innocent of any crime. He claims that there are "adequate non-violent means for expressing opposition and dissent". Smyth points out that the 'life endangering' and 'health and safety' aspects of the Bill could be used to prosecute activists building fortifications at protest sites, that would be seen as posing risks both to themselves and their bailiffs.

However, it is likely that animal rights activists will be the first domestic dissenters to be pursued under the Bill (being closest to what the public perceives as terrorism). The consultation document which preceded this Bill explicitly noted some of the activity which the bill intended to prevent: "Animal and environmental rights activists: high cost of damage from attacks on abattoirs, laboratories, breeders, hunts, butchers, chemists, doctors, vets, furriers, restaurants, supermarkets and other shops."

Not wishing to appear extreme, Straw claimed that the activities of Greenpeace would not be classed as terrorism. However the environmental group's involvement in pulling up GM crops would fall foul of this law.

The authorities' inability to understand non-hierarchical organisation (and their inability to get conspiracy charges to stick) has generated a clause aimed at anyone "directing" an activist organisation. 'Organisation' is defined as any group of people meeting to discuss a potentially 'terrorist' act and 'directing' can be at any level (booking a room? facilitating a meeting?). The maximum sentence is life imprisonment.

**THE MERE THREAT OF BECOMING INCRIMINATED BY ACCEPTING CORRESPONDENCE OR LITERATURE FROM ANY CAMPAIGNING GROUP MAY WELL BE ENOUGH TO MAKE POTENTIAL 'LIBERAL' SUPPORTERS DELIBERATELY AVOID BECOMING INFORMED."**

According to Smyth: "A combination of dirty tricks, provoking of riots and slick media manipulation will be used to divide the radicals from the liberals." Dirty tricks in the form

## 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

of propaganda, damning press articles and incitement, played a major roll in Northern Ireland, against the striking miners and are becoming increasingly prevalent against Reclaim The Streets and anti GM activists. (see RTS press complaint about Sunday Times arms allegation. UNDEGROUND UPDATE)

Under the 'possession for terrorist purposes' and 'collection of information' clauses anyone accused of having information "likely to be useful" to someone preparing a terrorist act will have to prove either they didn't have it or that they had reasonable excuse to possess it. Failing to do so could mean a sentence of ten years. The Corporate Watchers' Address Book or the Genetix Snowball Handbook have been cited, by the Bill's opponents, as prime examples of incriminating literature, and campaigning journalists are likely to be targeted with these clauses. (Journalists will also be hit by the 'duty to disclose information' clause which obliges them to hand over any information they come across in a professional capacity as well as acting as a potential gag, this is likely to make activists less keen to talk to the press, leaving an information vacuum; no doubt to be filled by government spin.)

The mere threat of becoming incriminated by accepting correspondence or literature from any campaigning group may well be enough to make potential 'liberal' supporters deliberately avoid becoming informed. As every despot knows, fear is the greatest censor of ideas.

Straw's desire to "tackle fundraising and support networks" by scaring people away from activities they are entitled to do in a democracy is open to challenge under the 1998 Human Rights Act (HRA). The HRA will incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law. By introducing contradictory legislation, the government may be leaving it up to the judges, who will set the legal precedents, to see which is more important - democracy or control.

Civil rights group, Liberty, have identified several potential violations of the ECHR, including new police powers to arrest on suspicion (the return of the discredited 'sus' laws - exposed as being little more than intimidation and information gathering exercises). The government had also intended to apply for an opt-out (derogation) of the ECHR to be able to hold people without charge for an extended period of seven days, though has since thought better of it. It is the introduction of new police powers that Jack Straw says is the main purpose of the Bill. He claims they are not designed to be used where actions "turn ugly". Though one of the more lasting memories (in the mainstream psyche) surrounding the J18, City of London, protests is the repeated description of 'planned' and 'orchestrated' violence.

Other "special powers" include permission to search without a warrant, where a suspect must then give an explanation for anything found (another reversal of the burden of proof), and the ability to declare a cordon around a designated area for up to 28 days (long enough for an eviction?) and demand anyone inside it to leave.

Once a campaigning group's name has been sufficiently blackened, in the eyes of the public, the Home Secretary will be able to proscribe (ban) them. It would become an offence not only to be a member of a banned group, but to organise or address a meeting, where a member of it speaks. Not only support, but encouraging support (for example saying it should not be banned), would become an offence.

**"IF YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY CAMPAIGN THEY START USING ANTI-TERRORIST POWERS AGAINST, YOU WOULD NOT BE BEING AT ALL PARANOID TO EXPECT A VISIT FROM THE POLICE AND A FREE TRIP DOWN THE STATION."**

Though a Proscribed Organisations Appeal Committee (POAC) will be set up under the Bill, the appeal will only be along the lines of Judicial Review where the legality, but not the merits, of the decision to proscribe can be challenged. The POAC will meet in secret and need not disclose its reasons for dismissing an appeal. You get a hearing. But not a fair hearing.

Under this section of the Bill "wearing an item of clothing or displaying an article to arouse reasonable suspicion that he/she is a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation" could lead to arrest and a ten year sentence and unlimited fine.

If the Home Secretary sees fit to ban the ALF, will everyone in vegan shoes be arrested? If he bans RTS, will all still walkers get collars felt? (Might need the flying squad for that one.) The banning of a hardline Islamic group could lead to some serious compromising of the police's already questionable impartiality.

As the 'terrorism' under the Bill can occur in the UK or overseas, anyone involved in solidarity with movements from abroad may find themselves prosecuted (particularly under pressure from foreign governments that Britain may be trying to keep sweet). Critics are already listing Ghandi, Mandela and Jesus Christ as historical figures you would not have wanted to have been caught supporting. Today, campaigning for the liberation of Tibet may go unpunished. But will backing less 'comfortable' causes such as Palestinians fighting for recognition in the West Bank, or opposing Western sanctions against Libya be as readily overlooked.

Ralph Smyth says: "If you've been involved in any campaign they start using anti-terrorist powers against, you would not be being at all paranoid to expect a visit from the police and a free trip down the station." Though opposition to the Bill is growing, it is unlikely to be blocked or receive significant amendments (several have been proposed including bringing the Bill into line with the ECHR and removing the reverse proof burdens and the references to property). Smyth believes how much they will use this Act will depend on how much society consents to its use. Yet, like the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, it is likely the powers will not be used for some time and then be slowly brought in to play.

Italy has recently reintroduced terrorist legislation from the 1970s against activists, jailing three for sabotaging an Alpine building site for high speed trains (two have subsequently committed suicide, the third got 6 years 8 months). The Italian state prosecutor explained the thinking behind the prosecutions: "It was not so much the nature of their crimes, but for the popular consensus which they create in a potentially explosive situation." Terrorists, it would seem, are those who carry out the will of the people. In Britain the more cynical commentators are suggesting that this Bill has little to do with any potential terrorist threat and more to do with silencing dissenting voices that are beginning to muster some serious support. Blair is still reeling from the embarrassment of going against the wishes of 70 per cent of the population over GM foods.

The final article of the Universal Declaration says that no state can "perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights set forth herein [the Declaration]". Straw says his Bill is "simply protecting democracy". Though the establishment's historians probably won't record it, those that defy the 2000 Terrorism Bill may well go down as the real protectors of democracy.

To keep up to date with the passage of the Bill and opposition to it check:

<http://www.blagged.freeseerve.co.uk/terrorbill/index.htm>

To keep up to date with the passage of the Bill and opposition to it check:

<http://www.blagged.freeseerve.co.uk/terrorbill/index.htm>

Text of UK Government Terrorism Bill -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmbills/063/2000063.htm>

Home Office Terrorism Bill web page:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/oicd/terrbill.htm>

The best way of being kept up to date with the campaign is to subscribe to the email list. You can do this by accessing the web page at -

[http://tb\\_campaign.listbot.com/](http://tb_campaign.listbot.com/)

Liberty - <http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/>

Contact the Home Office to protest against this legislation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/webwork/contact.htm>

FFI on Italian anti terror measures vs activists:

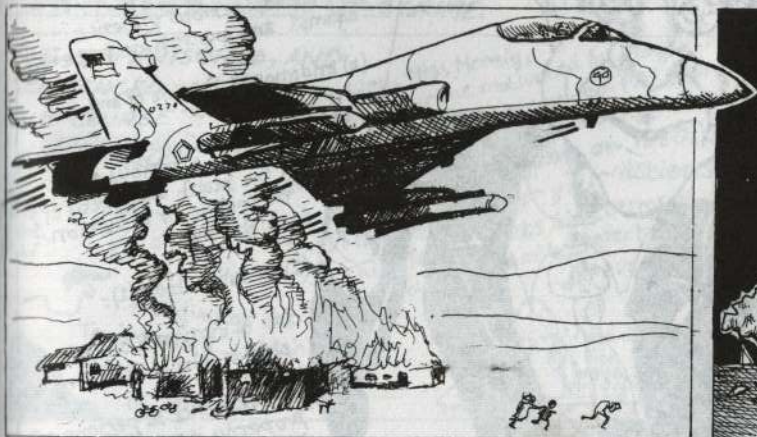
[asilosquat@tiscalinet.it](mailto:asilosquat@tiscalinet.it)

# SOME SIMPLE QUESTIONS

K. EVANS

Mr Straw

ONE OF THESE INSPIRES TERROR IN PEOPLE, MR STRAW, CAN YOU TELL WHICH?



YES OF COURSE! THE ONE ON THE RIGHT IS A TERRORIST.

**TERRORISM ACT 2000: 1 (1)** In this Act "terrorism" means the use, or threat, for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, of action which:

(a) involves serious violence against any person or property.

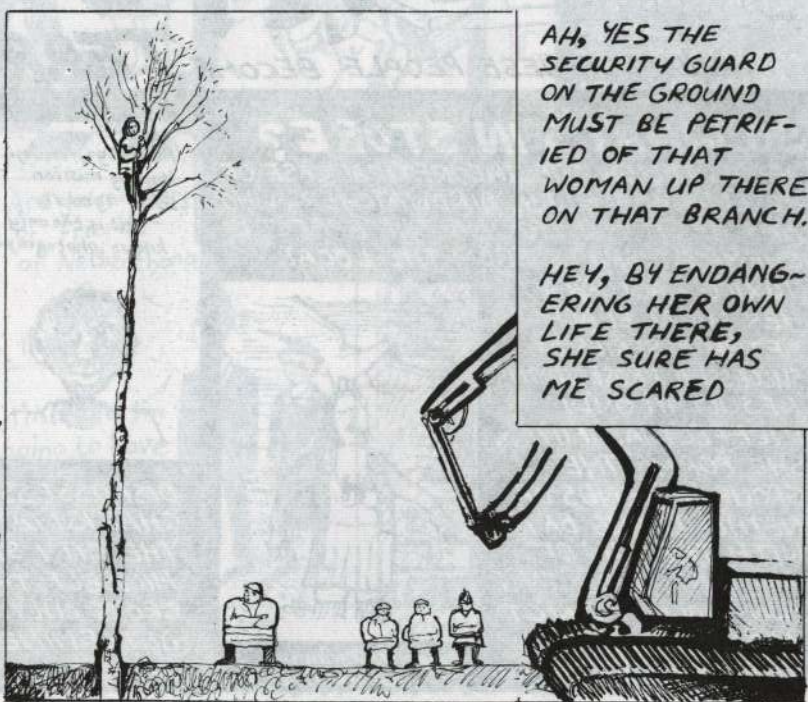
NOW, TAKE YOUR TIME MR STRAW, ONE OF THESE PEOPLE IS SCARED, WHICH ONE COULD IT BE?

HERE'S A CLUE:

**PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT 2000:**

1(1) In this Act "terrorism" means the use, or threat for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, of action which:

(b) endangers the life of any person.



AH, YES THE SECURITY GUARD ON THE GROUND MUST BE PETRIFIED OF THAT WOMAN UP THERE ON THAT BRANCH.

HEY, BY ENDANGERING HER OWN LIFE THERE, SHE SURE HAS ME SCARED

**THE TERRORISM ACT 2000**  
IS EXPRESSLY DESIGNED TO  
INCLUDE PEOPLE WHO  
DON'T ADVOCATE VIOLENCE  
AGAINST ANYONE AND  
WHO DON'T CARRY  
GUNS. IT ALSO  
AFFECTS PEOPLE  
FIGHTING IN OTHER  
COUNTRIES FOR  
THEIR FREEDOM  
FROM OPPRESSIVE  
DICTATORS OR  
GENOCIDAL  
REGIMES

GIVE IT A BIT OF  
POLITICAL  
SPIN

MR  
STRAW...

Clever,  
isnt it?

# **TERRORISM ACT ~ 2000 ~**

1.-(1) In this Act "terrorism"  
means the use or threat, for the  
purpose of advancing a political,  
religious or ideological cause,  
of action which-

(a) involves serious violence  
against any person or property

(b) endangers the life of any  
person, or

(c) creates a serious risk  
to the health and safety of  
the public or a section  
of the public.

(2) In subsection (1)-

(a) "action" includes action  
outside the United Kingdom

(b) a reference to persons or  
property is a reference to  
any person, or to property,  
wherever situated, and

(c) a reference to the public  
includes a reference to the  
public of a country other than  
the United Kingdom



... AND ALL THESE PEOPLE BECOME

# **TERRORISTS!**

## **SO WHAT'S IN STORE?**

LET US FOLLOW THE THEORETICAL CASE OF  
ROSEMARY MORLEY, BIRDWATCHER, WHO  
HAS BEEN MONITORING THE EFFECT OF  
CHEMICAL SPILLS FROM THE LOCAL  
TOXICO FACTORY ON  
HER LOCAL BEACH.  
AFTER A SERIES OF  
SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS  
RESULT IN ONLY  
INEFFECTUAL FINES,  
SHE FORMS THE  
GROUP 'FRIENDS OF  
NETHERTHONG BAY'  
WITH THE AIM OF  
TAKING ACCOUNTABLE  
NON-VIOLENT DIRECT  
ACTION AGAINST  
THE CORPORATION



Rosemary Morley in  
happier times

'Paul' (Ayo) Adedeji  
leaving mission  
School aged 12  
- this is the only  
known photograph



OR, IN A  
DIFFERENT  
LEAGUE ~  
WHAT ABOUT  
AYO ADEDEJI  
WHO HAS SEEN  
HIS TRIBAL  
PEOPLE SUFFER  
ENSLAVEMENT,  
STERILISATION,  
MASSACRE +  
ULTIMATELY  
DISPOSSESSION. WITH HIS  
CHARISMATIC PREACHING ON  
THE CITY STREETS, HE FINDS  
HIMSELF THE LEADER OF A  
CROSS CULTURAL RESISTANCE  
DETERMINED TO FIGHT  
BACK...



ROSEMARY MORLEY SETS OUT LATE ONE NIGHT WITH CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF STEEL MESH AND WATER-PROOF CEMENT... SHE SUCCESSFULLY BLOCKS TOXICO'S OUTFLOW PIPE AND IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONES THE LOCAL POLICE STATION TO INFORM THEM OF THE CRIME.



SHE IS IMPRISONED, AND SENTENCED IN DUE COURSE



...Flooding at the Toxico plant... blah blah  
...damage to the value of £60,000... blah...

Well, Miss Morley, were your crime motivated by simple GREED, REVENGE or misguided PASSION I would be happy to recommend a sentence of weeks. But it appears that you have an IDEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION for your actions. This clearly meets the terms of "serious violence against property" under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and as such I shall sentence you to a much longer term.



I did it for the birds

APPALLED AT THE SEVERITY OF THE DAMAGE (FRESH FROM LUNCH WITH THE TOXICO MANAGING DIRECTOR) THE SECRETARY OF STATE DECIDES TO BAN 'FRIENDS OF NETHERTHONG BAY' AS A TERRORIST ORGANISATION



THE NETHERTHONGIANS MOUNT A LEGAL CHALLENGE, BUT THE MEMBERS OF THE APPEALS COMMISSION (WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE MAJOR TOXICO SHAREHOLDERS) EXCLUDE THEM AND THEIR LAWYERS FROM THE APPEAL HEARING. THE COMMISSION UPHOLDS THE BAN, WITHOUT GIVING A REASON WHY.



EXCLUDE THEM AND THEIR LAWYERS FROM THE APPEAL HEARING. THE COMMISSION UPHOLDS THE BAN, WITHOUT GIVING A REASON WHY.



Are you members of 'Friends of Netherthong Bay'?

Indeed we are.  
I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you all to come with me.



ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE CONVICTED OF "membership offences" AND ARE SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON.

ROSEMARY MORLEY, GUILTY OF "directing" THEIR ACTIVITIES, GETS LIFE.

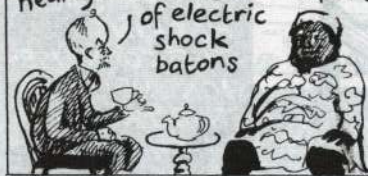
AYO ADEDEJI LIVES FAR AWAY IN A COUNTRY WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ARE COMMONPLACE. THINGS LIKE THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN HERE.

AYO ADEDEJI DIES IN PRISON FROM HIS WOUNDS. HIS WIFE AND SONS ARE SHOT BY MASKED GUNMEN. HIS DAUGHTER FLEES TO ENGLAND WHERE AFTER ONLY 14 MONTHS IN DETENTION, HER CLAIM FOR ASYLUM IS ALLOWED.

DALAPO ADEDEJI VOWS TO CONTINUE HER FATHER'S STRUGGLE.

Goodness, yes. I see that last year your country bought nearly the entire U.K. export

of electric shock batons



**UNFORTUNATELY**  
THE UK GOVERNMENT PROVES UNWILLING TO UPSET THEIR VALUABLE TRADE PARTNER. DALAPO'S ORGANISATION IS BANNED.

We've got some smashing new legislation to deal with things like that. I'll talk to Jack.

See you at the arms fair then?



**Offences Membership. 11:**

- (1) A person commits an offence if he belongs or professes to belong to a proscribed organisation. **(BANNED)**
- (2) It is a defence for a person charged under subsection (1) to **prove**
  - (a) that the organisation was not proscribed on the last... occasion on which he became a member... and
  - (b) that he has not taken part in the activities of the organisation at any time while it was proscribed.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable -
  - (a) ... to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years...

**Directing Terrorist Organisation**  
56. - (1) A person commits an offence if he directs, at any level, the activities of an organisation which is concerned in the commission of acts of terrorism.  
(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on conviction to imprisonment for **life**.

**INTERESTINGLY**

MEMBERSHIP OFFENCES UNDER THE NEW ACT INCLUDE A CLAUSE OF 'NEGATIVE PROOF'. THIS MEANS THAT ALTHOUGH

DALAPO WAS WILLING TO RENOUNCE HER POLITICAL BELIEFS IN ORDER TO AVOID JAIL, SHE WAS IN EFFECT GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT, AND HAD TO PROVE TO THE COURT THAT SHE HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE "TERRORIST" ORGANISATION. SHE FAILED.

**WHAT!** THE HOME SECRETARY CAN'T JUST  
IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE LIKE THAT! **SILENCE**

SYMPATHISERS ORGANISE A MEETING IN SUPPORT...

(SATURDAY, 7.30 PM:)

# REMEMBER

DALAPO ADEDEJI  
+ THE NETHERTHONG 5

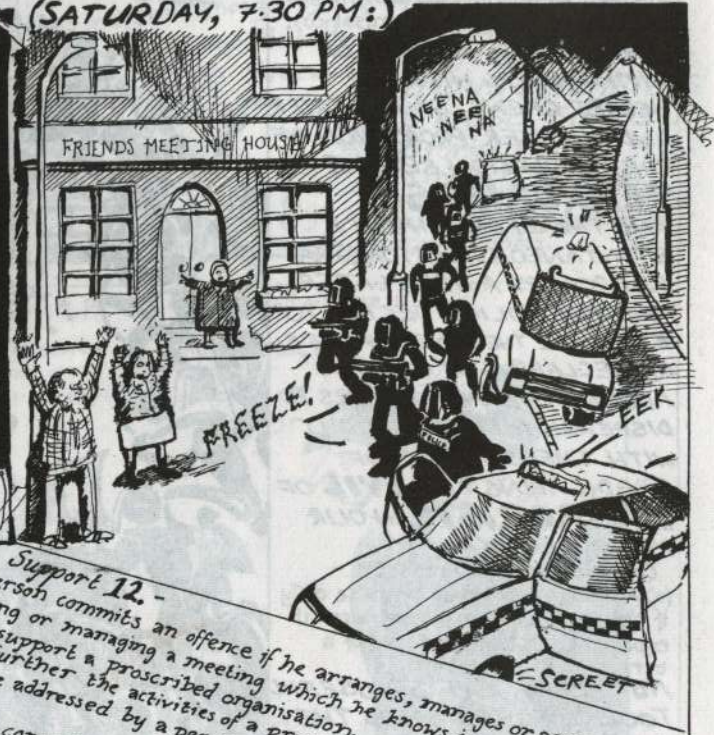
# MEETING

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30pm  
Friends Meeting House

Speakers include:

Rose Travail from  
Netherthong Bay

Dr Russell Hout  
from Civil  
Liberties UK



...AND ARE  
PROMPTLY ARREST-  
ED FOR CONTRA-

VENING SECTION  
12 OF THE T.A.  
TUT TUT,  
MS TRAVAIL IS  
CLEARLY

GUILTY OF  
SUPPORTING/  
HER FELLOW-  
RESIDENTS,

WHILE OR HOUT BLATANTLY  
INTENDED TO SPEAK AT THE  
SAME MEETING, MRS POSTLETHWAITE

(2) A person can arrange to support 12.

(a) to support or manage a meeting which he knows is -  
(b) to further the activities of a proscribed organisation,  
(c) to be addressed by a person who is proscribed or

...of his offence if he addresses a meeting and-  
knows the meeting is to be addressed by a person  
guilty of an offence... belongs... to a proscribed organisation.  
...organisation...  
...conviction...  
...son guilty of an offence...  
...conviction...  
...son guilty of an offence...  
...conviction...

... to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years... person who belongs... to a proscribed organisation... or

ED THE HALL, AND HER DOWNS  
ANDROME SON JOHNNY TOOK THE  
MONEY ON THE DOOR.

I don't know much about the PTA, we've been reading about it in the paper. It's so weird. Why don't we go down to the pub + talk about it ~ or you could

but I  
Dalapo Ade  
unfair what hap  
to her.

in subsections (2) and (3) "meeting" means a meeting of persons, whether or not the public are admitted.

persons, whether or not the persons are



**NOW, GIVEN THAT:**

1. (3) In this Act... action taken for the purposes of terrorism includes ... action taken for the benefit of a proscribed [banned] organisation.

~SO, AS THE NUMBER OF SYMPATHISERS WITH OUR HEROES GROWS, SO A GREATER AND GREATER PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION BECOME **TERRORISTS.**

AND THEREFORE, WHEN A SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION OCCURS A WEEK LATER, AND THE POLICE DECIDE TO EXERCISE THEIR NEW POWER OF DECLARING A 'CORDON' AROUND THE PROTESTORS TO DISPERSE THEM, THEY DO IT WITH THE SOLE AIM OF ERADICATING THE **EVIL OF TERRORISM** IN OUR MIDST. LOOK~

**Cordons Cordoned Areas. 33.-**

(2) A designation may be made only if the person making it considers it expedient for the purposes of a terrorist investigation.

**NOT BECAUSE IT'S A USEFUL TOOL FOR SUPPRESSING THE RIGHT TO FREE ASSEMBLY. NOT THAT, AT ALL.**

33.- (4) ...the demarcation of the cordoned area [shall be made]

- (a) by means of tape marked with the word "police"; or
- (b) in such other manner as a constable considers appropriate.

**Police powers 36.-** (1) A constable in uniform may-

- (a) order a person in a cordoned area to leave it immediately;
- (b) order a person to leave premises which are wholly or partly in or adjacent to a cordoned area;

**BLAH BLAH...** Removal of a vehicle ... movement of a vehicle... prohibit or restrict access to a cordoned area by pedestrians or vehicles...

(2) A person commits an offence if he fails to comply with an order...

**BLAH BLAH (4)...** liable on summary conviction to-

- (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months...

**AND HERE'S THAT NEGATIVE PROOF CLAUSE AGAIN:**

- (3) It is a defence for a person charged ... to **prove** he had reasonable excuse for his failure [to comply]

**LOVELY!**



THE FRIENDS OF  
NETHERTHONG BAY  
CONTINUES TO  
FUNCTION IN ORDER  
TO PAY COURT COSTS,  
PROVIDE PRISONER  
SUPPORT AND,  
UNWISELY, IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH  
ROSEMARY MORLEY'S  
STATEMENT FROM  
HER PRISON CELL...



...SILLY REALLY  
BECAUSE SECTIONS  
14 + 15 OF THE T.A.  
HAVE SOMETHING  
TO SAY ABOUT  
BANNED ORGANIS-  
ATIONS ATTEMPTING  
TO RAISE FUNDS...

Terrorist Property 14 (1)  
In this Act "terrorist  
property" includes any  
resources of a proscribed  
organisation...

Offences Fundraising. 15. (1) A person commits an offence if he -

(a) invites another  
to provide money  
or... property

(2)(a) receives  
money or  
other property

(3)(a) provides  
money or  
other  
property...

Help  
save  
the  
seagulls.



AND SO THE EARLY SUPERMARKET COLLECTIONS WERE RATHER UNSUCCESSFUL

SECTIONS 17 + 18 CRIMINAL-  
ISE MORE SECRETIVE  
ARRANGEMENTS TOO.

Funding Arrangements. 17. A  
person commits an offence if he  
... enters into... an arrangement  
... YAWN and money or other  
property is made available...  
Money Laundering. 18...  
YAWN YAWN BLAH... conceal-  
ment... transfer to nominees,  
or (d)... any other way

AND THEN SECTION 16  
GIVES THE WHOLE FUNDS/  
PROPERTY THING A  
NICE CATCH-ALL:

Possession 16. (2) A person  
commits an offence if he -  
(a) possesses money or other  
property, and  
(b) intends that it should  
be used... for the  
purposes of terrorism.

5 YEARS  
IN JAIL



but I'm  
a bit skint  
at the  
moment.

NO LONGER LIABLE  
TO 5 YEARS IN JAIL

Maybe when  
my student  
loan comes  
through.



NOW CHECK OUT  
THE DEFINITION  
OF "PROPERTY"  
GIVEN IN  
SECTION 120  
OF THE ACT:

120. "property"  
includes property  
wherever situated  
and whether  
real or personal,  
heritable or  
moveable, and  
things in action  
and other intang-  
ible or incorporeal  
property.

SUDDENLY  
EVERYTHING  
TO DO WITH THE  
NETHERTHONGIANS  
AND THE ADEJEJI  
CAMPAIGN BECOMES  
INCREDIBLY  
HOT.

**BUT THAT'S NOT THE NASTY BIT. THIS IS THE NASTY BIT.**

**YOU WHAT?**

**WHAT?**

**!!??!**

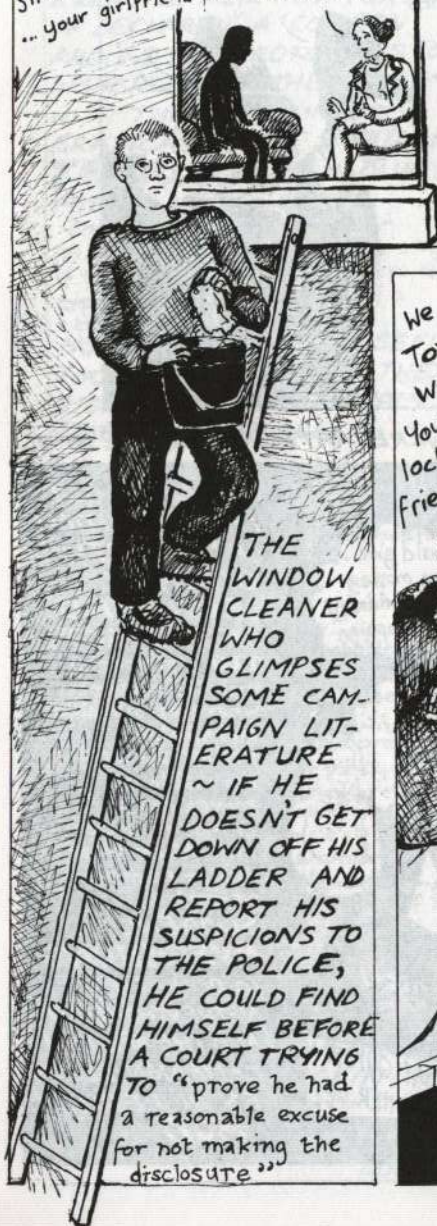
**Disclosure of Information: duty. 19.** (1) This section applies where a person (a) believes or suspects that another person has committed an offence under any of sections 15 to 18 [OWNING SOMETHING WITH TERRORIST INTENT] and (b) bases his belief or suspicion on information which comes to his attention in the course of a trade, business, profession or employment (2) The person commits an offence if he **does not** disclose to a constable as soon as is reasonably practicable - (a) his belief or suspicion, and (b) the information on which it is based.

**IN THIS COUNTRY, IN YOUR LIFETIME, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO NOT SHOP SOMEONE TO THE POLICE. ONLY LAWYERS ARE EXEMPT.**

So Dalapo's family were tortured...  
Shot... now you're followed by police  
... your girlfriend was arrested...

**THE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST CONCERNED WITH MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE - HOW CAN SHE MEET ADEDEJI'S SUPPORTERS WITHOUT BEING AWARE THAT THEY OWN SOME FORM OF PROPERTY?**

...He drove a blue Fiesta. I think he mentioned having a fax machine. Here's his mobile phone number. I'd definitely recognise him again...



We don't like Toxico~do we Daddy? You said they locked up your friend Rosemary

**TOXICO!**  
NO-ONE CARES MORE FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT. TOGETHER WE'LL BUILD A BRIGHT SHINING FUTURE FULL OF SMILING MIDDLE-INCOME CHILDREN AND LOVABLE FLUFFY DOMESTIC ANIMALS.



BUT STILL RANDOM, SPORADIC ATTACKS OCCUR ON TOXICO INSTALLATIONS.  
ABROAD, THE ADEDEJI RESISTANCE MOVEMENT GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

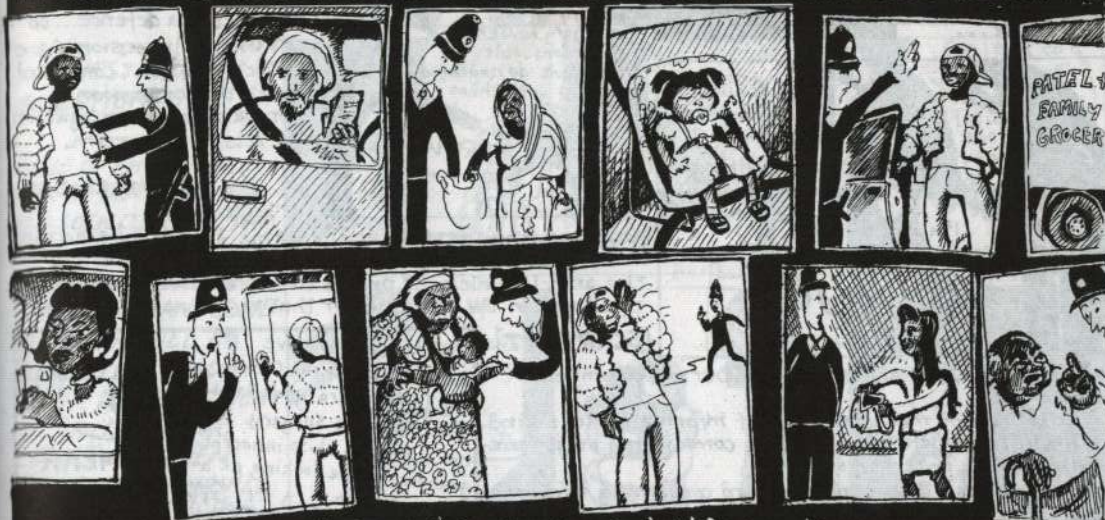
# TERRORISTS COULD BE ANYWHERE

SOME ARE EASY TO SPOT:



- 13.- (1) A person in a public place commits an offence if he  
(a) wears an item of clothing or,  
(b) wears, carries or displays an article, in such a way or circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that he is a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation.  
(3)... imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months  
**SERIOUSLY, THIS REALLY IS U.K. LAW.**

BUT ONCE THESE FOOLHARDY TYPES HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP, THE POLICE REALLY HAVE TO EXTEND THEIR POWERS. THE ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE OF WEST YORKSHIRE DECLARES A STOP + SEARCH AREA AROUND NETHERTHONG BAY, WHERE COPS ARE AUTHORISED TO SEARCH VEHICLES, DRIVERS PASSENGERS, PEDESTRIANS + ANYTHING THEY ARE CARRYING (SECTION 42)



OK - let's see who we stopped this week.  
My God man! Do any of these look particularly like environmental activists to you? It's OK  
Let's hope the CRE don't hear about this! Sarge, - we're covered.

**Exercise of power 45.** - (1) The power conferred by an authorisation under section 42(1) or (2)  
(a) may be exercised only for the purpose of searching for articles of a kind which could be used in connection with terrorism and  
(b) may be exercised whether or not the constable has grounds for suspecting the presence of articles of that kind.

NOW IT'S TIME  
FOR THE POLICE  
TO USE MORE  
NEW POWERS TO  
AMASS LOW LEVEL  
INTELLIGENCE  
ON THE ENTIRE  
UK POPULATION



THIS IS WHERE YOU SHOULD GET WORRIED.  
BASICALLY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF  
A BANNED ORGANISATION FOR THE POLICE TO  
INVESTIGATE YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE  
COMMITTED ANY CRIMINAL OFFENCE, OR INTEND  
TO. THE POLICE CAN INVESTIGATE ANYWAY,  
IN CASE YOU **MIGHT** BE DOING SOMETHING  
THAT **SHOULD** BE BANNED.

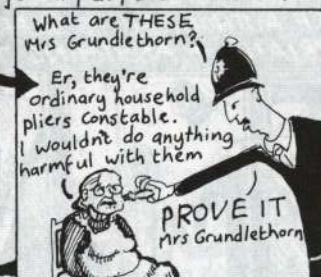
[THIS IS SECTION 32 IF YOU WANT TO LOOK IT UP ~ ALL THESE QUOTES ARE GETTING BORING]



AND IF THEY  
REALLY WANT TO  
DIG THE DIRT,  
THEY CAN COME  
INTO YOUR HOME  
TO FIND SOMETHING  
TO ARREST YOU FOR...



... ANYTHING THAT COULD BE USED BY A TERRORIST!  
Possession for Terrorist Purposes. 57 - (1) A person commits an offence if he possesses an article in circumstances which give rise to a reasonable suspicion that his possession is for a purpose connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism...



... (2) It is a defence... to prove his possession of the article was not... connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

(3)... If it is proved that an article -

(a) was on any premises at the same time as the accused... the court may assume that the accused possessed the article, unless he proves that he did not know of its presence on the premises or that he had no control over it.



[SCARY BIT]

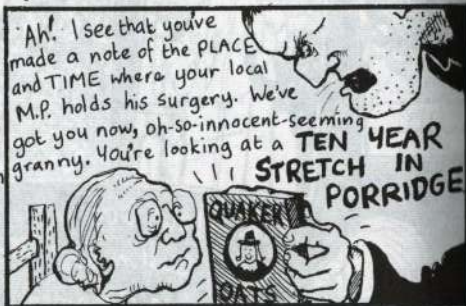
Collection of Information. 58 - (1) A person commits an offence if -  
(a) he collects or makes a record of information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism; or  
(b) he possesses a document or record containing information of that kind.

SO ~

YOU MAY NOT ADVOCATE ANY KIND OF  
IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED ACTIVISM. YOU MAY  
NOT LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO DO...

BUT DO YOU POSSESS INFORMATION THAT A TERRORIST MIGHT FIND USEFUL?  
A PHONE BOOK? AN ELECTRONICS MANUAL?  
A GUIDE TO LAW, OR HUMAN RIGHTS?

HANG ON!  
WHAT ABOUT  
THIS CARTOON!?  
WHAT ABOUT  
THAT THEN?  
HUH?! HUH?



BLAM.

[Unfortunately this cartoon appears to have exploded under the pressure of its own paranoia]

DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T HAPPEN LIKE THAT. THE GOVERNMENT WON'T IMMEDIATELY BAN EVERY POLITICAL ACTIVIST WHO DAMAGES PROPERTY. THAT WOULD RISK A HUGE BACKLASH. IT'S O.K., THE SECRETARY OF STATE WON'T BAN ANY GROUPS AT ALL, UNTIL HE WANTS TO...

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE MASTER CONTROLLER: PO-LI-TI-SHAN IN DE AREA!



Let me hear you say "yeah"!

AND THEN PEOPLE WILL BE ARRESTED, AND THEY WILL BE HELD WITHOUT CHARGE, QUESTIONED, HELD FOR **SEVEN DAYS** WITHOUT CHARGE...



it may harm your defence if you do not mention something that



...MEASURED (BY FORCE), PHOTOGRAPHED (BY FORCE), SWABBED, SAMPLED, FINGER-PRINTED, (BY FORCE)



... QUESTIONED, QUESTIONED...

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE DENIED ACCESS TO A SOLICITOR FOR TWO DAYS\*, AND NO-ONE WILL BE INFORMED WHERE THEY ARE.\* AND SOME CHILDREN WILL BE ARRESTED, AND THEIR PARENTS WON'T BE TOLD FOR TWO DAYS\*, AND THEN SOMETIMES THEY'LL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO SEE EACH OTHER

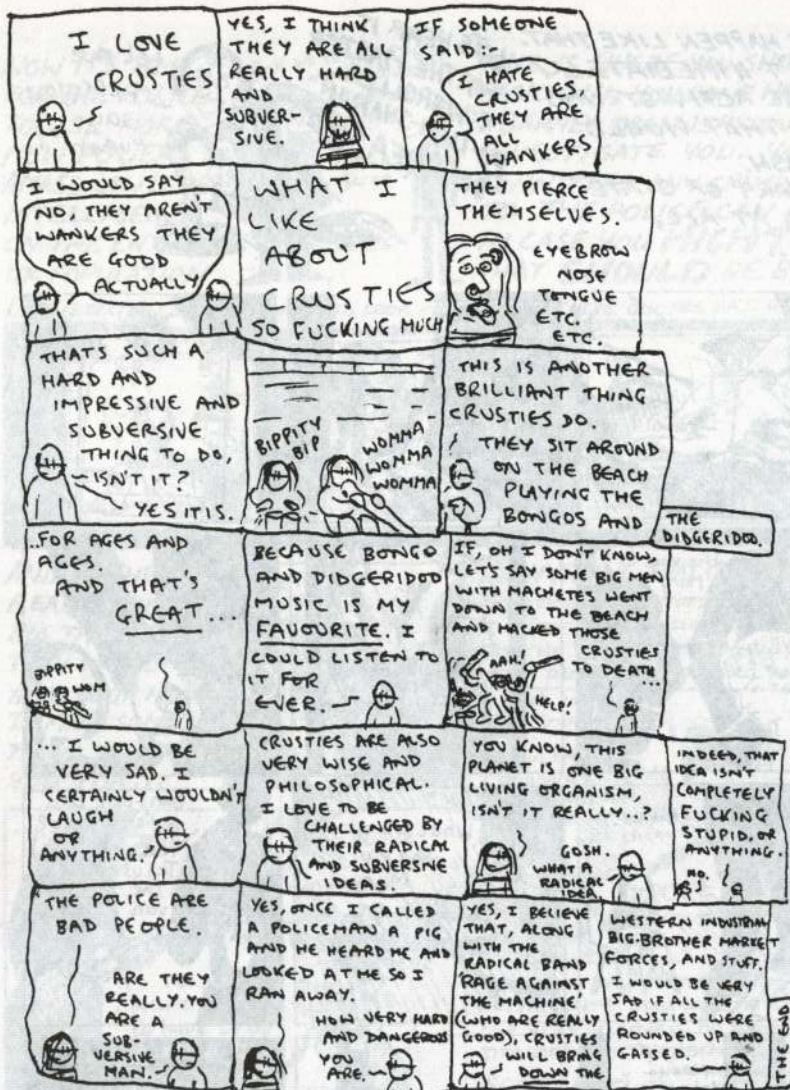


\*in the presence of a uniformed officer not below the rank of Inspector. [Schedule 8.19.(1)]

\* Schedule 8.19-(3) [when] it is in the interests of the investigation or prevention of crime, or of the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of offenders

MR STRAW, I DON'T CARE IF SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICER DECIDES THAT IT'S IN THE INTERESTS OF CRIME PREVENTION, I DON'T SEE HOW YOU CAN JUSTIFY THAT.

IF A PERSON COMMITS MURDER OR CRIMINAL DAMAGE, MR STRAW, THE ORDINARY CRIMINAL LAW CAN DEAL WITH IT. SO WHY CREATE ADDITIONAL OFFENCES, OF SPEAKING, THINKING (INTENT), POSSESSING INFORMATION, WEARING CLOTHES? YOU'VE ACQUIRED THE POWER TO CRUSH POLITICAL DISSENT MR STRAW. WHY DO YOU NEED IT? SHOULD I TRUST YOU NOT TO MISUSE IT? THIS MAKES ME SCARED, MR STRAW. IT MAKES ME TERRIFIED.



Translated from Cantonese:

Did you know that these shoes sell in America for more money than my house cost?

What a rip-off eh. They're CRAP!!



John Hodge

# Realwar™

30mm SCALE MODEL FIGURES

THE ULTIMATE IN SUPER-REAL HIGH DETAIL PLASTIC MILITARY REPLICAS

COLLECT THE FULL SET!

## SQUOTES

"The North American Free Trade Agreement and other regional trade pacts, together with the General Agreement on Tariffs and trade, should give us additional opportunities for profitable geographic expansion."

-Philip Morris Annual Report 1993



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER ARBEIT MACHT FREIHEIT !

# SchNEWS

**FUCK ALL**  
FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

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<http://www.schnews.org.uk/> Issue 243 Free/Donation

## WELCOME TO THE PROFIT ZONE

"Of course there is some commercial return, our shareholders would be unhappy if we ran this as a voluntary programme"

Kevin Faulkner, company secretary Manpower Services UK

"If you're over 25 and have been signing on for the past 2 years in Brighton you're no longer covered by the welfare state"

Public Commercial Union (PCU) rep.

Blink and you might have missed it, but come April three private companies will be running parts of the UK's Employment Service. If you live in Brighton, Plymouth, Southwark, Brent, Glasgow, Tower Hamlets (Working Links), Haringey, Newham, Liverpool, Sefton (Reed) or Birmingham (Peritemps), are over 25 and have been signing on for at least a year \* then welcome to the "employment zone."

In Brighton a 'new' company called Working Links – made up of the Employment Service, Ernst and Young and Manpower Services will be running the zone. SchNEWS spoke to a member of the Job Centre's Union PCS to ask just what all this zone business was about.

"Employment Zones are a good idea in theory – all these different pots of money for training, dole etc will be put in one lump to say ok what do you want to do with it – with less emphasis on getting a crap job and more on decent training. However, it soon became apparent that that wasn't actually what was going to happen. Advisers will be the ones who make decisions on how a client's pot of money is spent."

And these private companies are in it for profit. Decent training costs a lot of money while forcing someone into a crap, unsubsidised job costs nothing. And if the company can find you a job, it gets to keep the pot of money. Your client adviser will also have all the powers under the Job Seekers Allowance to force people into any job. Refuse a job and your benefits will be stopped.

"Look what's happened with the New Deal in Hackney which Reed have been running. Their results have been very poor but despite that they're getting more and more work. Manpower are in it for the money – what else are they there for? All this bollocks about a new way forward, a lot more flexibility for the unemployed, it's exactly what Reed said, and it didn't happen. It's just been like a cattle ranch there with people being sent to any old crap job."

Manpower have been sniffing around the

job centres for years, and now their dreams have come true. As the PCS rep told SchNEWS "It's basically privatisation. A foot in the door for private companies who will no doubt want to expand into other areas of the employment service."

\* varies in each area

### ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.

**MANPOWER** is now the largest employer in the world, finding people 1.4 million temporary jobs in 1997, and their last annual report revealed earnings of \$10.5 billion worldwide. It already has a New Deal contract in Wales, where it came a stunning eighth out of 11 in the area for getting people into work. It has also earned itself lots of brownie points from the government by sponsoring the 'work-zone' in the Millennium Dome. Manpower had the job of recruiting strike-breakers when British Airways was facing strikes in 1997.

They are also the biggest employers of call centre staff in the UK - 25,000.

One disgruntled ex-employee told SchNEWS "Manpower is like an employment corporate cattle market for companies like BT. Labour is cheap, flexible and temporary - with no employment or union rights. Manpower have an office in every BT call centre in the country, and re-cycle staff on a week by week basis. Every week there is a new batch of automated voice robots for BT's telephone networks. Talk about job insecurity – I've seen Manpower staff thrown out of the building for arriving at work five minutes late, accidentally cutting a customer off, or phoning in sick."

**ERNST AND YOUNG** are an accountancy firm that did a report on privatising the Employment Service. Hey presto – they become part of the 'team' that is getting work from privatisation!

**REED** Their boss is Alec Reed who likes to bung New Labour the odd £100,000, which is loose change when your family fortune is around £50 million. The firm have demonstrated the power of profit-led solutions by coming up with the country's fourth worst rate (19.6%) for getting "new dealers"

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For throwing a piece of mud

Andy Wasley received a three month sentence for violent disorder last November for the dangerous crime of throwing mud! He was arrested after a demo at Hillgrove Farm, breeders of hundreds of cats for experimentation, which has now closed down.

The Chief Constable of Oxfordshire had complained to the Lord Chancellor that not enough people were receiving custodial sentences, and so Andy began a three month sentence at HMP Birmingham, even though the only evidence of this crime was some video footage of him bending down! He's since been released on the tagging system

\* Now that Hillgrove's gone, let's help Shamrock Farm monkey prison go the same way. National demo Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January, ring 07020 936956 for transport.

from welfare to work. Reed did create one job, however, for Labour's Lord Tom Sawyer who got on the board of Reed Executive.

**PERITEMPS** meanwhile recently had their wrists slapped by the Advertising Standards Authority and had to change its brochure in which it claimed to be "the acknowledged market leader in both the temporary and permanent employment sectors...and the largest independent in the country." Peritemps is only the 11<sup>th</sup> largest employment agency by turnover, and only 5 per cent of this is generated by getting people permanent jobs.

\* The audit commission recently revealed that 383 councillors and officials have been caught fiddling the housing benefit system, getting away with an average of £2,200 in fraudulent claims!

\* The minimum 'how-the-bloody-hell-are-you-meant-to-live-on-that' wage is set to stay at the penny-pinching rate of £3.60 an hour for at least another year.

\* Scruffy job-seekers who refuse to get their dirty little fingers out and take jobs will face losing benefit, the government announced this week. It's all part of the New Deal ten point plan to clamp down on the hardcore of the long-term unemployed. The ten points include literacy and numeracy tests, compulsory two week presentation lessons 'to ensure young jobseekers can present themselves well to employers', and job coaches (?). The overhaul, on the second anniversary of New Deal, follows complaints from employers that 'a lack of basic skills and a negative attitude in job interviews' is holding people back.

**Brighton Against Benefit Cuts** produce a bi-monthly newsletter, 'Where's My Giro?' available for an SAE from 4 Crestway Parade, Hollingdean, Brighton, BN1 7BL [www.muwc.demon.co.uk/](http://www.muwc.demon.co.uk/)

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## EXTERMINATE!

'The World Economic Forum is an independent, impartial, non profit foundation which acts in the spirit of entrepreneurship in the global public interest to further public interest to further economic growth and social progress'. World Economic Forum.

Yet again, unaccountable, un-elected, representatives from the corporate world of industry, political leaders, media moguls, and academics will sit behind closed doors to discuss the future of the global economy and the fate of the planet and it's people, in what has been coined, 'The Summit of Summits'.

The 30th meeting of the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) will be held from January 27th to February 1st, in the winter resort of Davos, Switzerland. The 2,000 self-proclaimed 'Global Leaders' have chosen the theme for this meeting as 'New Beginnings: Making a Difference', or in laymans terms, 'New Exploitations: Making a Profit'.

When it was founded in 1971, the WEF was just a boring old management seminar. Now it has become one of the most important "think tanks" of the global economy. After the failure of the Millennium Round in Seattle (SchNEWS 240) the meeting in Davos will have a special significance. The WEF could once again come to the rescue. In the eighties, WEF provided the backbone to the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the nasty negotiations that led to the founding of the World Trade Organization, the global institution we all love to hate!

The WEF web-site boasts: 'We are moving from a world of territorial states to a world of different layers of authority... The Foundation Members of the World Economic Forum are the 1000 foremost global companies in the world today... One of our new "initiatives" is the Centre for the Global Agenda. This new orientation also encompasses our Centre for Regional Strategies, which will provide our members with privileged opportunities to have an impact on policy making in the worlds most important regions'.

But is this not just another arm of corporate control, bypassing and over-riding existing legislation and policies that often have an environmental, ecological and generally humane backbone, to make way for bigger corporate profits?

Demos are planned for the 29th January. Meet Davos train station 3 pm. Check out the WEF web-site [www.weforum.org/](http://www.weforum.org/)

## DANCING AT FESTIVAL HORROR

Shane Collins, last years May Day pro-cannabis carnival organiser at Clapham Common, has been summoned to appear in court for the most hideous of crimes, having too much fun. Apparently 30-40 people out of 15,000 were dancing without a license-BASTARDS! Despite no complaints from the local residents, Lambeth Council have decided to bring this undesirable to justice. Shane is to appear at Balham Magistrates on Thursday 20th January 1pm 217 Balham High Rd, SW17. He could face a fine of £20,000 or 6 months inside. For further info ring 0181-671-5936

## Remember Jill Phipps?

Jill Phipps was killed on 1st February 1995, crushed to death by a lorry carrying veal calves to Coventry airport. She was part of the campaign to stop the live export trade, in which week old calves are exported to France or Holland where they are reared in the appalling conditions necessary to produce white veal. There's a vigil to remember Jill on Sunday 30th January. Meet outside M Yates & Sons, opposite Manor Inn pub, Fridythorpe on the A166 York to Bridlington Road. Tel 01482 899580

## Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX.

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

## SchNEWS in brief

Keith Campbell one of the creators of "Dolly the sheep" is giving an illustrated talk at the Gardner Arts Centre, University of Sussex on Monday the 24 January at 7pm, touting his book "The Second Creation". \*\* Cornerhouse have a new pamphlet out entitled "How not to Reduce Plutonium Stocks" full of all the info you need on the dangers of nuclear reactors. Available from PO Box 3137, Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1YJ. \*\* Foxhunters everywhere may be set to hang up their red coats and don green ones in a move that they believe will make them less objectionable to the general public! \*\* The Hull Schnews fan club tells us that there is a new autonomous centre called MA-FIA, standing for Music, Arts, Food, Info and Action. Find them at the Old Balti House on Springbank or contact Hull Mafia @hotmail.com. \*\* More good news from Dover! Nick Hudson, editor of the Dover Express has not only been sacked, but also slapped! Apparently Nick got involved in a heated debate at a party as to whether racists should be allowed to dance to reggae music! \*\* There's an all London march against racist police frame-up and murder on Saturday 22nd January. Meet 12 noon at Wood Green Common (Wood Green tube) then march to Tottenham Police Station. \*\* After the Seattle hangover, there will be a public meeting with videos and speakers on Thurs 3rd Feb at 8pm at St Stephens Church Hall, Chessingham Road, Lewisham. \*\* Oh vicious Zapatistas! Members of the revolutionary Mexican Zapatista Air Force, have attacked the Federal Army Encampment with paper aeroplanes carrying messages such as "Soldiers, we know that poverty has made you sell your lives and souls." \*\* Pedal powered PAs, children's pedal generators and recycled computer parts will be on display at the Campaign for Real Events, 4th Pedal Power Convention, Sunday 30th January 12.00 till 6pm R.I.S.C. 35-39 London Street Reading, Cafe Open - and it's free. \*\* Don't scoff yer budgies! The State Duma of Russia, the lower house of Parliament, has passed an animal rights Bill banning people from eating their pets. Their children have no such protection.

## CAMP CALL OUT

People are needed to defend mature oak trees and network of tunnels at Gorse wood, near Chelmsford, Essex, threatened by the building a six lane bypass, 800 houses and a golf course. The camp, currently under the threat of eviction, is behind Rettendon church on the A130 between Chelmsford and Basildon. Plenty of sleeping space, bring useful tat. Site mobile 07957 915977

\* Latest news from the camp in Essex where they are trying to stop Countryside Residential (North Thames Ltd, based in Basildon) from trashing a wildlife rich area between ancient woodlands for 66 luxury houses. The site contains endangered species such as great crested newts and is being cleared even though the legal agreements with Rochford District Council have yet to be signed. Interestingly no one seems to be able to get hold of the local police officer responsible for enforcing the Wildlife Protection Act... and it turns out Countryside Residential have been funding the Essex Wildlife Trust.

As SchNEWS went to press contractors are clearing the land around the camp and have cut into Section 6 (squat) land. Extra people desperately needed to help stop the clearance. They are also calling on groups up and down the country to protest at Countryside Residential estates being built around the country.

Contact: 0831-717815/01702-206353.

## HAMMERED

On February 1st 1999, Two members of the Aldermaston Women's Trash Trident affinity group swam through water in Barrow-in-Furness to cause damage and disarm specially designed radar equipment on the fourth Trident submarine. Rosie and Rachel are charged with committing £100,000 of damage. That's a mere 7.5 percent of the staggering cost of the Millennium Dome. Can we take a hammer to that? Their trial begins on 24th January at Lancaster Crown Court. Get there and show them some support. This is an important trial, as Rosie and Rachel will be defending themselves, using both moral arguments and international law about nuclear weapons.

\* Meanwhile... On Valentine's Day a day-long blockade of Faslane Naval Base is planned by Ploughshares and other anti-nuclear groups. Ring Brighton Peace Centre for transport details and spread some peace and love amongst the MOD! Trident Ploughshares: 01603 611953 or visit their Website on <http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/>

## TIME-PEACE

Meanwhile The National Peace Council is launching a "peace clock" to measure our progress towards the eventual abolition of war. The project was inspired by the 'bulletin of atomic scientists' back in 1945 when they began publishing a 'doomsday clock' on the cover of their journal to show how close the world was to a nuclear holocaust. The hands of the peace clock will move forward and back at indications such as the number of countries signing key international treaties. The hands have been set at one hour to midnight, are we at the eleventh hour on our way to a world without war?

\* For an epic millennium read, forget War and Peace, read 'Bloody Hell' by Dan Hallock. It tells the true story of the military machine with accounts from veterans of every major war this century revealing some of the horror. Tel Plough Publishing House, 08000180799 [www.WARisHELL.com](http://www.WARisHELL.com).

\* Keep up to date with the latest information on the peace movement with the new magazine from the new National Peace Council magazine 'Peace Movement'. For details ring the NPC 02076099666.

## ...and finally...

"We are no longer prawns of the government we are now prawns in our own right," says the People's Republic of Ashurst Wood Nation State (Prawns). The East Sussex hamlet has declared independence from the UK and erected a series of border posts and demanded "foreigners" obtain visas for entry - "your UK passport means nothing here", SchNEWS was told by a spokesman. Their declaration of independence reads in part, "The formerly oppressed and unjustly taxed peoples are and of right ought to be free and independent, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the state of Great Britain." A letter was sent to HM Queen with no reply, though interested anarchists have been phoning from the continent, and a visiting TV crew from Russia invited King Prawn Mark over there! In 979 King Ethelred was thought to have died in the Village after waking up on the funeral pyre just before it was lit, and he granted them immunity from taxation.

[www.ashdownforest.co.uk](http://www.ashdownforest.co.uk)

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all claimants? not to get all worked up about the body zone but get on the job in the twilight zone making sure your ergonomic zone isn't unemployed, then you'll feel content. Honest!

## Gorse Wood protest camp, Essex



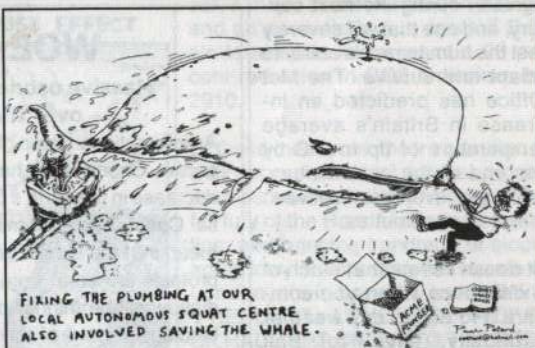
Pic: Ben

Ferretting around in the tunnel at Gorse Wood.

## SQUOTES 06/03/00

"I must have seen more than 500 very sick patients who are hyper-sensitive to electromagnitism and lots more who are more moderately affected. Just as our bodies have evolved to respond to light, sound or heat, they have evolved to respond to the earth's magnetic field. The increasing number of man-made fields [mobiles/VDU's etc] is creating an electromagnetic smog which interferes with this and which I believe is very damaging to us all in the long term."

**DR JEAN MUNRO.**



The disco at the  
Holtfield low-impact  
Chalet Community,  
Gower, Wales.



Pic: Dave Mirzoeff

# GAIA'S SLAP - ATMOSFEAR IN THE 21st CENTURY

For years the world's big polluters poured scorn on the existence of global warming. But with sixty one British meteorological records broken over the last 20 years, climate change and global warming are now an officially acknowledged cause for major concern. In an extensive new investigation, Neil Goodwin unearths the raw truths which compromise our planets' future habitability.

Red sky at night, so the saying goes, is a shepherd's delight. But ask any gardener or farmer and they'll probably tell you that the ancient folklore which has underlined our expectations of the Great British weather for centuries is looking increasingly dodgy.

In fact over the last twenty years, 61 major meteorological records, from warmest November to wettest June, highest temperature to fastest wind, have been broken in the UK. How many times do we overhear conversations about late frosts and early blooms, or the discovery of another exotic insect hiking across a British windowsill?

The world is now experiencing the early symptoms of climate change, a process which is set to transform the world's weather beyond all recognition during the next century, and one that will severely test the human race's ability to adapt and survive. The Met Office has predicted an increase in Britain's average temperature of up to 3°C by the end of the next century, and a sea level rise of between 2 and 10 centimetres.

"It doesn't seem that much of a difference when you compare it to day to day weather variability," says Prof. Phil Jones, from the Climate Research Unit. "But our estimates of how cold it was during the last Ice Age - that it was about somewhere between 5-6°C colder than today, means we're talking about a rise that will have occurred between 1900 and 2100 of about nearly 3°C, which is half way to an Ice Age but in the opposite direction."

Natural disasters are increasing at a terrifying rate, both here and abroad. In 1998 the world suffered more than twice as much environmental damage as during the entire decade of the 1980's, at a cost of £142.4 billion. According to the Worldwatch Institute, 54 countries suffered from floods and 45 from severe drought.

The polar ice caps, which are particularly sensitive to global climate change, are melting at an alarming rate. In Antarctica, which has experienced a rapid temperature rise of 2.5°C over the last 50 years, the ice shelf

known as Larson A has already collapsed

into the sea, while huge cracks have begun to appear in Larson B. Almost 2,000 square miles of Antarctica's south eastern tip has melted throughout the past year, and an iceberg larger than London is currently drifting towards the Argentinean coast.

Like its European neighbours, Britain has experienced its fair share of floods, droughts, coastal erosion and gales. The total cost of weather claims in Britain for 1998 was £663 million, with some sections of the Midlands being hit by severe flooding three times. Last year began with the worst floods to hit North Yorkshire in 68 years, and continued to throw up extraordinary natural

anomalies such as invasions of jellyfish, and plankton blooms the size of Cornwall.

Throughout the past ten years Britain has endured four out of five of the hottest years ever recorded over a 330-year period. Scientists from the University of East Anglia have observed that this warmer weather has radically altered the migratory habits of birds such as swallows. Trees are coming into leaf much earlier and increasing numbers of 'alien' insects and spiders have colonised southern England. Huge numbers of termites in north Devon have been feeding on timber causing havoc to homes, whilst the rotund, black and brown spider (one of the 'False Widow' spiders), a bite from which can cause considerable pain, has also made an appearance.

Even the Great British cod'n'chips is under threat. A 4°C rise in winter North Sea temperatures during the past six years has disrupted the breeding patterns of cod and whiting, causing stocks to plummet and prompting the EU to slash catch quotas for 2000. At the same time, exotic species such as red mullet, octopus and even Great White sharks have started to inhabit British waters.

Far from lending our climate a pleasant Mediterranean feel - a misconception based on the prediction that Southern England will become frost-free by the end of the

## SQUALL

Where Do You Want To Grow Today?

--

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## WOE ZONE

### Massive ozone hole observed over the Arctic.

An international group of scientists measuring the earth's Ozone layer have recorded a two third decrease in the earth's Ozone layer over the Arctic. Caused by man made pollution, the losses mean that the Ozone layer over Europe - which protects the earth from the sun's ultraviolet radiation will be thinner over the next few weeks leading to more of the kind of global warming which has been breaking up both Arctic and Antarctic iceshelves. The most dramatic ozone depletion occurs over the Antarctic, where British scientists observed a hole the size of the US and as deep as Everest in 1985. The latest ozone depletions come as a result of man made pollution nearly forty years ago and is sounding alarm bells for the future.

next century - some scientists are warning that climate change could plunge Northern Europe into a mini Ice Age. Melt water from the Arctic could, they say, weaken and eventually shut down the Gulf Stream which draws up warm salty water from the tropics. A testament to the present effectiveness of the Gulf Stream in warming British waters comes from the fact that Britain shares the same latitude, but mercifully not the same icy winters, as Newfoundland on the Canadian coast.

The idea of Global cooling may seem decidedly unhelpful to those of us still grappling with the concept of Global warming, but whatever its final manifestation, climate change is set to transform every aspect of British life, from how we travel to what we wear, from where we live to what we eat. Business as usual, the politicians are now saying, will not be an option.

"I would say that we are being hit by five related issues," says Sir Crispin Tickell, the government's advisor on the environment. "The first is human population increase, which, in spite of figures starting to come down in certain places, is a major hazard. The second is degradation of land surfaces. The third is shortages of water and the pollution of water. The fourth is the destruction of biodiversity, so that we no longer have the natural services that we have hitherto enjoyed for free. And the last is climate change"

Despite the best efforts of a tiny but noisy band of climate sceptics, such as Richard North and Dennis Avery, who continue to muddy the waters, the Government now accept 'the very real threat' that climate change will represent in the 21st Century and has begun to face up to what it describes as "difficult choices".

Last October, the Environment Agency, which estimates that 1.3 million British homes are currently at risk from flooding, launched a £2million flood awareness campaign called FloodLine. Speaking at the launch was the Rev. Graham St. John, who was one of ten thousand people affected by Britain's most devastating flood which hit Northampton in 1998, killing two people and destroying 2,500 homes and businesses.

"What can you say to the couple I was only speaking to last week?" he asked the assembled media. "Aged 80, they'd spent eight and half-hours perched on top of their kitchen work surfaces waiting to be rescued. She was sitting on the cooker. Her husband was sitting there with his legs dangling in sewerage-strewn freezing cold water. There was no escape from it."

The Government has also initiated a number of studies into the effects of climate change on a regional basis across all sectors. These include Wales, Cornwall, Scotland, East Anglia, the Northwest, and the Southeast. As their findings emerge, our understanding of the extent to which climate change will transform Britain during the coming century will become more sophisticated.

The North West became the first region in Europe to complete such a study. It recognised that climate change is already a fact of life. Sea levels at Liverpool, it said, have been rising by 1 cm per decade and average temperatures have been increasing consistently since the 1960s. It pinpointed potential benefits from 'global warming' such as lower winter heating bills and higher incomes from tourism ('cafe society'), as well as detrimental effects such as coastal erosion ("managed retreat is a serious policy option, but will be controversial"), the increased likelihood of flood and storm damage, and a possible future difficulty in obtaining re-insurance cover. It underlined "the very real need to prepare for an uncertain future as climate change continues."

A £25 million government ad campaign was launched to encourage us to 'do our bit' by car sharing, recycling household waste, and taking a shower instead of a bath. In stark contrast to the scare tactics employed by the Tories over Aids awareness, New Labour's approach seems to be to tickle us into a more responsible attitude towards the environment. In one ad a woman careers down stairs on a death slide and proceeds to turn down her central heating.

In March 1999, the Chancellor Gordon Brown announced Britain's greenest budget, with 17 measures designed to tackle our over-dependency on the car, a major source of carbon dioxide and an essential nut to crack if Britain is to meet its target of a 20 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions by 2010.

Of these measures, the introduction of a six per cent road fuel duty has proved the most controversial, whipping up the full fury of the Road Haulage Association, and bringing hundreds of blockading lorry drivers onto the streets of London, their banners proclaiming 'PRESCOTT - AS YOU SCUBA DIVE, UK HAULIERS DIVE INTO THE RED!' (a reference to the Deputy Prime Minister's recent inspection of dying coral reefs), and 'GREEDY, GREEDY, GREEDY 2 JAGS' (a dig at Prescott's taste for Ministerial privilege).



Eight months on, however, Greenpeace blew a hole in the government's green credentials when it won a High Court action against them and ten oil companies over their failure to protect whales, dolphins and other marine species from the impacts of oil exploration on the Atlantic Frontier.

"We exposed the contradiction at the heart of Government policy," says Peter Melchett, Executive Director of Greenpeace UK. "Their environmental policy says we should cut down the use of fossil fuels to protect the climate and wildlife, while their energy policy tells the fossil fuel industry to go and dig as much oil as they can regardless of the consequences."

In October 1999 the Met Office issued a grave prediction that if the international community fails to curb greenhouse gas emissions large parts of South America and southern

Africa could lose their tropical forests by the 2080's. Eighty million people, they say, could be flooded each year due to rising sea levels, and some three billion people could suffer from increased water stress.

However, according to Peter Bunyard, author of 'Gaia in Action: Science of the Living Earth': "The radiative thermodynamic physics of the greenhouse effect [The what? - Ed.] are such as to cause a long delay between the emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and the time when the effects on the climate actually manifest themselves. Hence, the CO2 that society emits into the atmosphere today will only act on the climate 50 to 80 years in the future. Conversely, the climatic changes that we are experiencing today are occurring in response to the CO2 we emitted during the Second World War." Therefore, measures to prevent severe ongoing climatic disruption cannot be taken soon enough.

American cars and industry currently belch out 25% of the greenhouse gases which cause climate change, yet American society only amounts to four per cent of the world's population. Perhaps it's no surprise therefore, to learn that the US government is most resistant to international agreements designed to limit the level of greenhouse gas emissions.

So, as the world wakes up to the realities of climate change, a key question emerges: Do the politicians of the rich North have the will to risk political suicide by forcing their populations to curb lifestyles based on selfishness and greed?

"The Age of Consumerism has lead us to Climate Change," observes Sir Sonny Ramphel, the former Commonwealth Secretary General. "To roll back the dangers, we have got to undo some of the worst aspects of consumerism. And that means a change in lifestyles. The politicians who, in democratic societies, go to the polls promising the moon and the stars, conscious that they cannot fulfil them, are not about to turn around and say 'What I promise you is less of the same'. Until we develop the moral stature at the political level to the people of the rich world, we really will not be facing up to the challenges of Climate Change."

Like Sir Sonny Ramphel, Dr. Mick Kelly, from the Climate Research Unit, senses the need for "a new kind of politician - a politician that's concerned about the next generation. How our children will fair as we move into the 21st Century."

But as society moves beyond a purely preventative approach to climate change, and steps up the process of actually dealing with the symptoms, there is, he recognises, the potential for an entirely new set of political challenges. "The challenge now is can we actually protect the whole population, even though that may prove very costly?

Do we have to take difficult decisions about levels of protection which may mean that we leave some people exposed simply because it would cost too much to provide them with an absolute level of protection? So these are questions we have to address."

No one can accurately predict the socio-economic effects of climate change. However, as Hurricane Mitch, the Orissa cyclone, and, more recently, the Mozambique floods have so ruthlessly demonstrated, many thousands will undoubtedly lose their homes and lives. Whole countries

could become uninhabitable. Once again, food shortages could exacerbate an array of historical tensions and resentments. Water wars, environmental refugees, and the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever could cripple entire continents.

So what, if anything, is your average person supposed to make of it all? Given the extent to which the debate around climate change has largely been conducted above our heads with liberal sprinklings of scientific gobbledegook - not a lot, says Charlie Kronick, from the Climate Action Network.

"If any global issue has been dogged by the democratic deficit, it's climate change. People you don't know, are telling you things you don't understand, about a problem you can't be sure you have, and instructing you to do things (like drive less or use less energy) that you feel that you can't achieve. It is soul destroying, dis-empowering and has encouraged a complete opt out on the part of the public."

He continues: "Climate change as an issue has been dominated by the experts, whether from government, the scientific establishment or environment groups. To have any relevance beyond this ghetto, it will need to register within real communities, with real people, who are willing to make real change happen."

For a fuller version of this article which includes statistics on major climactic events in the UK since 1980, log on to the features page at [www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk)

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YOU CAN KEEP DRIVING

**And let our children  
pay the price of  
Global Climate Change**

## THAWS FOR THOUGHT

### Global warming produces record breaking iceberg

One of the largest icebergs ever recorded has broken away from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica. The iceberg is over 183 miles long and 22 miles wide, covering an area the size of East Anglia. It is the latest Antarctic breakaway thought to be occurring because of global warming.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER KURDISH-DAM \*

# SchNEWS

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## TURKISH DELIGHT

"The prime minister is backing a project that would be a disaster for the environment, a tragedy for local people, and a threat to peace."

Tony Juniper, Friends of the Earth  
SchNEWS ain't having a Turkish \*\* but the planned Ilisu Dam, in South-East Turkey could well be "the biggest corruption scandal in western Europe" (George Monbiot). The hydro-electric dam will flood 52 Kurdish villages and 15 towns. One of these is Hasankeyf, one of the most ancient settlements in the world. It is the only town in the region to survive the middle ages, protected so tightly by planning laws that hotels are not even allowed to be built for the hordes of visiting tourists. The Kurds regard this city as their cultural heartland and see this project as a political tool to continue to ethnically cleanse them from Turkey. One angry Kurd commented "By destroying Hasankeyf, they hope to eliminate our history". About 16,000 Kurds are expected to lose their homes and land without compensation, and another 20,000 will have their lives disrupted. At least 19 Kurdish villages in the reservoir area have already been cleared at gunpoint and then burnt. Disagreeing with the dam's construction has been outlawed. Surprise, surprise, there is no resettlement package for the dispossessed.

There is also the added fear that Turkey will have the means to cut off the water supply to Syria and Iraq once the dam is built. This issue has already been identified as a potential cause of war in the region. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former secretary-general of the UN has stated that, "The next war in the Middle East will be fought over water, not politics."

Top cabinet ministers, including Robin Cook, Stephen Byers and fat controller John Prescott, have advised against the dam. Even those environmentally challenged people at the World Bank are refusing to have anything to do with the project. The Bank admits that the plan violates the UN Convention drawn up to prevent border disputes and wars between states that share water resources. If it violates World Bank 'ethical' policy (?), just who is prepared to get involved...and why?!

### Balfour Beatty and Tony Blair...come on down!!!

Balfour Beatty have become the New chums of the Labour crew. One of its executives was seconded to the Dept of Trade and Industry's "innovation unit", while Sir Malcolm Bates, architect of the Private Finance Initiative (see SchNEWS 219), and one of Blair's heroes, was chosen as the ideal man to chair London Transport. Until his appointment, he was a director of BICC-the parent company of Balfour Beatty. Oooh... what nasty tangled webs they weave!

Who's Balfour Beatty? They are the lovely company that built roads like the A30 in Devon. They also played a part in the Pergau Dam fiasco in Malaysia, which never worked but gave the government the opportunity to sell the Malaysians arms.

As for Tony Blair's involvement... issues such as Turkey's desire to become part of the European Union, and the fear of losing money gained by extensive arms sales to a Nato ally were clearly too pressing for him to risk upsetting the Turkish Government. Don't worry about the 20,000 people set to have their lives disrupted, Tony, we're sure they'll manage somehow!

In order for the Ilisu dam to comply with European Law, the government needed to provide an environmental assessment of the dam. The documents revealed the devastating environmental impact of the dam and the expected human rights violations. But all this now means nothing as the final environmental assessment report will be prepared by none other than... Balfour Beatty!!

### WE DON'T BYATT MR WIMP

Thames Water, has decided in its wisdom to cut 1,000 jobs over the next five years. Welsh Water 600 jobs. Severn-Trent Water 1,100 jobs. Are they skint or bastards? Apparently the latter. This all arose due to regulators asking for bill reductions. One, namely Mr Byatt, known affectionately in the trade as "water wimp" violently responded by speaking through a spokesman saying "There is nothing we can do" Water wanker! No wonder Ofwat employed him. Poverty stricken Welsh Water make £35 profit on every £100 bill.

Feeling outraged at these projects? Did you realise that you have, and will be, actually helping to fund them? Welcome to the world of the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

This is a cheeky little scam that provides insurance for companies operating abroad. If the host country doesn't pay, the agency, meaning the taxpayers, foot the bill. The Department then uses its muscle, backed by the govt, to force the reluctant country to reimburse it with interest effectively acting as a global debt collector for British corporations.

The Department kindly refuses to take social, human or environmental rights into account preferring to leave it up to the host country. George Monbiot has described them as, "the biggest threat to sustainability and social justice on earth... It pursues its money with ruthless determination, even when the debts were incurred for projects crawling with corporate corruption. It is responsible for 95% of the debt owed by Southern countries to the British Government."

Want to hear more? This nasty, secretive little lot is at present backing two nuclear power plants in China and supported the Nathpa Dam in India. And it gets worse! British Aerospace's sale of 40 Hawk jets to Indonesia was insured by the Department.

### DAMNED STUPID

Another controversial dam is the one on the Narmada River in India, turning the valley into a series of reservoirs. It will affect the lives of 25 million people who live in the valley, and will submerge and destroy 4,000 square kilometres of deciduous woodland. The Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement) have been fighting against the proposed dams for the past 14 years. Arundhati Roy, the Booker Prize winning author who was arrested last week for her part in the anti-dam demonstrations, describes the effects of such developments in her book 'The Greater Common Good'. "Big Dams are obsolete... They're undemocratic... There was a time when Big Dams moved men to poetry. Not any longer. All over the world there is a movement growing against Big Dams".

### SchNews Vocab Watch

\* **Kurdish-Dam** is *not* Cockney Rhyming Slang for Kurdistan. Kurdistan is the area Kurdish people have inhabited for over 4,000 yrs. It was carved up by French & British colonialists in a 1923 treaty after the collapse of the Ottoman empire to become parts of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

\*\* **Turkish-Bath** - Cockney Rhyming Slang for Laugh

\* **Kurdistan Solidarity Committee Trade Union Group**, Tel: 0171 250 1317

## Occidental Damage

"We will in no way sell our Mother Earth, to do so would be to give up our work of collaborating with the spirits to protect the heart of the world, which sustains and gives life to the rest of the universe, it would be to go against our own origins, and those of all existence."

Statement of the U'wa People, August 1998.

The U'wa of the Colombian cloud forest are in a life-and-death struggle to protect their traditional culture and sacred homeland from Occidental (Oxy) Petroleum's proposed oil drill site. 200 of the U'wa people are occupying the drilling site and thousands more will join them at any sign of activity. The U'wa's opposition to the oil project is so strong that they have vowed to commit collective suicide if Occidental Petroleum and the Colombian government proceed with the project on their ancestral lands. Throughout Colombia, oil is linked with violence and terror.

The U'wa people's struggle exploded into the public arena last March with the murders in Colombia of three American indigenous rights activists. One of them Terence Freitas was a founder of the U'wa Defense Working Group and had devoted the last two years of his life to supporting the tribe in their campaign to stop Occidental's oil project.

"...we ask that our brothers and sisters from other races and cultures unite in the struggle that we are undertaking...we believe that this struggle has to become a global crusade to defend life." - Statement of the U'wa people

One of Occidental's largest shareholders is Boston-based financial giant Fidelity Investments. Fidelity have been given a deadline of the 1st March to either convince Occidental to cancel the project or show that they will not invest in genocide. Ironically, Fidelity's slogan is, "We help you invest responsibly."

There's a day of action on 3rd February. Further info: [www.ran.org](http://www.ran.org).

## FISTFUL OF DOLLARS

The capital of Ecuador has been brought to a standstill by thousands of indigenous locals who are protesting against the worsening economic situation in the country. The local currency, the sucre has collapsed from being worth 7000 to the dollar, to over 25,000 and many previously owned state companies have been privatized in the pursuit of more profit. Indigenous people make up over a fifth of the population of Ecuador, but are among the most impoverished and repressed sections of society. The President of Ecuador also recently announced the "dollarisation" of Ecuador's economy, meaning that the dollar would replace the sucre.

This was the final straw for millions who were fed up with the country's neo-liberal policies, and lack of real democracy. So they formed the confederation of the indigenous nationalities of Ecuador - CONAIE. This operates as an alternative people's parliament and believes in decentralizing power to the country's 21 regions. Mass protests are bringing the country to a standstill, with protestors blocking roads and teaming up with striking oil workers to try and cut off the country's fuel supplies. Over 45,000 cops and troops have been mobilized to confront the protestors in the capital, but the Indians are refusing to leave or to negotiate with the president, who they don't consider to be president anyway!

Info is still sketchy about just what is going on at the moment, but check out [www.coli-uni-sh.de/~pietsch/kosovo/](http://www.coli-uni-sh.de/~pietsch/kosovo/)

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

## SchNEWS in brief

Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin, a former Black Panther who has previously been imprisoned for his struggle for the Black community, is coming to the UK as part of the MayDay 2000 Festival. He plans to do a tour speaking of his life, struggles and beliefs. If anyone is interested in arranging a venue or putting Lorenzo up during his stay, contact MayDay 2000, London WC1N 3XX, Tel: 020 8374 5027 \*\* There will be a public meeting entitled "People and Protest" discussing the war against capitalism with a slant on the Seattle protests. It's at 8pm on Thursday 3rd February at Middle Street Primary School Hall, Middle Street, Brighton. \*\* The Museum of London is holding an unusually radical exhibition called "Message to the Mayor: Don't Sterilise our City". It plans to draw the Mayoral candidates' attentions to issues regarding the state of the city including 'Keep Our Capital Messy'. It runs from 11th Jan to 20th Feb. Tel: 0171 814 5500 \*\* An inquest into the murder of Diarmuid O'Neill, shot and killed by the Metropolitan Police during a raid on his home on 23rd September 1996, begins at Kingston Crown Court on Jan 31st. Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill Campaign, BM Box D, O'Neill, London WC1N 3XX. \*\* The Smash Genetix 20, who were in court this week for a proposed three week trial over allegedly trashing an AgrEvo GM maize site last year, were out of court after 1 1/2 days! After a plea bargain, 11 were bound over to keep the peace for twelve months. The remaining nine received either one year conditional discharges, or £200 fines. \*\* There's a meeting against the Terrorism Bill Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, 26th January, 6:30pm \*\* Campaign Against Arms Trade women's network are meeting on Saturday 29th 2-5 pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn to plan an event for International Women's Day in March Tel 0171 281 4369

## GET OFF THE 28 BUS!

Outrage! are calling for a boycott of all Stagecoach bus and train services, after the companies chairman Brian Souter gave more than £500,000 through his charitable foundation to the Scottish Schoolboards Association. The money will fund a T.V. and advertising campaign against the repeal of section 28 in Scotland - the law which prevents schools and teachers promoting homosexuality.

Brian Souter's a lovely bloke: New Labour supporter, committed Christian, and rampant capitalist who has made his millions by buying up bus and rail systems as they become privatised, with operations in China, Brazil, U.S., Canada, and New Zealand.

An example of just how the firm made it's millions can be seen in Darlington, where a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report called their activities "predatory, deplorable and against the public interest". The 90-year-old municipal Darlington Transport found that its drivers were poached and Stagecoach arrived two minutes earlier at bus stops offering free trips. Darlington Transport went bust, Stagecoach raised the fares and cashed in.

Since then they've been the subject of 8 other reports from Monopolies & Mergers and 24 inquiries by the Office of Fair Trading.

Repeal of section 28 is supported by organisations like the Children First and Childline and most of MPs in the new Scottish parliament. But a spokesman for the Souter Foundation reckons that "this is about democracy." And moral decency perhaps as well? Something Souter and his Stagecoach cronies know all about.

## PARTY ALL WEEK LONG!

It's been a good week to boogie, first we heard the government was gonna be gracious enough to allow us to dance on Sundays. The Home Office Minister responsible for relaxing the 200 year old Sunday Observance Act, obviously has the funk saying, "If people want a bit of Sunday night fever, that's fine with me." Better news was to come when Shane Collins, organiser of the May Day Cannabis Festival at Clapham Common, faced getting on down with a 6 months prison sentence and a £20,000 fine because people danced at last year's event without a license. On Thursday Shane was found not guilty and awarded court costs of two travelcards. (It's estimated Lambeth Council spent £12,000). He'll probably still be celebrating on the 6th May when the next 'Smokey Bear' festival will be held at Kennington Park.

\* Boo! This years Ambient Picnic in Guildford has been cancelled by the Guildford Philharmonic (they have a concert the night before the Picnic and the Ambient organisers share the staging costs). Apparently, last year the Philharmonic went over-budget, and so have decided to have a "tribute-band" gig instead on the Sunday to pay off the debt.

## CLIFF'S DYING FLAME

Plans for a Flame of Hope, lit by Sir Cliff Richard, that was to last all year to remind the people of Birmingham of Jesus Christ quickly burnt out when the beacon went out after just a couple of weeks because someone had forgotten to order enough gas! Prior to lighting the flame on New Year's Eve, an excited Cliff said "It's great to know that...a Flame of Hope will burn throughout the Millennium year." When SchNEWS spoke with Cliff this week, he told us, "The Church will always be full of gas, even if the bottle isn't." Never mind, Cliff, you could always take a match to 'Millennium Prayer' instead!

## Davos Station

The city of Davos has announced that it won't tolerate planned protests during the week in which the World Economic Forum will meet at the Swiss winter resort (see Schnews 243.) Thousands of policemen, private security guards and military will transform this little place in the Swiss mountains into a high security area. Anti-WTO-Koordination, a group based in Bern, has announced its protest "against this decision which is a clear violation of our civil rights." Demos are still planned for 29 January. Meet at Davos train station at 3 pm. [www.reitschule.ch/reitschule/anti-wto](http://www.reitschule.ch/reitschule/anti-wto) or email them at [fantasia39@hotmail.com](mailto:fantasia39@hotmail.com).

## ...and finally... Fucking Tourists

Tourists are causing a lot of anxiety - and are costing money - to a tiny village where signs keep disappearing. What do the signs read? "Welcome to Fucking, Austria."

Pronounced "fooking," the little hamlet of Fucking is named after the man who founded the village in the 6th century. His name? Focko.

The town sign has been stolen seven times in the last few months. With signs costing several hundred dollars apiece, much of the tiny town's budget is being spent replacing the signs, says Siegfried Hoeppel, the Mayor of Fucking. He went on to express his hope that further thefts will be avoided through the use of increased concrete and... bigger screws.

### disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers that those dam politicians are beavering away again so if you've got a reservoir of strength bung a cork in their sluice gate causing a log-jam.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER GENES ARE UNDER ATTACK

# SchNEWS

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## TRIPS, D.N.A. & ORGASMS

"Right now, the US is supporting a loophole so large that ship-loads of genetically engineered grain could go through there." Sarah Newport, Friends of the Earth

Surprise, surprise! The first major international trade talks since the Seattle debacle look set to fall apart, just like the stomachs of the poor bastards eating the crap..

Representatives of 150 nations began talks in Montreal on Monday in another attempt to come to an agreement which would regulate trade in Genetically Modified foods. However, the U.S. and four other nations in the so-called Miami "Mice" Group, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay - basically the world's biggest grain exporters - plus their lobbying mates from the Global Industry Coalition representing 2,200 biotech companies worldwide, are once again trying to put the boot into any agreement.

The European ministers arrived at the talks on Wednesday, except for the French minister who thought there was more chance on him dining on British beef than this bunch of G.M. freaks coming to a consensus. One U.S. official put it more bluntly: "It would be a miracle if we succeed in hammering out an agreement." Meanwhile, the Italian minister, contrary to popular belief did not surrender when he saw the protesters, but was in fact at home with the flu.

### PIE THE GM GUY!

Proponents of biotechnology were holding a news conference to extol the virtues of genetically altered food when a pie-wielding protester found his mark. "Down with biotechnology!" the assailant shouted. "We have to eat those foods - not you!" Joyce Groote, the receiver of this well aimed flan stated "at least it was to my taste" Unlike the shite he throws at us.

In London banners bearing the slogan 'Gene dictators - the world is watching' were hung outside Canada House, with the area being symbolically sealed with biohazard tape by protesters in decontamination suits. Anti-GM activists around the globe also joined the demonstrations this week, with a march in Montreal and actions as far afield as South Korea and Australia.

With massive pressures from consumers European Union ministers are pushing for clear labelling on foods. They are part of the 'like-minded' group (many of whom

are 'third world' countries) representing over a hundred nations, who are arguing for the right to be informed of and refuse to import genetically modified foods, seeds and other GM products. The US reckon not only will this break 'free trade' rules but will cost them billions of dollars just to separate GM and non GM food. Our genetically modified hearts bleed.

And if an agreement is signed? Well, the US could once again use the strong arm tactics of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to say that the agreement was a barrier to trade. The stakes are high with the bio-technology industry worth billions, and the US complaining that it is already losing £120 million annually because of the European Unions resistance to GM foods. But force feeding us all frankenstein fodder will not go down well with the public, and will make the WTO, still shaky after the kicking it got in Seattle (see SchNEWS 240) about as popular as a socialist at a New Labour Conference

\* Look out for the Trade Related International Property rights talks in Geneva, in February. TRIPS (not as fun as they sound) give the multinationals the right to patent life. They're already selling living organisms and robbing indigenous people of their DNA. Watch out for protests in Geneva. Hooray!

\* Genetic Engineering Network (GEN), PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY, Tel 0208 374 9516 [www.geneticsaction.org.uk/protocol](http://www.geneticsaction.org.uk/protocol)

\* 'Animal feed and genetic engineering' available for 40p SAE to Corporate Watch, 16b Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG [www.corporatewatch.org](http://www.corporatewatch.org)

### LEARN TO DESK TOP PUBLISH FOR SCHNEWS!

SchNEWS needs more people to DTP the SchNEWS on Thursdays.

The next training day is Tuesday, February 8th between 11 and 4. We can handle just 4 people and serious jobseekers should know how to find, open and save a file in Wnidows 95. Call us and book your place now.

### MIAMI MICE

"The Biosafety talks have been stalled for too long...if the Miami Group wants to remain isolated, so be it. The rest of the world cannot be their hostage forever". Benny Haerlin, Greenpeace

At the international trade talks in Seattle an attempt was made to form a "biotech working group" within the World Trade Organisation. This would mean that trade in genetically modified organisms would fall under WTO regulations. Luckily for people who eat food, this motion was defeated. If no protocol agreement is reached in Montreal by Saturday, talks will continue in Nairobi in May - a less friendly atmosphere for U.S. based multinationals.

### WOT A RELIEF!

Midland Expressway Limited (MEL), the company behind the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, are in a little financial strife thanks to a long public enquiry and the occupation of the site by protesters. After a 3 year delay the cost of the road has doubled, and now MEL is being relieved by a shortfall of eight of yer favourite banks. MEL are looking for a little spare change from the banks, somewhere in the region of £700million, to make sure the road goes ahead. As Birmingham Friends of the Earth points out "Investment into this road is the achilles heel for the Highways Agency and the Department of the Environment."

\* The HOCKLEY protest camp in Essex, set up to prevent 66 luxury houses being built on greenbelt land, are in court today (Friday) and expecting eviction within the next 2 weeks. Legal aid for an appeal has been mysteriously withdrawn, but a friendly local lawyer has offered his services for free. Tel 0831 717815 or check out [www.angelfire.com/mt/GBH](http://www.angelfire.com/mt/GBH)

\* Clearance work has started on the Glen of the Downs protest site near Dublin. The nature reserve is being destroyed so a road can be widened to a dual carriageway. People needed now. [www.emc23.tp/glen](http://www.emc23.tp/glen)

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## REVOLTIN' STUDENTS

Students at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London went into occupation this Tuesday in defence of over 30 tuition fee non payers who are threatened with disciplinary action. The occupiers took over the college's management offices on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to demand that the college does not expel non payers, that they refuse to collect fees and that they lobby the Government for their abolition. SOAS management continually winge about how they're not responsible for tuition fees, and students should lobby the government. However the head of SOAS, Tim Lankester has considerable influence in government circles, since he has been an executive director to the World Bank and IMF, and was permanent secretary at the Dept for Education for a while.

Management decided to evacuate all 5 floors of the SOAS building. They even shut down the college's telephone and internet system as well for a while, so no-one on campus could use their e-mail. Management claim that this was done under Health and Safety law, but it is more likely to be a tactic to try and turn students and staff against the occupiers. However, the lecturers' union said that closing down the building amounted to a lock-out under trade union law, and contested it. Some sympathetic lecturers have even been holding lectures in the occupied building. Management agreed to reopen most of the building on Thursday morning, but the floors above and below the occupied corridor are still locked. They also agreed to meet the occupiers to negotiate, but they are still up for eviction in the High Court this Friday, and could be evicted at any time after.

\* Campaign for free Education, PO Box 22615 London, N4 1WT Tel 0958 556 756 [cfe@gp.ac.org](mailto:cfe@gp.ac.org)

## BLAIR WITCH-HUNT

SchNEWS readers may remember that last November 40+ students from Sussex University stopped Cherie Blair coming to a posh Uni dinner. She was supposed to talk about increasing access for women to enter higher education, but the Sussex Non-Payment Campaign saw this as complete hypocrisy when it was her husband's government that had abolished grants and brought in fees during the last two years. They occupied the dining room where the dinner was to take place and eventually the dinner was cancelled. The University weren't best pleased, and in retaliation are now victimising some of the students who were there. Seven are to be disciplined and 3 of these are to be done for breaking and entering. On top of this the Uni have also sent the cops round to people's homes. This victimisation and harassment is a political move to break the Non-Payment Campaign. These students need your support now.

\* Sussex Non-Payment Campaign, Falmer House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 8DN or [susnonpay@hotmail.com](mailto:susnonpay@hotmail.com)

## VIVISECTORS SHOPPED

The Shopworkers Union, UDSAW, this week announced that it was withdrawing its investments in Huntingdon Life Sciences. Huntingdon vivisect dogs, cats and monkeys among other animals and were secretly filmed by Channel 4 showing workers punching and beating Beagle puppies. Apparently the union was not aware of the involvement which came from Labour's staff pension fund. \* National Demo against HLS on Sat 12th Feb. Phone 0121 632 6460 for transport and more details.

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## SchNEWS in brief

**Riotous Assembly** is a forum for direct action campaigners in Manchester to meet each other. Their next meeting Tuesday 1st February, 7:30pm, Yard Theatre, 41, Old Birley Street, Hulme (opposite the Junction Pub) This month's short discussion is "World Trade Organisation / Seattle - What Next?" [www.snet.co.uk/cf/](http://www.snet.co.uk/cf/) \*\* On the same lines in the Capital, is the **London Underground**. Next meeting Friday 4th February at the Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Road, London, N4 (Finsbury Park Tube). With cheap food and music from 9pm and a suggested donation of £2. And if you're in Brighton, then check out the Rebel Alliance. Next meeting Sunday February 6th at Brighton Unemployed Centre, 6 Tilbury Place 6pm (turn left past Hectors Pub up very steep Carlton Hill) \*\* A demonstration has been called in London to oppose the Russian war in **Chechnya** on Saturday 5 February. The march starts at 12 noon at Tothill Street (behind Westminster Hall, Tubes: St James's Park) Tel 0171 207 3997 \*\* **Showcase for Kosovo** Headmix Collective, story telling and films. Sunday 30th, 5pm-10:30pm, The Gloucester, Brighton. Free food before 7pm! + SEATTLE FILM \*\* There's a **The Land Is Ours** Winter Gathering at the Exodus Collective Manor Road (the A6), Nr Luton on the 18th - 20th February. Sleeping space available, bring a mat and money (£1 charge for each meal). Tel 0181 357 8504 [www.oneworld.org/tio](http://www.oneworld.org/tio) \*\* **Peace 2000** aims to "promote a culture of Nonviolence for the New Millennium". For a diary of events ring 01273 620125. \*\* On 1st Feb there will be a talk and video showing about Shamrock monkey farm, followed by a discussion of the Terrorism Bill. Contact Worthing eco-action, PO Box 4144, BN14 7NZ. \*\* Protesters took Pie-rect action against Dolly the Sheep's father this week. While promoting his new book, The Second Creation, Keith Campbell was planted a lovely fresh pie in the face, while being told to 'fuck his sheep'. \*\* Congrats to **Chumbawumba's** Alice Nutter and Keir on the birth of baby Mae.

## Inside SchNEWS

Two more people have been sent down for June 18, and would all love to receive your witty scribbles: Jeff Booker, DN 7071, and Stuart Tokham, DN 7072, both at HMP Brixton, Jebb Avenue, London, SW2 5XF. Jeff got 21 months for violent disorder, while Stuart received 12 months.

\* **URGENT WITNESS APPEAL** - Danny Penman is a sympathetic journalist, who has covered such issues as the M11 campaign. He was viciously attacked and hospitalised by the police in Euston, November 30th. You can Call Danny on 0850 751575. \* If there are any witnesses from **J18**, or **Euston** that may help someone's case, call Legal Defence Monitoring Group 0171 837 7557

## SPUD-U-LIKE

Fed up with the choice of potatoes in your local greengrocers? Want to get your hands on an *International Kidney* or a *Yukon Gold*? Then why not get along to Ryton Organic Gardens on the 5th and 6th February for the 7th National Potato Days. On offer for spud lovers will be seeds and tubers from 120 varieties of potatoes. The event organised by the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) who are keen to increase the number of potato varieties available, will also include talks, gardening advice and cookery demonstrations. Entrance is £3, or free to HDRA members. More information: 024 7630 8211. [www.hdra.org.uk](http://www.hdra.org.uk)

## DEATH IN CUSTODY

"The Home Office has confirmed that, early on the morning of Monday 24th January, a 49 year old asylum seeker from Lithuania, committed suicide in Harmondsworth Detention centre".

Figures announced by the Commons Public Accounts Committee, reveal that 71,000 asylum seekers entered Britain last year, a 55% increase from 1998. Downing Street blames the conflict in Kosovo for the significant rise, MP's criticise the Home Office for not doing enough, whilst Barbara Roche, the immigration minister claims that the problem is under control! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REFUGEES??? Welcome to the lovely world of refugee detention!

Yes, the Government's answer is to lock asylum seekers up in Detention Centres and prisons whilst they wait for their cases to be heard. One of these places is HMP Rochester where refugees make up almost half the prison population. A report compiled by Sir David Ramsbotham, the chief inspector of prisons, showed the appalling treatment that the asylum seekers receive. The denial of basic rights, and disregard for regulations was revealed to be commonplace. Refugees are given no opportunity to work and earn money, being forced to survive on the generous amount of £2.50 a week. Prison guidelines are issued to them only in English, despite the majority being unable to speak the language. The list goes on...no visits, no right to exercise, no choice of menu, no access to the gym or library.

So what's being done about it??? Surprise, surprise...not a great deal. Prison officials admit that Embassies are not informed of the refugees' detention. Even more worrying is the confirmation that the Immigration and Nationality Directorate has "no recognised input into the treatment of detainees". So there we have it, Great Britain, what a wonderful place to be a refugee! Hardly surprising that one took his own life, is it?

\* National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, 110 Hamstead Road, Birmingham, B20 2QS. Tel 0121 554 6947

## ...and finally...

"I don't like doing this" Judge Leahy told defendant Kenneth Saasta while pronouncing sentence, "because cocaine dealing carries a mandatory prison sentence. But after looking at all the evidence, I'm gonna have to let you off with community service, because you're so goddam fat you'd break the jail." The prosecuting attorney begged the judge not to impose a custodial sentence: "Saasta weighs more than 47 stone and there isn't a jail in the state that can hold him. We have to prise him through the cell doors. The night he was arrested, he demolished all the bunks in the police cells by lying down on them, and smashed three toilets simply by sitting on them. No prison uniforms will fit him, he can't stand for more than 5 minutes but chairs collapse when he sits on them, and because of this problem with constant diarrhoea, we have to hose everywhere he's been. The jail would need to buy reinforced beds, chairs and toilets and worse, he's so fat he can't even cut his own toenails or wipe himself in the bathroom. Someone has to do it for him and the sheriff's department is threatening strike action if Saasta is sent to jail." Judge Leahy also ordered that Saasta be tagged with an electronic monitoring device, but this was overruled when it was discovered that none of the devices were large enough to fit round his ankles. Stolen from Merseyfyn, who nicked it themselves from San Jose Mercury News

### disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all genies not to grant any wishes to profit mad crazy genetic scientists. Honest!



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WE'RE NOT LICKED YET

# SchNEWS

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## POSTMAN SPLAT

"The government talks a lot about social exclusion and you don't get much more excluded than living in a village without any services."

David Mundell, Member of the Scottish Parliament

**A new Post Office Bill announced in parliament last week could lead to the closure of thousands of sub post offices, thanks to a decision to pay state benefits directly into bank accounts.**

The government's own figures show that nearly 8,000 of the 19,000 Post Offices in Britain are at least 40% reliant on income from dealing with benefits. The switch could sound the death knell to thousands.

SchNEWS visited our local sub post office in Sutherland Road which like the majority are small and independently owned. While we were there chatting to PHEME and Rod, about 20 people popped in - one person paid some bills, a couple bought stamps, the rest were all there to cash their benefits. But it is more than just a post office, it is a focal point for the community. Each person that came in was greeted by name, came to chat and exchange news, to ask advice or help in filling out forms. Sutherland Road postie also serves a large area where there is just one grocery store, a newsagents and a pub. All these undoubtedly benefit from people cashing pensions or unemployed cheques nearby.

The decision to use the new system will save the government around £400 million a year - if you don't take into account the loss of some 30,000 counter jobs and the knock on affect to local communities and the fact that even the government admit they might have to spend money subsidising post offices to keep them open.

New Labour has even admitted that the country needs to maintain a wide network of post offices, which is obviously why it has let around 200 sub post offices close every year since it has been in office.

Of course it's convenient for some people to get benefits paid into their bank account - but what if you're poor, old and

frail; there's no bank in your village, you don't have a car, and the bus service is non-existent?

While 60% of parishes still have post offices, only 5% have bank or building society branches - and the situation is set to get a lot worse. Even a new report from the British Bankers Association admitted that the elderly, people with mobility disabilities and women with young children faced difficulties getting to their nearest bank. 4,000 branches have closed since 1990, and the Campaign for Community Banking Services forecast that another one thousand communities will be "bankless" in the next five years.

So what's the answer. Well as Colin Baker, General Secretary of the National Federation of Sub-postmasters said, "The Government could build on sub post offices' ...making it the place to get information, check documents, pay for government services and find out about what you are entitled to."

And while SchNEWS would never be cynical about government policy, all European Union mail services face a radical shake up in readiness for 'liberalisation' of the European postal market in 2003. That's privatisation to you and me.

### Up Yer Privates!

New Labour are busy privatising everything - they just dress it up in fancy jargon to try to pull the wool over our eyes. But no more! Yer nosy-parker SchNEWS has decided to start a regular column, so if you know about dodgy Private Finance Initiative Schemes, Best Value nonsense, or whatever else let us know.

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK DJ GETS KNICKERED

A Brighton DJ, who wishes to remain anonymous, was arrested this week for being in possession of a pair of stolen Y Fronts. He rang SchNEWS and panted "How can I afford underwear on DJ's wages?" He is now looking for a brief to cover his case. \* Keep sending SchNEWS yer crap arrests!

## BIG MAC IN KIDS TAKEAWAY

"Head teachers are the key to the whole system-in the same way that a chief executive can be at a well-run company." Tony Blair

The biggest high-profile privatisation of education is happening in the same secondary schools Blair rejected for his own children. He obviously didn't realise that a super hero of a company, a pioneer of specialist needs education, a company that has worked in developing countries, is an organisation so ethically minded it provides school inspectors to Ofsted. (This is quite ironic considering this same bunch of hypocritical spell checkers must not fail its Ofsted inspection in any of its schools.)

So, who are they you may well ask.

Step forward Cambridge Education Associates, part of the Mott MacDonald Group, not to be confused with Ronald McDonald (one wears a clown's suit). Their vested interest in children's education became apparent at the McLibel Trial, where the Corporations Head of marketing from Chicago stated "Children were virgin ground as far as marketing is concerned". In the same way, C.E.A. obviously see the children of Tony Blair's former home of Islington as a developing market.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, managed to put parents' minds at rest by declaring "There will be no change of signs outside their children's schools". That's a bloody relief! We thought they would have gargantuan signs reading "CHILD EXPLOITATION TAKING PLACE HERE"

When SchNEWS asked Brian Oakley Smith, the Managing Director of C.E.A. a simple question - "What are you getting out of this?" the flustered reply was "We care." Yeah right! And I'm a pony's uncle. He then squeaked "We only get £600,000 a year, the other 15 million we just manage". Say what! C.E.A. stand to lose £75,000 on each target it misses. That is of course if their own inspectors fail them. Mr Oakley was quick to point out "That's if the children don't reach their targets" It's the kid's fault already.

Old McDonald had a farm now he's got your kids.

Now, what is Mott MacDonald's interest in children's education? If we look at their past record we can see how relevant it is, for instance they educated people at the Newbury By Pass; Twyford Down; road building in Indonesia; rebuilding Kosovo; various dam projects and a military hospital in Malaysia. Oh! Nearly forgot, there has also been a rumour they were involved in the Baghdad By Pass. Very educational. Their Head office by the way is in Croydon, snuggled in next to SchNEWS's old friends Nestle. How sweet!

## Diary of Adrian Molesworth

February 6th is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the eviction of the "Rainbow Village" at Molesworth, Cambridgeshire. The site was a proposed second base for 64 American cruise missiles. Under the cover of darkness on 6th February 1985, a convoy containing 1,500 Royal engineers, 600 MoD police and 1,000 civil Police descended on the village to evict 150 peace campers. The eviction took 5 months to plan, and was the largest peacetime mobilisation of troops in this country. Those protesters that refused to move their homes had to stand by and watch as their caravans were bulldozed off site. At 10am when the eviction was nearly over, Tarzan (Michael Heseltine) himself appeared from his helicopter wearing an army combat jacket and was quoted as saying he was "Deeply concerned for the children of the village". In order to keep the protesters out a £3million security fence was constructed. Unfortunately, with the ending of the 'Cold War' only a few missiles ever reached the base before it was redundant. A permanent peace garden is being maintained at the base, for more details contact Cambridge CND 01480 475284

## POSITIVE AGREEMENT?

Don't believe everything you read - even in SchNEWS! It appears that we may have been too cynical in last week's issue, when we doubted whether the Montreal talks on genetic food would reach any positive outcome. However, it seems miracles do happen as 130 government delegations came to an agreement...hey presto...the Cartagena Protocol was born!

In plain English this means that big nasty genetic companies have to tell governments what they are up to when they try to introduce their suspect wares. Imports will also be subject to new guidelines, with warning labels being introduced for GM products. And finally, ministers got rid of a clause that would have given big businesses unrivalled power courtesy of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)!

Sounding too good to be true? Maybe SchNEWS may have been right to be a little scathing. On closer inspection, it appears that labels on GM food only have to say "may contain" GMOs, and in fact the US companies can still go the WTO, if they believe that 'free trade' rules are being broken. Confused? How do you think we feel writing this stuff.

## ANARCHY ON THE ALPS

The hills were alive with the sound of protest in the small ski resort of Davos, Switzerland last week, when the World Economic Forum held their annual conference. 1,000 chief executives of the world's largest companies and 30 heads of government gathered to pat themselves on the back about the joys of globalisation. Does this sound familiar? Yes, the WEF is not much different to the World Trade Organisation who we all know and love, and, like the Seattle Conference, the WEF met opposition. Swiss police, backed by Army units and reinforced by officers from Germany, responded to snowball throwing protesters by using metal grilles and tear gas. Just a bit over the top? Of course not! We wouldn't want anything to happen to those 1,000 executives now, would we? Where would the world be without them?? \* "After five days in Davos he understands that the masters of the markets know as little about the likely movements of the global economy as the waiters supplying them with plum brandy and cheese fondue" Lewis Lapham, "The Agony of Mammon" (Verso, 98). Don't be put off by the title!

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## SchNEWS in brief

Sat 5th Feb the University of East London are running a 'Political Activism and Social Movements' Day School, a free one-day event aiming to bring activists and academics together. Including speakers from Exodus, Genetix Snowball, and Amnesty International, it takes place at University of East London, Docklands campus (nearest station Cyprus Station, Docklands light railway). Maps and further details etc at the UEL website [www.uel.ac.uk/](http://www.uel.ac.uk/)  
\*\* May Day open meeting Sat 5<sup>th</sup> February to discuss action possibilities for May Day. At University of London Union, Malet Street, 1-5pm \*\* And to raise funds for May Day, there's a benefit "evening of music and comedy with Atilla the Stockbroker, the Doleclaimer's Robb Johnson, and North London Anarcho Syndicalist Choir", Sat 19<sup>th</sup> February the Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Road (Nearest tube Finsbury Park) 7.30 'till late £4/£2. \*\* Refugees at One World Week: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons will be speaking at the One World Week Fair, 2-4 pm Wadham College, Oxford. What a good opportunity for people to raise issues about the new practices at Campsfield... <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~asylum> \*\* Another Chumbawumba Baby! Belated congratulations Danbert on the arrival of twins, Carson and Stella. Shall we make births, deaths and marriages a regular feature? \*\* Direct action by the deaf! Members of Parents Against Childhood Experimentation were set to take direct action last night (Thurs) at a talk at the Royal Society of Medicine about hearing implants for young children. "We do not want our children to be turned into Frankenstein monsters" said a spokesperson. \*\* In a rare burst of honesty The World Bank has admitted it's crap - its failure to implement policies is fucking up old forests and the poor. So you heard it from them first then, eh! \*\* SOAS students occupying their school's offices were evicted at 5.30 am Saturday morning, but over 250 students at UCL went into occupation on Wednesday to protest against tuition fees. Contact the Campaign For Free Education on PO Box 22615 London N1 1WT \*\* Radio 4A takes to the skies of Brighton again on Sunday 13th Feb, from noon till the next day on 106.6FM, with its usual mix of speech-based programming, this time sharing the airwaves with other top broadcasters.

## STOP THE SANCTIONS

Voices in the Wilderness, a campaign group for the people of Iraq, is planning a day of action at the UN on 14th Feb to highlight the ongoing humanitarian crisis. In case you'd forgotten, airstrikes by the US and UK are still wreaking havoc across Iraq, with one US jet managing to hit a primary school last November, injuring schoolchildren. Just to make you feel even better, this war is costing you, the taxpayer, an estimated £1m a week! Added to the constant bombardment are the economic sanctions imposed upon Iraq in 1990, which have led to around 227,000 deaths in young children owing to the imposed poverty and social ruin.

Voices in the wilderness is urging people to send postcards to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, asking him to help lift the sanctions. This is planned alongside the day of action on 14 Feb. Voices in the Wilderness UK, 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford, OX4 1BG 01865 243232. And if you're in Brighton on 29th Feb, there's a talk on the Iraq sanctions at The Auditorium, Brighthelm Centre, North Road at 7.30pm.

## Inside SchNEWS

There were riots in Turin on Monday after Silvano Pellissero was given 6 years and 8 months in prison. His crime? According to the state prosecutor, Tatangelo, "Pellissero and those like him are dangerous for the democratic state, not so much for the nature of their crimes, but for the popular consensus which they create in a potentially explosive social situation."

3 people, Silvano, Soledad Maria Rosas and Edoardo Massari were the scapegoats of a continued crackdown by the Italian authorities on people labelled as 'terrorists'. Despite no evidence they were accused of being involved in the Grey Wolves, a so-called eco-terrorist group which allegedly 'sabotaged' a building site for high speed trains in the Northern Italian Alps.

The Italian state used special 'terrorism laws' to keep the three in prison despite lack of evidence against them. This led to first Edoardo, then Sole a month later to commit suicide (knowing the reputation of the Italian police in causing 'accidental deaths of anarchists' some people seriously question these suicides).

The terrorist laws were introduced in the 1970's, against a background of armed militant left wing activism. These laws are now being used, for example, against people for simply belonging to an activist group, and a special police force similar to the secret services, deal entirely with political activists. As one Italian activist explained to SchNEWS "If you are involved in direct action even to the most minimal extent you are followed and spied on night and day; but what is most detrimental of this 'terrorism legacy' is the public image given to us. What the media calls us, this is what people see us; people are now scared of those who fight on the same side, popular support is no longer part of us, such laws have thrown the entire population against us."

Show solidarity! Protest in front of the Italian Embassy, Wednesday 23rd February (Bond Street tube) email: [silosquat@tiscali.net](mailto:silosquat@tiscali.net)

IN THE UK, The Terrorism Bill (See SchNews 242), as predicted, is being rushed through the various Parliamentary stages at high speed. It is now likely to become law by April. But this isn't stopping groups around the country from making some noise. See website for events around the country: [www.blagged.freemove.co.uk/law.htm](http://www.blagged.freemove.co.uk/law.htm) or join the on-line discussion list: [tb-campaigns@listbot.com](mailto:tb-campaigns@listbot.com) or phone 01273 298192 for latest updates.

## ...and finally...

When yer public popularity drops, perhaps a name change is in order. Hence after a nuclear accident Windscale changed its name to Sellafield (must be up for another name change soon); The Special Patrol Group changed its name to Territorial Support Group (after the death of Blair Peach); British Aerospace changed its name to BAE Systems after it brought up the military wing of GEC Marconi. Compulsory Competitive Tendering, where Councils have to buy the cheapest most crappy services, is now Best Value in New Labour speak. Now the latest cosmetic change is everyone's favourite chemical company Monsanto, who are to be known as Pharmacia and Searle and Upjohn, strangely the despised gene bending soy splicing section is still being known as Monsanto. Monsanto have in the past also been known as Globalstrike, Flextrex, Pantalone, Solutia and Flexsys.

## disclaimer

SchNEWS apologises to all readers. This week's disclaimer got lost in the post. Honest



DRRINGG DRRINGG! PRESS 3 FOR THIS WEEK'S

# SchNEWS

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## RINGPEACE

"You feel like you are on a galley boat – being watched, answering calls every 30 seconds, monitored and told off if there are mistakes"

Dougie Rafferty, (ex) Excell call centre worker

"I feel absolutely knackered like a total zombie, can't be bothered speaking to anyone, I go home and I just want to sleep"

Anonymous Excell call centre worker

They've been described as the "modern day sweatshops" with "battery hen" working conditions. Yet one in fifty people now work in the them. Welcome to the world of the Call Centre.

SchNEWS is used to hearing about dodgy companies but Arizona-based multinational Excell multimedia LLC really takes the biscuit. They run two call centres in Glasgow employing more than 600 operators who deal with things like directory enquiries and 999. Starting their jobs on a pocket bulging £9,000 a year, company documents show that the company aim for operators to be on the phone for 97% of the time. This means staff must answer the phone twice a minute for over seven hours a day, ask the manager for a drink of water, and make up lost time at the end of a shift if they spend too much time in the loo. And all the time closely monitored.

When Channel 4 spilled the beans on this bunch of dodgy bastards, they uncovered one story of a man who had an epileptic fit while at work and was taken to hospital after cutting his head. When his pay slip came through, the company had deducted three hours for the time he spent in the hospital! This then had a knock on effect on his attendance record, costing him more than two hundred quid in lost wages.

Of course the firm don't take criticism lying down and sacked Dougie Rafferty, and have threatened one woman member of staff with "facial mapping" to prove that she was not the anonymous employee who dared to criticise them on TV!

But surely with the new Trade Union laws Call Centres and the like aren't gonna get away with acting like latter day

scooges? Under the law if enough staff get together and want to join a union then employees have an obligation to recognise them. There's just one small snag. As one former Excell manager pointed out, thanks to massive turnover in staff, it's unlikely that there'll ever be the numbers needed to come to any agreement. And while people try to organise or speak out against their work conditions, they'll just be shown the door. In other words, "don't call us we'll call you."

### Bunch of BT Balls...

British Telecom is the third largest company in the UK (after BP Amoco and Glaxo Wellcome) and the fifth largest telecommunication company in the world. Its last annual report in 1998 revealed £4.3 billion in profits, or £136 a second, and they have operations in over 230 countries from Indonesia to Eastern Europe.

Chief Executive Sir Peter Bonfield earns £2.53 million pounds a year, a pay rise of over £1 million. SchNEWS wonders how he manages.

In June 1999, 120 workers were sacked from their jobs at the Directory Inquiries call centre in Stirling due to "regrettable advancements in technology" (Daily Record 6/7/99). The following week Glasgow telemarketing phone operators had their commission rates slashed from £4.50 an hour to £2.50 to boost profits and attract more business investment.

BT recruits the majority of its staff from employment agencies like Manpower and Blue Arrow. With a flexible workforce, no contracts, sick pay or holiday pay, BT is a New Labour model of corporate modernity - putting profit before employment rights.

All BT telephone operators and Customer Service Advisors are monitored and timed for the amount of calls taken in a shift. If employees do not meet Call Handling Time targets of one call every 180 seconds, then they are disciplined, refused overtime, and in some cases sacked. Calls are routinely recorded and listened to from a remote call centre in Coventry, where if an employee is caught swearing or hanging up they are immediately sacked and escorted from the building.

\* Got a gripe against call centres – then why not share your story with SchNEWS?

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For smiling! At the last Shamrock monkey farm demo a lost-it cop was pointing people out for the snatch squads. One bloke wound him up by standing around doing nothing more sinister and life-threatening than grinning. Not for long - "Grab him!"

At the same demo someone was jumped by the goons (not the funny ones) and thrown to the ground, resulting in a shattered hip. He's still waiting to see if he'll need a hip replacement.

### UP YER PRIVATES: PUSEY SAYS ME-OW

The company who took over when the passport agency was privatised have been told by MPs to stop pussy-footing around.

Siemens Business Services, the company at the heart of the passport fiasco which led to thousands of people having their holidays ruined last summer, have announced a 33% rise in the cost of a passport – due to their cock-ups. The rise includes the cost of handing out umbrellas and luncheon vouchers to people queueing in the pissing rain waiting for their passports.

The agency was privatised under the Private Finance Initiative, a dodgy scheme which has been grasped enthusiastically by Blair's grateful dead (see SchNEWS 219). Passport costs have now risen from £21 to £28. Thanks a poxy lot! The new director of this company, Gary Pusey, who sneaked in though the back cat flap and seems intent on milking us dry, has obviously pulled a few strokes in his time. He purred "the company had already had £1.4 billion worth of public sector contracts - two of which, the passport agency and immigration directorate, were in the dog house." OK! he didn't say dog house.

Poor old Sir David Omand, who only gets paid a measly £100,000 a year as permanent secretary at the Home Office, told MPs the rise will go towards recuperating some of the £12.6m lost in last summer's fiasco. However, Home Secretary Mr Jack "the pancake" Straw, not normally known for his involvement in catastrophes, insisted the increase was to fund the agency's £25m a year modernisation programme. Maybe he'd picked up his son's wacky backy that morning or was it Mo Mowlam's?

### Master Bates

While we're on the subject of privatised goon shows, (SchNEWS 246 Big Mac in Kids Takeaway) we should mention Rams Episcopal school in Hackney, London. 3% of schools are judged by inspectors to be failing pupils, so it's quite ironic that Rams Episcopal, the first school taken over by a private company, is to be closed and reopened under a new name due to it being judged as... failing. The teachers are now doing a thousand lines "we are not failing tossers".

## BEACH-BUMMER

"The affair raises issues of economic imperialism. Want to chop down a mountain in Yosemite? Not at any price. Want to destroy a beach in Maya Bay? That'll be \$100,000 dollars plus deposit, whilst the leading man pockets \$20 million thank you very much"

Maya Bay International Alliance

Ever wondered what a tropical paradise looks like? Rupert Murdoch's new 20th Century Fox film "The Beach", directed by Andrew Macdonald and Danny Boyle, obviously didn't. They were slightly confused as far as the word 'paradise' was concerned, and thought it meant bulldozing beaches, pulling up indigenous trees and single-handedly helping to destroy an ecosystem. This lot make the Benidorm lager louts look like Noddy in the land of Oz.

The usual fee for filming in a Thai National park is 1,000 baht, about \$26, but as Fox films handed over \$108,000 which they termed a donation and an additional deposit of 5 million baht, it was hardly a surprise they received the green light.

This holiday romance took place at Maya Bay, Ko Phi Phi Thailand. However, on visiting this area of National Park they discovered it was not their definition of utopia, so, against the wishes of local people the film makers chose to change the paradise into Hell by removing vital dune plants and introducing palm trees. Macdonald then had the audacity to state "everything is tip-top on Phi Phi Leh" even though the last monsoon washed his make shift beach away.

Local people are now asking people to boycott the film, and on Wednesday at the film premier in Leicester Square, activists from the Campaign for Ethical Filmmaking gatecrashed proceedings. Donning Leonardo DiCaprio masks, they were waved through police lines, under the cover of a stretched limo and alighted to the screams of thousands of waiting fans! Screams turned to laughter, though, as one penguin-suited activist held aloft a Golden Bulldozer Award.

To add insult to injury, Leonardo DiCaprio is hosting the Earth day celebrations in April on, you've guessed it - sustainable living.

SchNEWS suggests that instead of watching the film you read the original book by Alex Garland. [www.uq.edu.au/~pggredde/](http://www.uq.edu.au/~pggredde/)

## ESSEX EVICTIONS

As SchNEWS went to press, the protest camp at Gorse Wood, was being evicted. In case you've forgotten, large areas of meadowland, woodland and the environmentally sensitive Curry Hill are set to be destroyed to make way for the A130 link road. This is no country lane we're talking about here, the proposed road is to be a six lane motorway.

The road is being financed by the private finance initiative, and is sponsored by Countryroute plc which is a consortium of roadbuilders Laing and other contractors.

Help is urgently needed, so ring 02082 994241 or mobile 07957 915977 for more info, and get involved!

P.S. - Can anyone tell us if this road is set to be part of the Trans-European Network?

\* The protest camp at Hockley is to be evicted any day now. Campaigners are trying to stop 66 luxury homes being built (SchNEWS 243). Security have now arrived and surrounded the site, and the waiting protestors could do with more help. Arriving activists are advised to ring the camp mobile before arriving. Contact 01702 206353 or site mobile 0831 717815 for more info. [www.angelfire.com/mt/GBH](http://www.angelfire.com/mt/GBH)

## SchNEWS in brief

Stop Press!! The first action against the British **Terrorism Bill** is in solidarity with an Italian anarchist who got 6 years and 8 months, under special terrorism laws, for allegedly sabotaging a building site, despite no evidence (SchNEWS 246). Meet 12 noon, outside the Italian Embassy (Bond Street Tube), Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Feb (changed from the 23rd). [Asilosquat@tiscali.net](mailto:Asilosquat@tiscali.net) \*\* Meeting to discuss the **Terrorism Bill**, Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Feb at 6.30pm at the Bridge Hotel, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Contact Box 1TA, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE99 1TA. \*\* Demo against the far-right Freedom Party outside the **Austrian Embassy** on Sat, 19th February. 6.30pm outside Austrian Embassy, Belgrave Square, London (Hyde Park Corner tube). \*\* **Protest Songs**, an open mike night of protest songs against the Terrorism Bill. Wednesday 16th Feb, The Gladstone, Brighton. Call Sarah 01273 231374 if you are interested in playing \*\* Has anyone out there got photos of **Travellers' New Year's Parties in Europe** for inclusion in our next annual? If so send 'em to SchNEWS with yer name and address on the back if you want them returned, also write down where they were taken \*\* Anyone in Brighton who is **fluent in French and English** (!) and can spare some time to do some translating, give SchNEWS a call, we'd really appreciate your help \*\* The **Nestle 16** (SchNEWS 242) are up in court on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at Halifax Magistrates Court, Harrison Road, Halifax at 9.30am. A demo and solidarity actions are planned. Tel: 01268 682820

- If you want some **full frontal naked radio**, tune into 106.5 FM in Brighton this Sunday
- for Radio 4A

## Bus Outing

Passengers on the number 15 Stagecoach bus in London this week took a ride with a difference when the bus suddenly met a woman holding a banner, ordering the vehicle to 'Stop in the name of Love!'. As the bus drew to a halt, members of the Lesbian Avengers group commenced their mission - hanging banners stating 'Repeal Section 28', distributing leaflets to the passengers and painting the bus bright pink! Lesbian Avengers, 0181 374 9885

## U'wa Misses

On February 3rd the U'wa tribe in Colombia's call for international support was answered by people around the world, as one of Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) biggest shareholder's Fidelity Investments was targeted in 34 cities across the globe.

The U'wa tribe of Colombia have been fighting against Oxy extracting oil from their land for a few years. Even Shell pulled out of the project citing human rights concerns. In Colombia oil brings militarisation and environmental destruction. Since November 1999 over 250 people have been occupying a proposed oil drilling site (SchNEWS 244). On 19th January thousands of Columbian military invaded U'wa territory and evicted the tribe from the test site.

Meanwhile Fidelity have hardly done their PR any favours by announcing that they invest in "companies with the highest likelihood of stock-price appreciation.... Our portfolio managers are not trained to make investment decisions in order to fulfill social or political objectives." Meanwhile Oxy are trying to silence critics by requesting a temporary restraining order against groups supporting the U'wa.

## Inside SchNEWS

City Police spotters nabbed **Kuldip Bajwa** while demonstrating outside the Labour party conference in Bournemouth due to his likeness to someone caught on video hitting a police riot shield with a placard pole at June 18, Judge Barthurst Norman said too much leniency had previously been shown to J18 reprobrates and sentenced Kuldip to a full 21 months for violent disorder. Letters of support to: Kuldip Bajwa, DN 7230, HMP Jebb Ave., Brixton, London, SW2 5XF.

**Jeff Booker**, sentenced to 18 months for the J18 protests, has been moved. His new address is HMP Elmley, Church Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent ME12 4AX. Prison number DN7071.

**Saptal Ram** has now been in jail for fourteen years, for defending himself against a violent racist attack in a Birmingham restaurant. Whilst in prison, he has been subjected to strip searches and beatings. On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, his family are due to meet with Paul Boateng, the Minister for prisons, to demand that Saptal be released immediately. There will be a vigil of support on the same day outside the Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 beginning at 9.30am.

Free Saptal Ram, PO Box 23139, London SE1 1ZU. [www.ncad.demon.co.uk/saptal.html](http://www.ncad.demon.co.uk/saptal.html)

## ...and finally...

The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) last utterance was its wish to be more open. And where could be more open than a diminutive Middle East enclave clinging on to the edge of that famous democratic state, Saudi Arabia, opposite Iran and run by a monarchy with a population of just 540,000. Qatar of course. Their embassy told a startled SchNEWS, "Qatar expressed a wish to hold a meeting; our chances are good."

After full on riots greeted their last two conferences in Geneva and Seattle, it seems that out of the 135 member countries of the WTO, nobody wanted to bite the (rubber) bullet and invite those global racketeers to their shores. So the WTO must have thought it was the multinationals' answer to winning the lottery when Qatar, after fighting off stiff competition from absolutely no one, invited them to hold the next big trade talks in 2001 in the middle of an Arabian desert in the capital Doha. The only people who are "over the moon" about this gathering are the all dressed in black, scarf clad anarchists, who feel quite confident about blending in.

Still, readers, you've got a bit of time to think of a good excuse to get through customs - but you'll need to find someone who lives there. If that's too much, SchNEWS recommends that protestors and soundsystems can leg it over the hills of Afghanistan, sneak though Iran then swim across The Gulf, or maybe just cut across Saudia Arabia. Dress as an Arab-looking tourist and you're laughing.

Next time you're surfing the web, why not do your bit to uphold society and give the Seattle Police Department a hand in bringing to justice those naughty anarchists who brought terror to Seattle during the WTO protests. Yes, the Seattle Police Intelligence Division has a lovely website full of colourful pictures of protestors wreaking havoc, and is divided into categories such as 'arson', 'property damage' and 'assaults'. If you fancy having a look, then check out this ridiculously long website [www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/spd/wto/spdwotosuspecthome.htm](http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/spd/wto/spdwotosuspecthome.htm)

### disclaimer

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# THE HILLS HAVE EARS

## 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

Menwith Hill is a little piece of the USA in Britain, a listening post monitoring the telecommunications traffic of Europe. It is rapidly expanding, unaccountable (even to parliament) and no-one is able to get any answers. Ally Fogg reports, additional material by Gibby Zobel.

Take a short walk west from the A59 near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, across a designated site of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and you could be forgiven for thinking you had found a set from Space 1999. Twenty seven vast white golfballs up to 60 metres in diameter, satellite dishes and a host of towering aerial masts line the horizon. If a little bird were to tell you what was going on inside, you might feel you had walked into the middle of George Orwell's nightmares. The fibre-optic cables running under your feet carry 32,000 telephone lines, and the space-age hardware before your eyes monitors transmissions from land and mobile telephones, radios, faxes, satellite communications and cyberspace. It is capable of intercepting two million telephone calls every hour. Its targets are military, political, commercial, industrial and domestic. This is not science fiction. It is Menwith Hill spy station.

Officially titled 'RAF Menwith Hill', the largest regional intelligence station on Earth is in fact run by, and for, the US National Security Agency (NSA). There are 1,200 American staff and 600 British staff on site. It operates in close tandem with GCHQ at Cheltenham, but GCHQ has no automatic access to the intelligence gathered at Menwith Hill. All domestic and international telephone calls in Britain pass through Menwith Hill, allowing US officers to spy on any British citizen without a warrant. Information collected on political activists, for example, can then be passed on to MI5, Special Branch or Scotland Yard.

Despite the end of the Cold War, the NSA continues to have a budget of \$10 billion per year. It spends \$1 million per minute spying on the communications of the UK, France and Germany. The US 'acquired' 562 acres of Yorkshire moorland in 1956 in a secret arrangement with the British government. The arrangement was never approved by the British Parliament. A 21-year tenure was agreed, and renewed in 1976 for a further 21 years, again in secret and without parliamentary approval. Despite the expiry of this tenure, the base continues to expand. Since the arrangements between the UK and US governments which allow Menwith Hill to operate are secret, nobody knows on what legal grounds Menwith Hill now functions. The rapid expansion of the base has required planning applications, in 1985 there were four radomes (golfballs), now there are 27. However Harrogate Council has no power to refuse permission or impose conditions.

The reasons for Menwith Hill's very existence give an important insight into the 'special relationship' between the UK and USA. In a court case last year, former Cabinet Minister Tony Benn MP testified that Britain is under contract to the US to buy nuclear weapons on the condition that bases like Menwith are allowed to operate from here and provided that the US has access to all British intelligence operations. The role of Menwith Hill in a military context is undeniable, it won an award from the NSA as "Sta-

tion of the Year" in 1991 for its role in the Gulf War. The use of this technology for commercial espionage is no less controversial. American companies, notably arms dealers Loral Space Systems Incorporated and Lockheed Aerospace, sell much of the spy equipment to the NSA and they are both involved in arms sales to third-world countries. Menwith Hill gains information that would be highly useful to them. In the same testimony, Tony Benn told the court that it was "inconceivable" that the intelligence collected at Menwith Hill would not be used for commercial advantage. Even the NSA's own website admits that its work includes "monitoring the development of new technology" around the world.

Benn is one of a small band of MPs who have attempted to impose some form of parliamentary accountability on Menwith Hill. In his last speech to the House before his untimely death in 1994, Bob Cryer gave a blistering attack on the station, and the fudging of Ministerial replies on the subject. He described how the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Nicholas Soames) had said there is parliamentary accountability for Menwith Hill, while the Minister for Public Transport (Stephen Norris) found

### Action at Menwith Hill 4th March



Pic: Sophie

the station so secret that while he was a minister at the Department of Defence he thought it was a railway station! Max Madden MP asked questions between 1986 and 1997. Norman Baker, Lib-Dem MP for Lewes, has asked dozens of parliamentary questions about Menwith Hill and related issues since entering the house in May 97. "I'm a believer in freedom of information," he told Squall. "I don't like the way Menwith Hill is shrouded in secrecy, and I'm not convinced that what happens there is for the good of this country. Most of us assume the cold war is over, so the question must be what are they using it for? One of the assumptions must be that it is being used for industrial espionage."

The standard ministerial reply to almost any question on the subject is: "The use of Menwith Hill by the United States Department of Defence is subject to confidential arrangements between the United Kingdom and the United States Government."

Recently the US and UK Governments have been embarrassed by an EC report from the Science and Technology Office of Assessment which stated that "within Europe all e-mail, telephone and fax communications are routinely intercepted by the United States National Security Agency transferring all target information from the European mainland via the strategic hub of London then by satellite to Fort Meade in Maryland via the crucial hub at Menwith Hill". The report confirmed that this included diplomatic, economic, and political communications, monitored through a massive US global spy web, mainly at Menwith Hill. European business leaders are believed to be less than delighted at the confirmation that their commercial confidentiality is routinely breached by an arm of the US Government.

Not surprisingly, those who have worked the hardest to highlight the scandal of Menwith Hill have not been political

representatives or disgruntled business leaders, but a dedicated collection of peace campaigners. There have been campaigns to stop Menwith Hill since it began in 1952. Groups now involved include the WoMenwith Hill Women's Peace Camp, Yorkshire CND and the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB). The peace camp has been sitting in a lay-by on the A59 since 1994. There have been literally hundreds of trespasses at the station over many years. Activists have been arrested, assaulted, imprisoned and injunctioned, but refuse to give up. British MoD Police are used to protect the base, paid for with American money. In a typical example of the lengths to which the authorities have gone in attempting to quell these activists, the second military land byelaws were passed in the summer of 1997, forbidding trespass onto the base. The first set of byelaws had been declared invalid in 1993. The first two activists to be arrested under the byelaw, Helen John and Anne Lee, were acquitted by a judge at York Crown Court in October. He ruled that since 70 per cent of the land covered by the law was used for grazing sheep, it could not be considered primarily of 'military use'. Less than a week later, activists Lindis Percy and Anni Rainbow were arrested under the same byelaw which had just been ruled invalid. They had been removing byelaw notices.

In February Lindis Percy, who has had an injunction since 1991 banning her from the area around Menwith Hill with the exception of two public footpaths, was arrested for removing one of these signs from the side of one of the footpaths. "They deliberately moved the bylaw notices three feet to 'protect' the signs from protestors! The intent was entrapment. They say the notices are off the footpath, I say they are still on it. So by reading the notices you have to get so close you are, in their eyes, committing a criminal offence. The MoD Police appeared out of nowhere and arrested me."

Action at Menwith Hill 4th March



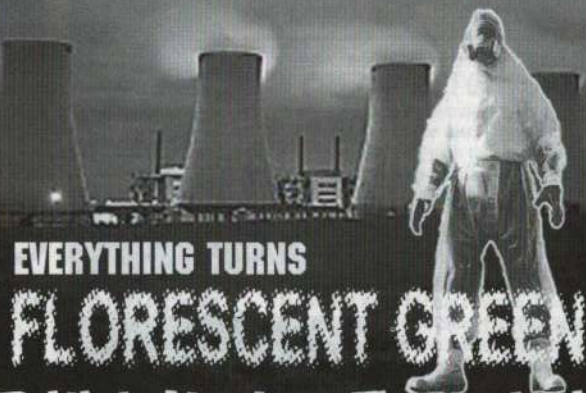
It has been alleged that she had nine injunctions banning her from the base, but claims she was entitled to use the footpath. Linds has been a thorn in the side of the US military in the UK for many years. She has taken out civil and criminal actions against the US Government for assault and false imprisonment at a number of US bases. The Americans cited diplomatic immunity and the cases failed. The criminal action is now being considered at the European Court. Last year she served more than two months of a nine-month sentence in Holloway, and was released after intervention from the Official Solicitor when her health was compromised after she was subjected to involuntary stripsearches. "I firmly believe that out of bad things, good things will come," she told Squall, "and that people can make a difference, when we know what we are doing is right... My family know this is important work and accept that the arrests and court cases is what is going to be. Of course there have been problems and they used to get very angry, but I think it is sorted out now."

"This crazy zany world of secrecy, collusion and deceit is bizarre - I still work as a health visitor in Bradford which keeps me sane. They want you to give up - but the more they try and silence me the stronger I get."

It has recently been confirmed that there are plans for the continued expansion of Menwith Hill until at least 2005. The physical expansion shall enable it to house the technology to transmit and receive communications and full-spectrum photographic images from military satellites, allowing the US military to see and hear what is going on, on literally any inch of the planet. It will also be able to control laser weapons which could be fired anywhere to an accuracy of six feet. The space probe Cassini, launched last autumn with 72 lb of plutonium on board, was directly connected to the need to fuel these weapons in space. There is every reason to believe that it will continue to grow well beyond 2005, and who knows what technology it will house by then. Big Brother is not just watching you, he's getting bigger all the time.

EVERYTIME BNFL DOES ANOTHER

**GreenWash**



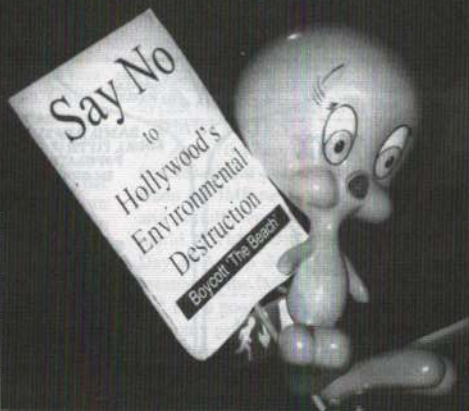
**British Nuclear Fiasco Ltd**



## Boycotting 'The Beach'

**Friday 11th February: More than a dozen protesters brought the remains of the beach to Warner Village Cinema, Newcastle. Sand, trees and the sea - plus an image of Leonardo di Caprio - were deposited at the entrance by environmentalists in beach gear, in order to highlight the environmental destruction caused to Maya Bay, Thailand, during filming of 'The Beach' which began its general release that day.**

"I tawt I taw a fat-cat"



## SchQUFACT

The USA alone, with only 6% of the world's population, consumes 30% of its resources.



# Glen of the Downs

Ireland's longest running road protest camp  
(See SchNEWS 241)



## SQUOTES

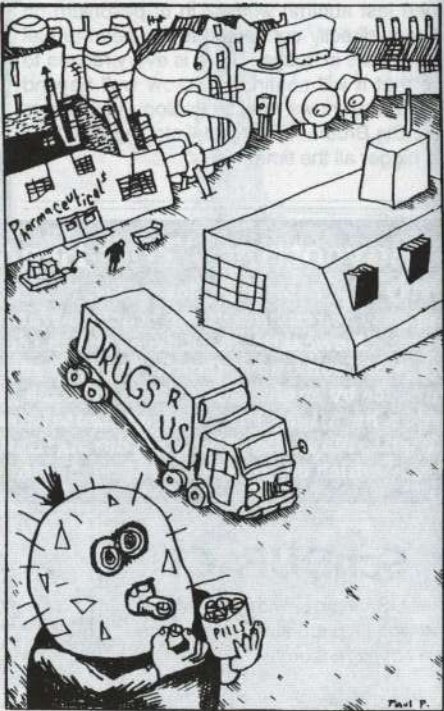
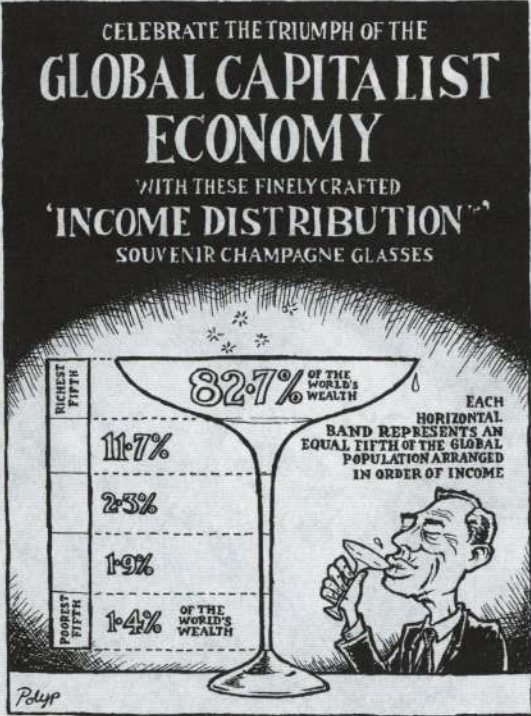
"The earth is but one great ball. The borders, the barriers, the cages, the cells, the prisons of our lives, all originate in the false imagination of the minds of men."

Mumia Abu-Jamal

## FIGHT THE FUND



## DROP THE DEBT





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER DEBT-RIDDEN

# SchNEWS

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## "FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

"One Filipino child is said to die every hour, in a country where more than half the national budget is given over to paying just the interest on World Bank and IMF loans." John Pilger, 'Hidden Agendas'.

The outgoing head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) became the latest victim to be pied last Sunday. In a farewell speech at a meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Bangkok, Michel Camdessus' claim that the IMF "are best friends of the poor" was clearly too much for one outraged person, who pied him full in the face. Splat!

And SchNEWS can reveal that the pie in the face is nothing compared to the global protests being planned when the IMF next meets at Washington DC in April!

So why all the fuss? What's the IMF? Read on for your quick economics lesson...

In 1944, 44 nations met in the New England village of Bretton Woods to construct a new framework of stability and national sovereignty for the post-war economy. This little gathering gave birth to three beautiful offspring... The IMF, the World Bank and the WTO (which at that time was called the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or GATT). Frederic F. Clairmont, in 'The Rise and Fall of Economic Liberalism' described the Bretton Woods creation as "a lethal totalitarian blueprint for the carve up of world markets". The IMF, in its infancy, was set up to maintain currency stability and develop world trade, but as it grew up it got bigger and badder. In the 1970s, the Organisation of Oil Producing Countries (OPEC) shoved large amounts of money in western banks which the banks then loaned out to developing countries. When governments began to run into trouble with the repayments, the IMF and World Bank hastily stepped in to bail out the private banks. The transfer of private debt into public liability was therefore complete - the third world debt crisis had begun! In order that third world governments rescheduled their debts and received new loans, the IMF imposed certain conditions, conditions called 'structural adjustments'.

### Structurally adjusted...

Countries whose economies are going down the pan can receive loans from the IMF in return for a bit of 'adjustment'. Adjustment, to the IMF, means de-regulation of industry, cutbacks in public services and subsistence farming abandoned to cash crops. In short, the economic direction of the country is planned, monitored and controlled by the IMF in Washington. Lovely! Or as John Pilger put it, "the surrender of sovereignty, and without a gunboat in sight." Any Governments that refuse to comply are cast into financial darkness and refused further loans.

In 1997, the foreign debt of 'developing countries' was \$2 trillion. Put another way this is \$400 for every man, woman and child, whilst the average income in these countries is less than a dollar a day. Meanwhile... net nurd Bill Gates is worth over \$60 billion; more than \$1.5 trillion changes hands on the global currency market each day; the World's richest 200 people are worth more than \$1 trillion!!!

### The IMF: Working wonders worldwide...

Chile was the first lucky recipient of the IMF's restructuring revolution under Augusto Pinochet's regime. This resulted in industries being dismantled and the majority of Chileans being plunged into poverty. At the end of this programme, Chile's debt was higher than it was at the start. Surely this was a failure? Oh no, the IMF were proud of the results!

The reign of ruin spread to Africa, the poorest continent in the world where more money is spent of debt repayments than on healthcare. What a lovely target...the IMF rubbed its hands with joy as they took over the management of the economies, increasing debt by 400%. In the city of Lusaka in Zambia, four out of every five people are unemployed and half of the newly privatised companies are bankrupt. Nicaragua

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For waiting for a train! Brighton's finest were out in force last Saturday night at Brighton station with the usual collection of S&M gear, dogs and vehicles needed to ensure safety for the travelling public. One particularly jovial officer approached a humble SchNEWS scribe and proceeded to let his dog jump all over him, justifying the assault as "just training, sir" before moving on to his next victim. The fifth or sixth person unwillingly drawn into this "training" exercise wasn't so lucky, as the dog got very excited and the extremely bemused commuter was grabbed by four cops and dragged off to a police car without search, charge or caution.

is equally fortunate, structural adjustments have moved the economic burden from the rich to the poor. Living standards have declined and many state workers face a bleak future owing to the privatisation of almost everything.

Dictators, unsurprisingly, are very good at applying IMF policies, and so have been very successful at receiving loans. Very often this money has not reached the poor who suffer most through the subsequent debt. In the Philippines, the late Ferdinand Marcos managed to build up a wealth of \$10 billion thanks to International Aid. On his departure, the IMF refused to cancel repayment and simply moved the burden to the Filipino government who had to raise taxes and end rice subsidies. In Brazil there is no record for 80% of the amount borrowed by the former military dictatorship.

\* The IMF's program extends to complimenting dodgy regimes, which maybe accounts for their recent praise of New Labour's chancellor, Gordon Brown.

\* A small group of protesters, disguised with West Papuan tribal masks, greeted the Indonesian President and 100 of his corporate cronies this week, throwing pies and fake blood and blocking the entrance to a business seminar. The Indonesians were here to chat to 400 delegates from British industry.

### DIARY DATES

\* April 16-17 are the dates for the 'mobilisation for global justice', with actions planned when the IMF next meet in Washington DC, and simultaneously in countries across the world. \* There also a proposal for a Global Day of Action during the annual ministerial meeting of the IMF in Prague, in September.

\* For a good in depth analysis of the global economy get this months issue of the New Internationalist. Tel 01858 439616 or [www.newint.org](http://www.newint.org)

## Chemical Terrorism

"I was ordered to go into a brick room and take off my gas mask for 3-4 minutes. I then ran out tears streaming from my face and I felt awful." Anonymous ex-serviceman from WWII

Shocking evidence is emerging from scientists investigating chemical gases carried out by the Ministry of Defence in "Demoralising Experiments". The International Scientific Environmental Research Network (I.S.E.R.N) told SchNEWS, "We were digging into the controversial topic of Gulf War Syndrome when we made an astonishing discovery."

I.S.E.R.N started investigating ex-servicemen and found that men who were in the army as far back as 1945 suffered illnesses related to chemical damage to the brain. When the ex-serviceman above asked why the M.O.D had gassed him, he was told it was an experiment "to see if I could carry out orders while demoralised." An I.S.E.R.N spokesman told us, "this soldier was subjected to a concoction of chemicals, which attacked the limbic region of his brain, which controls mood and memory. Hence the demoralising effect. When tested we discovered he had chemicals in his blood from 55 years ago! Furthermore, his children have developed an illness known as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and they have allergies to everyday chemicals such as perfume, paint, tobacco smoke, household cleaners, car fumes etc. This illness is caused by chemical damage to the limbic region of the brain." What a coincidence!

This is the thin end of the wedge. Evidence suggests up to 2 million people in the UK may be ill due to the M.O.D's use and creation of toxic chemicals. Illnesses range from Spina Bifida, Asthma, Arthritis, Alzheimers, thyroid disorders, Eczema, Dyslexia, Anaemia, Allergies, to hormonal disorders such as PMT, sleep disorders, mood swings, memory problems, the list just goes on...

I.S.E.R.N intend to carry on their research and need ex-servicemen to come forward with information, which will be treated in confidence. Contact: isern2000@hotmail.com or by post c/o SchNEWS

## SANTA CLAUSE

"To remove Clause 28 without replacing it with alternative protective legislation is irresponsible, leaving children without any statutory protection from homosexual campaigning." Keep the Clause, anti gay campaigners.

In Scotland, Media House has handed over £500,000, to this bunch of paranoid arseholes, who seem to possess the combined intellect of a dead pilchard. "Keep the Clause," in their quest for spreading hateful rhetoric have made the slight mistake in advertising a new Free-post in the Daily Record and have been bombarded with empty envelopes, old beer mats, telephone books, and it was a rumoured, a paving slab. Of course SchNEWS is not the kind of publication that would print such an address which is Keep the Clause, Freepost SCO 5219, Perth PH2 8BR. Meanwhile Stagecoach boss Brian Souter, is also a keen supporter of the clause, and gave £500,000 to the Scottish Schoolboards Association to help them rant on about how our kids need protecting. What these gallant pioneers of child protection neglected to disclose however, was that when Stagecoach took over South West Trains, one of their first decisions was to close the work's nursery. This left Carol Moya, who was employed as a rail operator, having her contract terminated due to her being unable to find childcare!

## Subscribe!

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

## SchNEWS in brief

March 8th is **International Women's Day**. Women all over the world will be taking part in a Global Strike, calling for fairer wages for women, a total change in the priorities of the world's budget, and recognition of women's work both paid and unpaid. The strike has been called by the National Women's Council of Ireland, and the International Wages For Housework Campaign. Contact Crossroads Women's Centre, 0171 482 2496 or <http://womenstrike8m.server101.com>

\*\*Two people from the **Protest Naked For The Right To Be Naked In Public** campaign are up for, yes, indecent exposure at Birmingham Crown Court on the 25th Feb. They reckon the 1847 law is outdated and should be scrapped. After stripping off at such tightly dressed places as the Royal Courts of Justice, the campaign plans to protest naked at New Scotland Yard on July 15th. 01203 222076 [www.geocities.com/thehumanmind](http://www.geocities.com/thehumanmind)

\*\***Campaign Against Arms Trade** National Student Gathering, including evening entertainment from Mark Thomas and Seize the Day, Sat 11th March, London. Tickets £7 including vegan meal. Info: 020 7281 0297

\*\***Leicester Prevent the Terrorism Act** are having a day of action to highlight the new bill (SchNEWS 242). Meet on Sat Feb 26th at the Clocktower, Leicester city centre, 12 noon. \*\*There's a benefit for the **Southdowns Hunt** this Sat 19th at The Freebutt, Albion Street, Brighton. It starts at 8pm and features ska/dub/punk group Inner Terrestrials + support. \*\***Pedal Power!** A critical mass cycling event is planned for 26th Feb. Meet at Markeaton car park derby at 1.30pm to ride to the city centre. \*\***Canadian Pacific Coastal Airlines** recently barred a member of Greenpeace from boarding one of their planes because it regards Greenpeace as a "quasi-terrorist organisation".

\*\***West Country Activist** has been revamped as Action South West, and they are looking for people to re-subscribe. Send donations, spare stationary, stories, or office equipment to Box 80 Greenleaf, 82 Colston St. Bristol, BS1 5BB. Tel. 07931 268966, e-mail [wca99@hotmail.com](mailto:wca99@hotmail.com)

## SEED OF DESTRUCTION

Want to hear about yet more genetically modified madness? The government has announced plans to introduce the first genetically modified seed onto the National Seed List. This list dictates exactly which potatoes and peas get to make it onto our plates. A herbicide-tolerant maize fodder, made by Aventis, could be placed on the list by the end of this month, and would give the corporation the right to sell and grow their mutant produce. To add further insult, MAFF is seeking to remove peoples' right to object to products placed on the Seed List. More info contact Friends of the Earth 0171 490 1555 [www.foe.co.uk/camps/foodbio/seedlist/](http://www.foe.co.uk/camps/foodbio/seedlist/)

For an ethical alternative for your allotment, contact the Heritage Seed Library who have around 700 types of vegetables which are ex-National Seed List owing to their not being commercially viable. The aim of the library is to keep these poor unwanted seeds alive and well, and it is run on a non-profit basis. Tel 01203 303517

\* Week of protest against genetic foods 1-10 April. [www.RESISTANCEISFERTILE.com](http://www.RESISTANCEISFERTILE.com)

• **PREVENT THE TERRORISM BILL** •  
• **BENEFIT GIG** •

• At the Cuba Club on the seafont, Tuesday, Feb 22nd 10pm-2am, Matt Black (Coldcut/Ninja tunes) + Milkyboy + Headspace.Tickets £3 b4 11pm £4 after. Tequilas £1.20 all night

## LIFE IN THE FASLANE

The Valentine's Day demo at the Faslane Naval Base, home of the Trident nuclear submarines, resulted in 179 arrests – the largest arrest of the New Millennium! Around 400 anti-nuclear protestors descended on the base and blocked the main entrances in an attempt to prevent employees reaching their workplace. They managed to close down the main road for four and a half hours! A spokesperson from the base gave his opinion, "The workforce is sick and tired of these people trying to stop us earning a living". Those arrested may be charged with minor criminal damage. For more info contact Trident Ploughshares on 01603 611953 or visit [www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/](http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/)

\* Visit Faslane Peace Camp, 81d Shandon, Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, G84 8NT Tel 01436 820901

Also on Valentine's Day...86 people were arrested at the US mission to the UN, and 3 at the US embassy in London in a protest to highlight the ongoing economic sanctions on Iraq. A second member of the UN team in Iraq has quit in protest against sanctions.

There's a talk on Iraq titled 'Death of a Nation?' featuring a speaker from Voices in the Wilderness, taking place in Brighton on Tues 29th Feb at the Brighthelm Centre, North Rd. 7.30 pm. And on March 6th, there's a documentary by John Pilger on the same issue. ITV, 9.30pm

\* Voices in the Wilderness, 16b Cherwell St, Oxford OX4 1BG, 01865 243232.

## FU'CANAL

Campaigners in Oxford are trying to stop Berkeley Homes evicting voles and lizards and building £350,000 worth of 'socially useful' housing alongside the canal. Slogans appear every night and are whitewashed by contractors each day. Anarchist rules football has been played, watched by an audience of 4 police for 2 hours. In a separate incident Laing Homes have demolished the wall of a listed bridge and are now in trouble with the Council. They are also in trouble with the fire brigade for blocking access to the industrial estate with a JCB where they were burning demolition waste and being unable to find the keys. Check out <http://freespace.virgin.net/art.2000/OxfordCanal>

## ...and finally...

Dig this! What do you get if you tear up 8.5 miles of countryside, trashing 358 acres of land containing three special sites of scientific interest, 10,000 trees, two civil war battle sites and then concrete the bloody lot? In the illogical, road fanatical Blighty, believe it or not, you win an award. Environment wrecking, hard core terrorists, Mott MacDonald, the organisation responsible for this solid achievement, won the Concrete Society's Millennium Award. As they have spread the stuff over half of China, Hong Kong and Malaysia, to name but a few, it's no wonder. In fact, the only place they haven't is a park in southern Mongolia which they don't know about yet. SchNews have concrete evidence that these stone hearted tree killers were the Newbury Bypass overall winners. We had to grit our teeth when we heard they also took away the civil engineering category and were awarded a certificate of excellence. This is obviously going to pave the way for other multinational lovelies to grace our land.

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers to structurally adjust their Section 28 on leaving the bathroom. Honest



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SIZE DON'T MATTER

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

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## NANO NANO

"What is possible and what is bananas is hard to judge at present, but from our experience every bone in our bodies says this technology will happen because of the similarities with the bio-tech industry."

- Pat Mooney, Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI)

Smaller than the SchNEWS bank account, nanotechnology is set to be the next big thing in the manipulation of reality since biotechnology. Who says? The American Association for the Advancement of Science who had their Annual General Meeting last week, and believe that machines made up of a few atoms could be possible in a few years time.

After the dazzling and life-affirming science that led from the discovery of the atom to the atom bomb, from DNA to Frankenfoods, SchNEWS readers will excuse us for not jumping up and down with excitement at this next big leap forward.

So what is nanotechnology? And why aren't we digging in the SchNEWS biscuit tin for our long lost microscope in anticipation?

A nanometre is a billionth of a metre. If you put 50 million nanos side by side they'd be the width of a human hair. Where biotechnology manipulated genes to alter what was there already, nanotechnology can build pretty much anything atom by atom, or alter existing structures. Which could mean much faster and smaller computers that assemble themselves, or manipulating the atomic structure of objects so they that may even be turned into something else. As Pat Mooney puts it, "You could have a household microwave which you simply pop the garbage into and out pops - well another microwave if you want. Or a hamburger, a piece of furniture, TV set, anything!"

As is the case with a lot of science, whether the new research gets used for everyone's benefit depends on who controls it and what their motives are. Nanotech could be used for microsurgery, since it would be a lot easier to inject surgical robots to perform operations rather than cutting people open, or for recycling waste into something useful. However, on a darker note, the U.S. has already developed a spy plane the size of a pound coin that can fly up to 1000 feet at 40 mph, with built-in sensors, and it is only a matter of time that ones smaller than the eye can detect will be invented. How can you prevent yourself being monitored, if you don't even know it's happening?

Governments are taking the technology seriously. Following the Japanese lead in investment, the U.S. gov't's National Nanotechnology Initiative (N.N.I.) has been given a proposed budget of \$500 million dollars for next year, but as Pat Mooney notes, "We don't know what is being spent by the Department of Energy or Dept of Defence, but it's considerably more than that." Research is accelerating fast, and we are no more than a few years away from nanomachines. Last year researchers in the U.S. built a motor from just 78 atoms, small enough to fit in a cop's brain (okay, that's not what they used it for, cops are VERY clever really).

Now call us cynical but we at SchNEWS are a little concerned. Control of research and funding is already in the tiny hands of national governments and corporations. Among those funding the N.N.I., are the U.S. Department of Defence, and NASA, and the current corporate leader of nanotech research is IBM, an early backer of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (SchNEWS 141) which threatened to strip away the worlds labour and environmental laws. If nanotech follows the same pattern as biotech, then we can look forward to companies like Monsanto moving in to try and get a stranglehold on the nanotech market, as they have tried on the agricultural markets with their GM products. If they start patenting this research as they are doing with GM products, then you could find that you will only be allowed to use such technology if you pay them a hefty fee. Pat Mooney: "When I discuss it, it's like talking about bio-technology in the 70s - people asking how could it be possible. They say we're crazy. But at RAFI we reckon that bio-technology will not be with us much longer. We are in a transition towards nano-technology if you look at where the money is being spent on research around the world."

### TERROR TUBBIES BENEFIT NIGHT THIS SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEB

To raise awareness of the Government's proposed Terrorism Bill  
@ The Gloucester, with P.A.I.N., Tragic Roundabout and Mark Leveller  
5pm-10.30 Free food B4 7pm  
£3.50/£2.50 concs.

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For having dirty sheets! A couple had their house searched by Manchester cops and were locked in police cells for seven hours (while their three young kids were left unsupervised at home) for the alleged theft of a bed sheet from a Road Chef hotel. They had put the sheet in a laundry bag and left it outside for collection after one of her children had spilled a drink on it. The next day hotel staff found the missing sheet.

Maybe we're being a bit too pessimistic about all this fiddling around with atoms, and it will turn out to bring nothing but good for humanity. After all the nanobots in Star Trek are sometimes mischievous, but basically cute little robots who help out the crew of the Enterprise from time to time. However, does anyone remember what happened the first time scientists started playing round with the atom?

Check out [www.rafi.org](http://www.rafi.org) in mid-March for more info.

### OFF THEIR STED!

What do you reckon the Government does to a school which has exam results 27% above the national average? Praise them? No, tries to close them down!

Summerhill in Suffolk is an independent progressive school founded in 1921 by A.S.Neill, a teacher and revolutionary. He created a community free from authoritarian rule, in which pupils' personal interests and development have priority. Children have a direct say in the running of the school through weekly meetings. The school's ideals have influenced educational theories and political thinking worldwide. However, not everyone is enthusiastic. The Education Authorities equate 'the pursuit of freedom' with 'the pursuit of idleness', and they can't handle the non-compulsory lesson attendance policy. Despite having only 58 pupils, Summerhill is the most inspected school in Britain. Last May's OFSTED inspection led to them being served with a Statutory Order of Complaint. The order required changes including compulsory attendance of lessons and stricter discipline. Failure to comply may lead to closure. Summerhill believe that these measures go against the fundamental principles on which the school is founded. An appeal has been lodged with the Independent Schools Tribunal, it's hearing will take place over 8 days, from 20<sup>th</sup> March. Please show your support for Summerhill in it's fight against closure. As Zoe Readhead, Principal, said "If Summerhill is closed it would simply be another nail in the coffin of anything that's different." Save Summerhill Campaign, Summerhill, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HY. 01728 830 540. [www.s-hill.demon.co.uk](http://www.s-hill.demon.co.uk)

## IT'S A SIN

In December 1991 a woman was held captive at knife-point and raped. Her attacker took obscene photographs, asking his victim to smile for the camera. He attempted to force pills down her throat. He took the number of her car to further intimidate her. When she started to receive threatening phone calls, terrified for the safety of her two children, she went to the police. But a policewoman advised her to drop the case. A year later the same man committed an almost identical attack at the same premises. Christopher Davies was arrested, the case was forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) who decided not to prosecute.

Why? The two women are prostitutes, so the courts deem them "not credible". Forget preconceptions - of these two women one was saving to buy an electric wheelchair for her disabled husband, the other was funding her degree. The English Collective of Prostitutes estimate at least 70% of prostitutes are mothers, mostly single, struggling to support their families in the face of benefit cuts and low wages.

Prostitute women, being criminalised, are very vulnerable to violence and are forced onto the streets by laws which say that women working from the same premises constitutes a brothel despite the fact that working on the streets is ten times more dangerous than working indoors. Men who attack prostitute women are hardly ever arrested; only one in twelve women who is raped reports it to the police; only one tenth of recorded rapes result in a conviction.

Though prostitutes' clients include police, lawyers, judges and MPs, it is the women who are considered corrupt, not the men who use them. If the police neglect to investigate a crime because the victim was 'only' a prostitute then all women are vulnerable to attack from the rapist who remains free. In the case of the Yorkshire Ripper the prosecuting Attorney General Sir Michael Havers said of the Ripper's victims, "some were prostitutes, but perhaps the saddest part of this case is that some were not. The last six attacks were on totally respectable women."

When a sex worker secures the prosecution of her attacker the next hurdle is the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority who are likely to refuse compensation on the grounds that the victim's job puts her at risk by choice. But, as Harry Cohen MP wrote to the Board, "If it is regarded that their profession is by nature a dangerous one then the logic of your argument breaks down. On that basis you would refuse compensation to policemen and their families who have been the victims of crime."

When the CPS decided not to prosecute, the ECP helped them to bring the first ever private prosecution for rape in an English court. Their case made legal history when 3 years later, Christopher Davies was convicted.

Recommended reading: 'Some Mother's Daughter' from Crossroads Womens Centre, P.O. Box 287, London NW6 5QU Tel 0171 482 2496

## KEEP IT UP

Last Friday a Laing building site in Surrey was occupied in solidarity with protestors who are fighting eviction at the Gorsewood road protest camp in Essex. Grateful workers enjoyed a break from building a massive complex for Pfizer - the makers of viagra. Maybe that's why people found it so easy to get up a massive crane to unfurl a banner saying 'more roads? Don't even try it! Laing were targeted as they are part of the consortium that is building the six lane motorway through the Essex countryside. 20 days into the eviction and 5 people are still down the tunnels. Gorse Wood 07957 915977

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Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX.

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## SchNEWS in brief

You can always rely on the Tories to come up with the odd gem, and David Shaw, the prospective parliamentary candidate for Kingston and Surbiton doesn't disappoint: "I think it's no coincidence that Mo Mowlam had a brain tumour and smoked cannabis in her youth!" \*\* SchNEWS would never gloat, but felt we should share the **Evening Anus'** apology to demonstrators who went to Shamrock Monkey Farm the other week and were branded, amongst other things, "terrorists". The Anus grovelled "...we let you down with our lopsided and half-hearted reporting of the protest and the ugly clashes with police.. Equally we condemn police brutality against anyone in the same way we condemn extremists... We strive for fair play. Yes, we let readers down this once, but don't leap to the conclusion it was because we are biased. Quite simply, we slipped from our normal standards." \*\* Next **Shamrock Demo:** Noon, 12th March. Tel 07020 936956 e-mail shamrockmonkeys@yahoo.com \*\* Join satirist Mark Thomas for the real "**Star Wars**" on Saturday 4th March at the U.S.-run Menwith Hill Spy Base, near Harrogate, Yorkshire. Noon-4pm www.gn.apc.org/cndyork/m4 \*\* Think Bacardi's Cuban cool? Find out the truth at a **Boycott Bacardi**, Smash the Cuban Blockade Dayschool on Sat 11th March 11am - 5 pm at Marchmont Centre, Marchmont Street, London WC1 £5/£2. Contact FRFI BCM, Box 5909, London, WC1N 3XX Tel 0171 837 1688 \*\* Housing benefit privatised. **Refuse collectors** next? On Tuesday 7th March there's a demonstration against the privatisation of Sheffield's public services, meet 12.30 pm outside the town hall. \*\* The **Socialist Alliance** are holding a National Campaigns and Activists Conference on Sat. 25th March in Leicester. The aim? "How to link direct action more closely with socialist and green campaigning. 0116 244 0956 leicesterradical@hotmail.com \*\* The **Nestle 16**, who were arrested last November on charges of 'conspiracy to commit burglary' after dropping a banner outside the Nestle factory in Halifax (SchNEWS 242), have funnily enough had their charges dropped! \*\* Campaigners will be protesting outside 30 UCI cinemas this Saturday (26th) to highlight the company's destruction of **Crystal Palace park**. Meanwhile, Bromley Council, not content with giving planning permission to UCI to carve up the Grade II listed park with a planned 20 screen multiplex cinema and huge roof-top carpark, now want to cut down another 200 trees. The Council want to clear 'historically inaccurate trees' that don't look primeval enough to make way for a dinosaur area! www.crystal.diron.co.uk

## JOLLYHOCKLEYSTICKS

The campaign against housing development is hotting-up in Essex. At Hockley, protesters are awaiting the results of a court case brought by the developers to quash the protesters' injunction which is stopping the company from entering the land which remains sectioned off. Campaigners are trying to stop 66 luxury homes being built. The site is still under siege by the developers' hired security using violent intimidation tactics, protesters are imprisoned on site with only a trickle of supplies being allowed in. Last Saturday locals stormed the barricades and a few managed to get through the fence to join the protesters. A new camp has been established at Ashington on Golden Cross road - 20 mins from the Hockley camp - on 5 acres of the 7 acre site that is due to be developed by Wilcon Homes. Residents have registered the site as a public open space. More people are desperately needed. Tel 0831 717815-Hockley or 07833 191951-Ashington. www.thisissex.co.uk

## Inside SchNEWS

Saturday 4th March is an international day of solidarity with death row prisoner Mumia Abu Jama'. Ex-Black Panther member and award winning journalist Mumia has been on death row for the past 16 years after he was found guilty of killing a policeman in a rigged trial that violated 4 human rights conventions. For a full list of events taking place all over the U.K. contact mumia@callnetuk.com

## U'wa Update

The peaceful occupation by 450 U'wa people protecting their tribal lands from oil exploration (SchNEWS 244) has been attacked by the Colombian Police and Army resulting in the deaths of three children and the disappearance of 11 others. Rural workers throughout the region began a three day general strike on February 15th in response to the police brutality. The children apparently drowned after the soldiers and anti-riot police used tear gas, bulldozers and riot sticks to charge the blockade, forcing the U'wa to jump into the fast flowing Cujubion River. There will be another Global Day of Action for the U'wa on March 9th, details www.ran.org, e-mail organize@ran.org

## Glen Sent Down

13 Glen of the Downs campaigners were imprisoned last Friday after refusing to promise the High Court not to interfere with Wicklow County Council. The Council are constructing a £20 million dual-carriageway through the Glen, a beautiful broad leaf forest which unfortunately just happens to be in the way of the European Union's grand scheme to expand the road network. Mr Justice Barr said that if the protestors wanted to be "made martyrs of and carted off to prison" he would oblige them! The unlucky 13 were taken off to Mountjoy Prison where they will remain until they comply with the High Court. Those jailed were due in the High Court today, but as SchNEWS went to press we're still waiting for the outcome. www.emc23.tp/glen/news.htm or Dublin Fol 0035 31497 3773.

## CASUAL KILLERS

Simon Jones was killed in 1998 on his first day at work at Shoreham Harbour. He was doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the country with no health and safety training, and was killed when his head was crushed by the grab of a crane (SchNEWS 182). There will be a judicial review into the failure of the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute those responsible for Simon's death at 10am, 16th March at the High Court in the Strand, London. An overnight vigil will take place starting at 8pm, 15th March. There's also a benefit featuring comedians Mark Thomas, Jo Brand and Rob Newman and a short video about the campaign on 10th March at Hove Town Hall. Get yer tickets fast! c/o the SchNEWS www.simonjones.org.uk

## ...and finally...

SchNEWS congratulates the Labour Party on one hundred glorious years. Jorg Haider, the leader of Austria's far right Freedom Party, got the congratulations in first claiming that him and Blair share "amazing similarities" except that Blair's immigration laws are "more extreme". Like Tony Blair he is committed to finding a "new sense of community", and "both parties stand up for the weak and underprivileged". Mr Haider also draws parallels between both parties' employment policies. Perhaps they should change their name to Neo-Labour.

## nano-disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all actors with small parts not to make a drama out of a crisis. (That's about the size of it!)



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! COR BLIMLEY WE'VE REACHED 250!

# SchNEWS

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## STRIKE IT LUCKY!

"She meets March 8<sup>th</sup> with her face erased and her name hidden. With her come thousands of women. More and more arrive. Dozens, hundreds, thousands, millions of women who remember all over the world that there is much to be done and remember that there is still much to fight for. It appears that that thing called dignity is contagious". A Zapatista woman's statement about International Women's Day.

Women and girls do two thirds of the world's work, for only 5% of the world's income, women's average full time weekly earnings are 72% of men's (Office of National Stats 1998), and a report in Red magazine (Jan 2000) stated that two thirds of women working full time do most of the housework.

March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day and women all over the world are hanging up their pinnies, turning off their disk drives and taking to the streets. Since March 8<sup>th</sup> 1907, when the women garment makers of New York went on strike for a living wage and a 10-hour day, the date has been earmarked to inspire women worldwide in their fight for their rights.

The National Women's Council of Ireland have called this year's strike, and it's gone global. Anne Neale from Crossroads Women's Centre reckons that the strike "could be very disruptive. When a similar action took place in Iceland in 1975, factories would not function and everything shut down". Cynthia Enloe in her book "Bananas, Beaches and Bases" argues that "if secretaries went out on strike, foreign affairs might grind to a standstill". Without women's work the world economy would fall to its knees. Kingston Raging Grannies ask "Can you imagine what would happen if all the women stopped work...at Wal-Mart or McDonalds?"

### WHAT DO WOMEN WANT?

The global women's movement is a diverse tapestry. Some are calling for the abolition of 3<sup>rd</sup> world debt, 'cos it's really women that are owed billions for centuries of work, or for clean drinking water, affordable housing, safety from violence, fair wages, and increased benefits for carers and mothers

Women are striking to demand a change in the priorities of the global economy. According to the United Nations \$9 billion of the world's budget goes on health and nutrition, \$6bn on water and sanitation, \$4bn on education and \$538bn on military budgets. This spending reflects the attitudes of the people who pull the purse strings, attitudes that consider arms to be more important than welfare. As the floodgates open for multinational corporations to enter developing countries women are forced into low paid work with poor conditions.

And for the boys... Men are supporting the women's strike. Payday Men's Network said, "Like women, we want to work less and have more money. We too want our unwaged work recognised and paid with money, time, resources, land, peace and rights. And we know that as long as women work too much, even more than men, their pay and conditions are the standard for men". The network have men ready to strike on the day, other are making donations to the strike fund, or committing themselves to do all the domestic chores and childcare for the day.

### "At the beginning was the deed."

Rosa-Luxemburg, Revolutionary Socialist, 1871-1919.

Women have a strong tradition of resistance; from taking up arms in the Zapatista struggle, to the Chipko women in India hugging trees, from the Greenham Common women, to the mum who asks for childcare provision in her workplace, from the suffragettes on hunger strike, to the 1917 Russian women factory worker's strike that started the revolution. In the UK women have made their presence felt actively enough to worry Detective Chief Inspector Kieron Sharp, the copper leading the inquiry into City of London protests on June 18, who panicked that "women are playing a greater role in this kind of subversive activity than you would normally find in criminal activity".

Black women, mothers, lesbians, asylum seekers, sex workers, pensioners, students, women with disabilities, waged and non-waged women, and loads more are holding actions from demos to a day's strike around the globe. So if you fancy making a stand why not make a partner take over household or childcare duties for the day, walkout with your colleagues at work or at college. Undercurrents are keen to film yer fun, contact them on 01865 203662 or [underc@gn.apc.org](mailto:underc@gn.apc.org)

Here's what women are up to in over 30 countries from Albania to Rwanda...

**LONDON:** Women are invited to a Day of Celebration and Protest, with films and performances by women singers, dancers and poets from around the world. Full wheelchair access, childcare, and refreshments. 1pm-11pm, Union Chapel, Compton Avenue, Islington, N1 (Highbury & Islington tube). Women working in the red light area of Soho are considering stopping work and hanging banners outside their working flats saying **SOHO ON STRIKE** to protest about their lack of recognition. Picket the Dept. of Trade and Industry, Kingsgate House (next to Clinton card shop, Victoria or St James Park tubes). Trafalgar Square will be leafleted, and Crossroads Women's centre will be touring the city with their loud speaker system. **ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE:** Tameside women will be invited into a Strike Marche

### CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For painting a bus pink! 10 members of the Lesbian Avengers were nicked for hijacking a Stagecoach bus and painting it pink. Stagecoach were targeted because of the Chairman's funding of Keep Clause 28 campaign.

in Market Square for a glass of champers and to list their own strike demands. **GREATER MANCHESTER** - 0161 344 0758. **LIVERPOOL** - contact the Black Sisters about their Open Day 0151 709 8162!. **KEIGHLEY** - check out the Women's Centre for alternative therapy sessions all day 01535 681316.

**INDIA** Women will do no housework or other work in the villages of Madhya Pradesh; thousands will march in Raipur, Ragard, and Mahasmand. Deputations led by Chhattisgarh Women's Organisation will go to Bhopal to meet officials and to Delhi to lobby the government Chief Minister, pressing demands to end violence and poverty.

**IRELAND** The Women Count Network will be striking in various ways, and along with the National Women's Council is pressing for a national paid holiday on 1st Feb. (St Brigid's Day), "A DAY OFF - because we're worth it!" to value women's work. Women's unwaged work is the largest industry in Ireland, estimated to be worth at least £314bn a year. **BURKINO FASO** Rural women are Striking to Exist, demanding money for birth certificates and identity cards which most can't afford. **PHILIPPINES** Community groups will lobby the president to issue a Presidential Proclamation making 8th March a paid holiday; parties and picnics are happening all day, and there'll be a "No Shopping Day" to protest against the consumer industry's profits at women's expense. **MEXICO** Daughters of the Corn Women's Collective are holding a strike day with a public meeting, debate and celebration in Mexico City. **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** The National Union of Domestic Employees will lead a women's march and rally in the capital city. **NIGERIA**

The Grassroots Women Foundation is demanding that 8th March be declared a national public holiday and that breastfeeding working mothers be paid a special allowance. **USA** Demonstrations and parties in several major cities planned by US Wages for Housework. The Welfare Warriors (Wisconsin) are presenting women's Bills to Bill Clinton on 8th March, stating what welfare they're owed for the work he steals, and other cities will hold parties with the slogan "If you don't pay us for our work, we'd rather party instead!"

More info... Crossroads Women's Centre 0 1 7 1 - 4 8 2 - 2 4 9 6 [womenstrike8m@server101.com](mailto:womenstrike8m@server101.com)

# YA BASTA!

"It is better to die fighting than from hunger" Major Ana Maria, EZLN

Over the past year, two dates stand out as defining moments of global resistance against global capitalism: June 18th and November 30th. Events which the world's press could not ignore; events which showed that not everyone was happy with the neo-liberal\* agenda being forced down our throats.

The press like to talk about this 'globalisation of protest' as if it's something new, but what about the international movement against America's war in Vietnam? The mass solidarity against South African apartheid? Hey, some people are even using the Internet to co-ordinate protests across the globe (This reminds SchNEWS of when the cops were getting all hot under the collar because 'new age travellers' were using mobile phones to organise free parties!).

But where did this new movement come from? Where is its inspiration? A good starting point is the Zapatista uprising which came to the world's attention on January 1st, 1994. On the same day the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed, four towns in the Chiapas region of Mexico were taken over by the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), and the news was quickly broadcast around the world via the Internet.

SchNEWS recently spoke to someone just returned from Chiapas.

## Q: CAN YOU GIVE US A BRIEF HISTORY?

A: The Zapatistas chose 1st January 1994 to occupy four major towns in the state of Chiapas to coincide with the introduction of NAFTA. They only held them for two or three days before the Mexican army chased them back into the jungle, but they'd made their point by then! The Zapatista resistance has been going on ever since.

## Q: SO 1994 WAS THE ZAPATISTAS' ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE WORLD THAT THEY MEANT BUSINESS AS WELL AS TWO FINGERS TO THE NAFTA AGREEMENT?

A: Yeah. I think there had been fights with the army the year before, but the army had decided to not pursue them because the government was trying to negotiate this NAFTA deal. The government were really keen not to show there was a guerrilla war in any part of Mexico so they kept it quiet.

## Q: SO IT'S A SORT OF LOW INTENSITY WAR?

A: Oh yeah, it's definitely a war but not one where many people are getting killed at the moment; and even though we don't hear much about the Zapatistas at the moment, the movement is as strong as ever, even in the face of 70,000 Mexican troops constantly surrounding them.

## Q: HOW DO THE ZAPATISTAS ORGANISE?

A: The Zapatista's control 35 autonomous municipalities, and each municipal-

ity covers a huge area with thousands of people in it. The scale of the area is something people don't appreciate.

Each municipality is named after an important revolutionary event or person. So you have the 1st January, or April 10th when Zapata was assassinated. Or Flores Magon, who was a Mexican anarchist, and Pancho Villa, who was once an ally of Zapata.

What is important is that the Zapatista's have broken away from the old guerrilla style of organising where the central committee tells you what to do.

Instead each village in the municipalities has its own assembly to run its own affairs. For example, some communities have decided on completely communal ownership of the land, while others have a mixed system with common and individual land. Each village sends a delegate to the Clandestine Indigenous Revolutionary Committee, where important military decisions can only be made after all the communities have been consulted.

For example during the San Andres Peace Accords, when the Zapatistas talked to the gov't, every single community was consulted, and these debates can go on for days - they talk it out, till everyone who wants to say something has said it, and then some kind of consensus is made. We were in one community where they had called a congress to decide the education structure for the whole of the municipality and the meeting lasted two days!

## Q: TELL US ABOUT THE LAND OCCUPATIONS

A: I think the mainland takeovers started around 1995. Just three landlords used to control the municipality we were in. The landowners had passed land to each other for generations, until they were kicked out, and the area put under Zapatista control.

Before, in many places instead of being paid wages, the Indians were given credit for the landowners shop where everything was priced really high so reinforcing their poverty.

Many communities have debated what to do with the old landowners houses because no Zapatistas will live in them. Some have been used as warehouses, some have been

demolished. In one community they took down a house brick by brick when they heard the landlord and his heavies were coming back. They sent him a Christmas card with a picture of where the house once stood and said don't bother - there's nothing to come back to!

## Q: WHAT IS THE STANDARD OF LIVING?

A: They are dirt poor, they haven't got any money, but they haven't got anyone to tell them what to do now. They always come out with "we have dignity". Their standard of living probably hasn't changed that much since the uprising, but at least now they are farming the land for themselves.

## Q: WHAT'S THE ATMOSPHERE THERE LIKE?

A: Schizophrenic! You get the feeling from some that they can take on the whole world, but at the same time army planes are flying really low every day, there's troop carriers and police helicopters, military bases next to some municipalities - it all causes a certain desperation.

What the army and police do, is come into some communities on the pretext of looking for someone. It's always the women who are there, with these big sticks and little babies on their backs, fighting them off. A Mexican general recently complained that he didn't join the army to fight women and children!

## Q: TELL US ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN

A: My experience was that the women are tough as hell. They take part in the command structures of EZLN, for example the occupation of San Cristobal was directed by women. One third of the army are women. When I was in San Cristobal there was this huge women's march against militarisation in Chiapas.

Women insisted on alcohol being banned in the whole of the Zapatista controlled region. Landowners used to make sure the Indians got addicted to alcohol, which got them into so much debt until they were basically slaves. If they tried to leave they would be shot or punished, so this alcohol thing was a really useful form of control and it had an effect on the women as there

## A(VERY) BRIEF HISTORY OF MEXICO

The Institutional Party of the Revolution is the longest-running political dynasty on the planet, and has been in power in Mexico since 1929!

In the early eighties Mexico defaulted on its debts, causing a worldwide crisis. In came the International Monetary Fund, offering cash but with the usual 'structurally adjusted' strings attached. These strings meant that Mexico had to flog off virtually every state owned business. However, after a brief recovery, the

Mexican stock market crashed in 1994, causing the local currency, the peso to be devalued. This neo-liberal miracle culminated in the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement, with the Mexican President being praised as champion of "liberal reform who had brought economic stability and social [sic] justice to Mexico". Unfortunately for the President, the Zapatistas disagreed, and began their uprising, which continues to this day.

was a lot more domestic violence then.

Now, each community has got a little jail big enough for one or two people and if any of the men turn up pissed they just stick them in the jail for the night. And it works, people don't drink.

Another example of the influence of women is the story of one guy who organises clean water projects for the communities. He put a proposal to the men in one village and said for the water project to work, it would take a lot of hard work; three weeks of solid digging a four mile trench from the mountain to the village. The men decided not to bother, and let the women continue to go down to the river and bring water back in buckets. However, when he went back to the village a week later, he was approached and told by one of the elders, that the women had had a meeting and told the men in no uncertain terms that they were gonna dig the pipeline!

However, in the assemblies there is still a hierarchy and it is still often the men who do the talking; the women's revolution has happened, but it's not all the way there yet by any means.

#### **Q: DO YOU THINK THE UNITED STATES SEES THE ZAPATISTAS AS A THREAT?**

A: Yeah, definitely. The US use the excuse of the war on drugs to arm the Mexican army and most of that weaponry is being used against the Zapatistas. And of course the US is worried because the Zapatistas are setting an example in not accepting poverty and injustice. The Americans spent millions destroying guerrilla movements in El Salvador, Guatemala and of course Nicaragua. And now a whole new rebellion has happened in Mexico, a country the US has always had a high level of control over.

The region is also rich in oil. The Mexican government wants to get its hands on it, but this revolutionary movement is in its way, so at some point there is gonna be a conflict. There is also huge bio-diversity in the forests, and the American biotech companies want to get into the jungle and start copywriting the genetic codes.

#### **Q: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK THE INTERNET HAS BEEN TO THE STRUGGLE?**

A: I had this vision of them all tapping away on their computers in the jungle and that was rubbish - most communities don't even have electricity. It is Zapatista supporters in Mexico City and America who have been invaluable in terms of getting the message out and creating a public mood where the Mexican government feels it can't intervene because it would be too controversial.

#### **Q: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES GO ABROAD AND VISIT AND SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE ZAPATISTAS?**

A: To be honest in terms of material support, the most useful thing that could happen, is some solidarity movement in America to try and stop the weaponry getting to the Mexican army. In the absence of that, it's a morale booster. We went over as a football team, and every community

we visited we had to get up on stage and introduce ourselves, say where we are from - they're all like 'where's Europe?' However, if their grasp of geography isn't very good, they are politicised and they understand why we are there.

#### **Q: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK THE ZAPITISTA STRUGGLE IS FOR INSPIRING PEOPLE?**

A: With the collapse of 'communism' there was gloating about the triumph of capitalism. If you want to get rid of the way the world is now being run, you've got to have some kind of idea about what the new world will be like, and the Zapatista's are vital because they are not only saying it, they've actually done it. They're running the municipalities communally, they're organising their own education projects, their own water projects, have their own army, they're reaching out to the other indigenous people of Mexico - it's inspirational.

**Recommended reading:** Zapatista! Documents of the New Mexican Revolution (Autonmedia, New York '95)

Rebellion from the Roots by John Ross (Common Courage '95)

Zapatista! Re-inventing Revolution in Mexico by John Holloway (Pluto Press '99)

**Check out:** <http://www.eco.utexas.edu:80/Hompages/Faculty/Cleaver/chiapas95.html>

**Contact:** Chiapas Link, Box 79, 82 Colston Street, Bristol. [Chiapaslink@yahoo.com](mailto:Chiapaslink@yahoo.com)

#### **SCHNEWS VOCAB WATCH**

##### **NEO-LIBERAL:**

Initially associated with that romantic duo, Reagan and Thatcher, neo-liberalism has been the dominant economic theory for the past two decades.

Supporters of neo-liberalism talk of 'free market' policies that encourage private enterprise, consumer choice and personal initiative, and use these arguments to justify everything from lowering taxes on the wealthy, to dismantling education and social welfare programmes and scrapping environmental regulations.

These well thought out conscientious, economic policies, have resulted in ...a massive increase in social and economic inequality, a marked increase in severe deprivation for the poorest nations, a disastrous global environment and unstable global economy - but, and here's the key to it's popularity with its supporters, an unprecedented bonanza for the wealthy.

When these pioneers of righteousness, are presented with some of the rather large downside, they claim that the spoils of the good life will invariably spread to the broad mass of the population - as long as the neo-liberal policies that exacerbated these problems in the first place are not interfered with! Or as Robert McChesney put it "at their most eloquent, proponents of neo-liberalism sound as if they are doing poor people, the environment and everybody else a tremendous service as they enact policies on behalf of the wealthy few."

Worse still, the neo-liberal zealots loudest message is that humanity has hit the jackpot and there is no alternative to the status quo.

## **IT'S YER SCHNEWS BLOW BY BLOW ACCOUNT OF GLOBAL RESISTANCE**

**Jan 94:** The Zapatistas rise up with the signing of NAFTA (SchNEWS 174/5 and SchNEWS 200 for effects of NAFTA in Mexico)

**Sept 96:** The First Intergalactic Encuentro for Humanity and Against Neo-Liberalism, in Mexico

**July 97:** The second Encuentro in Spain (SchNEWS 128)

**Feb 98:** Geneva people's movements from around the globe met and form the People's Global Action against "Free" Trade and the World Trade Organisation (SchNEWS 156)

**May 98:** Street parties in 40 countries across the globe to protest against the G8 meeting in Birmingham (SchNEWS 168)

**June 18<sup>th</sup> 99:** Carnival against capitalism in the City of London, and actions in 27 other countries around the world (SchNEWS 217/218)

**Aug 99:** Peoples Global Action Meeting in Bangalore, India. (SchNEWS 226)

**Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 99:** Battle of Seattle: The World Trade Organisation's talks are de-railed by mass protests, with solidarity actions across the world (SchNEWS 240)

### **'Big Rattle in Seattle'**

New 25 minutes video about last November's successful demonstrations against the World Trade Organisation. £6 + SAE with 80p worth of stamps from the SchNEWS office

#### **GLOBAL DATES FOR YER DIARY**

**April 16/17 Mobilisation for Global Justice.** There will be week long series of events in Washington, with workshops and training on the global economy, ending with a massive rally at the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) headquarters on Sunday April 16. Simultaneous events are planned in other countries. [www.a16.org](http://www.a16.org)

**MayDay 2000 April 29 - May 1<sup>st</sup>**

A four day gathering featuring Workshops, bookfair, film festival, art exhibition, footie tournament, tours of revolutionary London, Critical Mass bike ride, plans for a permanent social centre, music, parties, May Queen event with a twist...

Maypoles, mayhem and a MASS ACTION in London on Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> to "celebrate our diverse struggles against capitalism, exploitation and the destruction of the planet."

MayDay 2000, BM MayDay, London, WC1N 3XX

[www.freespeech.org/mayday2k](http://www.freespeech.org/mayday2k)

Part of the international call for action by People's Global Action on 1<sup>st</sup> May

**September, Prague:**

Global Day of Action against the IMF

annual meeting: [www.destroyimf.org](http://www.destroyimf.org)



**A  
WORLD  
TO WIN**

## KOSOVO'S WOMEN

March 2000 marks one year since NATO began its bombardment of Serbia in response to the ethnic 'cleansing' of Albanians in Kosovo. Far from abating the crisis, Nato's campaign not only subjected civilians to the violence, it perpetuated the forced evacuation of thousands of Kosovans. In June, after an agreement of sorts was reached, NATO withdrew and its peacekeeping forces K-For and the United Nations Administration were introduced to the ravaged province. So what's changed one year on?...evidence of human rights abuses is still rife, with Albanians and Serbs engaged in a vicious circle of endless retaliation attacks. Among the countless organisations that are at working to instill some sense of security into the humanitarian disaster, are those that are specific to women's needs. As well as enduring the systematic torture meted out indiscriminately to the ethnic Albanians, women have had to endure the added trauma of rape and other sexual abuses.

Medica is an organisation born out of the conflict in Bosnia, who now run the successful Medica Women's Therapy Centre in central Bosnia which has so far helped over 20,000 women since 1993. Bosnian women are now involved in an emergency initiative in Kosovo, undertaking the training of Albanian and Kosovan female psychologists, nurses and doctors in what they term 'appropriate, gender-sensitive, medical and psycho-social responses to rape and other forms of war trauma.'

Among Medica's aims are: the documentation of women's rights violations to bring about prosecutions; the establishment of a mobile clinic to reach those refugees scattered across rural areas; the establishment of six tent-clinics in Albanian refugee camps.

Medica's principles have a clear woman-to-woman focus: "Women who have been systematically abused need care in the first instant from women; they may be respected and their stories believed."

Medica,  
P.O. Box 9560, London NW5 2WF. 0171 482 5670. c.cockburn@ktown.demon.co.uk

## YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

Have you ever worried that perhaps you're too old to be a feminist? Well panic no longer, the Older Feminists Network could be for you!

Launched in 1982 out of the Spare Rib women's magazine collective, this group has been going strong ever since. It's aims are to challenge the stereotypes of older women, to mobilise their skills and provide support and information. "We felt that the larger Women's Liberation Movement was not giving sufficient attention and value to older women" said a spokeswoman.

The group hold day long events on the second Saturday of each month, which include general meetings, discussions and two workshops. Here's just some of the topics covered in these workshops...widowhood, motherhood, self-defence, sexuality, public transport, social status, health...and many more. As well as all this, there's a bi-monthly newsletter containing stories, articles, photos, campaigns and letters to name just a few.

Meetings are held at the Millman Street Community Centre, 50 Millman Street, London WC1 on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 11am-5pm. Older Feminists Network, c/o 54 Gordon Road, London N3 1EP, 0208 346 1900

## Subscribe!

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

## SchNEWS in brief

Need information? Interested in getting active? Want to get help of any sort? Here's your quick run down of what to do and where to go...

**BRIGHTON: \*\* Women's Refuge.** Safe accommodation for women who are victims of domestic abuse. 01273 622822 **\*\* Rape Crisis Helpline.** 01273 203773 **\*\* Stopover Residential Project.** Safe accommodation for women aged 16-21 suffering domestic abuse. 01273 603775

**\*\* Women's Writing Group.** Opportunity for women to write poetry, stories, articles, or anything you want to really! They meet every Tuesday at Brighton Women's Centre, Basement, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton 7.30-9.30pm. 01273 240044 **\*\* Queenspark Women's Writing Group.** space for women to do creative and autobiographical writing. Every Thursday 10-12 am, 49 Grand Parade, Brighton. Annual membership fee of £10/5. 01273 505642

**\*\* Women's Yoga** at the Youth Centre, Whitehawk Road. Thursdays 10.30-12pm. £2 **\*\* Women's Rugby** at Hove Park every Saturday 7.30-9pm. **\*\* Adventure Unlimited** offers women only outdoor activities and camps for those of you who are feeling fit! 01273 681058

**\*\* Mosaic.** Black and Mixed Race Community Group that meets at Community Base, 113-115 Queens Road, Brighton, 01273 234017 **\*\* Akwaaba Black and Ethnic Minority Support and Information.** St. Gabriel's Family Centre, 8 Wellington Road, Brighton, 01273 325039

**\*\* Lesbian Drop-in.** Fridays 12-4pm at Brighton and Hove Lesbian and Gay Community Centre, 113-117 Queens Road, 01273 234005 **\*\* Young Mothers Support Group.** Organisation for mothers up to age 19. Contact Tracy Holder or Sara Downing, Morley Street Family Centre, Brighton, 01273 295858

**\*\* Oasis Women's Drug Project.** 22 Richmond Place, BN2 2NA, 01273 696970 **\*\* Threshold,** women's mental health initiative holding groups, sessions and counselling. **\*\* And last but by no means least,** there's the **Brighton Women's Centre** where you can find practically everything you could ever want. They offer counselling, legal advice, a creche, pregnancy testing and drop-in sessions. Basement, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton BN1 1YD. www.btwomen.u-net.com 01273 749567

**AND ELSEWHERE: \*\* Training for Women.** Courses in furniture making, plumbing, electrical installation, carpentry etc for women out of work for over 6 months. Childcare available and no course fees. Also allowances for materials and clothing. Northbrook College, Broadwater Road, Worthing. 01903 606002

**\*\* Women Returning to Study.** Women only college offering certificates to higher education. Residential and day study available. Hilcroft College, Southbank, Surbiton. 0181 399 2688

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## Let's Haggle

If you fancy some revolutionary feminist activity, join the HAGs! Don't be scared by the name, HAG stands for Hell Raising Anarchist Girls, a Brighton based 'loose collective of anarchist feminists'. The group originated in February of last year from women attending the Rebel Alliance direct action meetings and the women's nights at the Anarchist Teapot. It combines Feminism and Anarchism to create an alliance better equipped to fight against the forces of capitalism and patriarchy which go hand in hand.

HAG are keen to point out that they are not anti-male, but simply pro-women, a big difference. "Within HAG we can share confidences, humour and experiences. It helps us see things from a different perspective and gives us increased confidence and skills", said a spokeswoman. In their first year, the HAGs have tackled a wide range of issues. Their first action, to coincide with International Women's Day 99 involved a procession round Brighton bringing to the public's attention the large and colourful history of female activists in the town. Since then, they have produced a radio programme (wimminz hour) for pirate Radio 4A, attended the J18 Carnival Against Capitalism in London, took part in International No Diet day with the message 'Riot Not Diet', organised self-defence lessons...and much, much more!

Feeling inspired yet? Here's a quick run-down of what the HAGs have in store for the future...more self defence lessons, anti-GMO actions, climbing training days, making links with other 'anarch-fem' groups, and of course... more fun on this year's International Women's Day.

HAG meet every two weeks, at 6pm on Sundays at The Hag House, 14-16 Newmarket Road (off Lewes Road gyratory). They always need more people to get involved, so get along and get active!

## PAINT IT BLACK

Women in Black is a worldwide organisation that aims to address 'the whole continuum of violence, from male violence against women, to militarism and war.' It was formed in 1998 in Israel out of the women's protests against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza, and now has bases in Yugoslavia, Belgium, the United States, Spain, Italy and many other countries. Women in Black Belgrade have been particularly active of late, highlighting the ongoing troubles caused by the Kosovo conflict, raising awareness, and addressing those in power.

Women in Black (London) c/o The Maypole Fund, PO Box 14072 London N16 5WH. www.chorley2.demon.co.uk/wib.html 0171 482 5670.

## ...and finally...

Sussex Women Magazine needs you now! This is a forthcoming publication that hopes to be up and running in the Summer. It will focus on women's experience in the Sussex area with an emphasis on the positive aspects. "News and information on positive, constructive things women are doing, rather than focusing on the ways in which women are downtrodden."

Contributions are urgently needed, and also people to get involved with the running of the magazine. So, if you're a Sussex woman with something to say, get writing. Contact Jacqueline Seamon on 01273 240044 for more details

## disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers that we'll be on strike next week, but will be back the week after with a new agenda. Honest.



**Brighton  
Prevent the  
Terrorism  
Bill squatted  
community  
centre, March  
2000**



**Fig: Alec Smart**

## Women make the world go round

"Life in this society being, at best, an utter bore and no aspect of society being at all relevant to women, there remains to civic-minded, responsible, thrill-seeking females only to overthrow the government, eliminate the money system, institute complete automation, and destroy the male sex". So, perhaps shooting men is not quite the solution to global capitalism, but Valerie Solanas still said it with style. Female resistance has taken loads of different shapes across space and time, and the world's never been short of wayward women and impudent girls who say no, and mean no, to a system that consistently denies both women and men any sense of real freedom.

This year's International Women's Day established a feisty agenda for women, with the first ever global women's strike (see SchNEWS 250) demanding that women's lives and work be valued. Tired of being ignored and written out of history women kicked off the new millennium with spectacular assertions of their presence and demands. Sex workers, students, housewives, mums, workers, and loads more went on strike to make the world stop and notice their unpaid or poorly paid work.

Irish women first called the strike, demanding a paid day off work for all women, and the vibe was contagious. "Ni pocas ni locas" (we're neither few nor crazy) was heard all over Argentina, as the Housewives Union coordinated a mass strike calling for pensions without contributions for workers without wages. In Peru 5000 women marched through Lima. In Barcelona a department store that insists its female sales staff stay slim was occupied. British students walked out, claiming that the government should be paying for the work they do. Zapatista women marched in San Cristobal de las Casas demanding the withdrawal of the army from Chiapas, whilst other Mexican women on strike called for the release of women students recently arrested. Women in every town of Macedonia marked the day with a peaceful protest against all kinds of discrimination. Italian Reclaim the Streets occupied the streets from Piazza Venezia to Termini Station, whilst Italian women distributed kits for artificial insemination, protesting against a new law which recognises the embryo as a human being. New Zealand's 'Parents as Partners' organised a "Bad Hair Day" in frustration about the lack of recognition in government policy of unpaid parenting work.

In London the Strike was launched by sex workers. Hiding their identity behind masks, more than half the area's

sex workers marched through Soho, in protest at council attempts to evict them from the flats where they work, leaving potential clients with their hands in their trouser pockets. The council's 'clean up' operation to gentrify the area could make over 100 women homeless and working on the streets, where it is 10 times more dangerous than working indoors.

Hey, not only is female resistance older than capitalism, but it has also toppled it before. The 1917 International women's day was marked in Russia on February 23rd, at a time when even the most militant Bolshevik organisations were opposing strikes for fears that the time was unripe for militant action. They were waiting for revolutionary action at some indefinite time in the future. The women textile workers, however, were ready to act there and then. Trotsky testifies to the power of these striking women in his History of the Russian Revolution, where he states that "in spite of all directives the women textile workers in several factories went on strike. It had not occurred to anyone that it might become the first day of the revolution". The striking factory women began by mobilising support from the metal workers, and then the whole thing exploded into a mass strike of 90,000 workers! Thus the revolution was kicked off by women workers, a case of grassroots action overcoming resistance even from its own revolutionary organisations.

Back here in old Blighty, the women of the seventeenth century English revolution remind us that just because hardly anyone's heard of them, it doesn't mean that women revolutionaries haven't been active throughout history. Leveller women attacked lords, lawyers, legislators, and abusive taxes, claiming their rights as women to petition and be heard,

"Come clowns, and come boys,  
Come hober-de-hoys,  
Come females of each degree,  
Stretch your throats, bring in your votes,  
And make good the Anarchy!"  
goes one of the ballads of the revolution.

As old as the trees and as varied as women, female resistance is not going away, so, those pesky politicians and bully boy multinationals can quit fucking up the world and do as the girls say. Women's global resistance is stronger than global capital any day, and we're doing it for ourselves!

WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN WORTHING

# The Pork-BOLTER

ISSUE 25

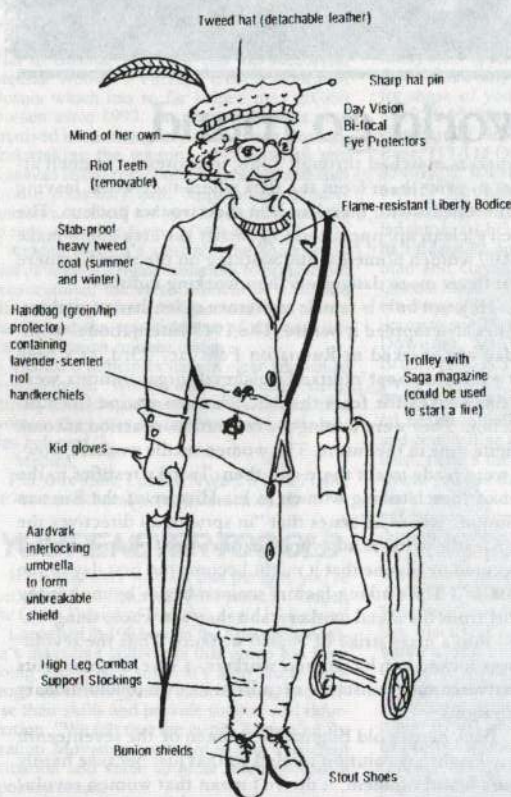
MARCH 2000

FREE/DONATION



Sussex Police reveal protesters' new secret weapon . . .

## YES, IT'S RIOT GRRRRAN!



### Elite Riot Grrran v Elite Riot Cop - how they square up

It must be jolly stressful to be a top cop with Sussex Police in this day and age, but poor *Assistant Chief Constable Tony Lake* is clearly now one rubber bullet short of a full baton round.

In a letter to the *Evening Argus* (February 22), Mr Lake defended the police's treatment of protesters opposed to Shamrock Farm monkey holding centre at Small Dole, near Henfield. He bizarrely condemned "extremists who seek out older and less agile protesters to use as 'human shields' to escape arrest and provoke confrontation". Even more eccentrically, he claimed that there have never been any "riot police" at Shamrock, with people under the false impression that police toolled up in riot gear amounts to the same thing.

Cynics might ask whether Mr Lake really thinks older people have somehow been tricked into opposing Shamrock and are so stupid they can be "used". They might also suggest that he is really just rather frustrated that at Shamrock his non-riot squads cannot merrily weigh in groups of younger protesters, who they can always get away with portraying as violent trouble-makers...

But we're having none of that! No, we applaud Mr Lake for exposing the growing menace of "rent-a-granny" mobs deployed by evil protesters.

And we can also assist him with his confusion over what is a riot cop and what isn't. A reader has sent us a cutting from a *Daily Telegraph* supplement (January 25) with the commendably truthful title of *Business Benefits from Technology* (The Luddites could have told them that much...). This features a charming article about a company called *Civil Defence Supply* which is doing awfully well thanks to its Internet site selling "police and security specialist products" ([www.civil-defence.org](http://www.civil-defence.org) if you're interested, Mr Lake).

Their splendid illustration reproduced above shows "an elite riot officer" equipped with the full fetishistic range of the firm's first class products, including stuff like handy *Leather Riot Gloves* (quite different from non riot gloves, of course) and a lovely baton for smashing people's heads in.

If any wishy-washy liberal types think all this is rather over the top, think again - we also show here the fearful might of the *Elite Riot Grrran* being used by protesters, against which the police must obviously be protected.

Only one question mark remains - who was Mr Lake referring to when he wrote of "cowardly thugs" involved in the Shamrock conflict? Surely he doesn't mean those non-riot blokes with crash helmets and nasty big sticks?

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# 5 THINGS YOU SHOULD TRY TO DO EVERYDAY

1. eat some food



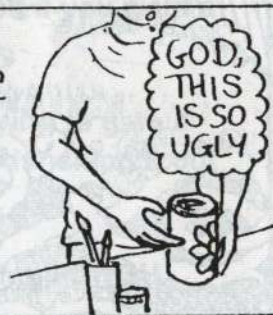
2. have a meaningful conversation with another person



3. read something that adds to your knowledge of the world

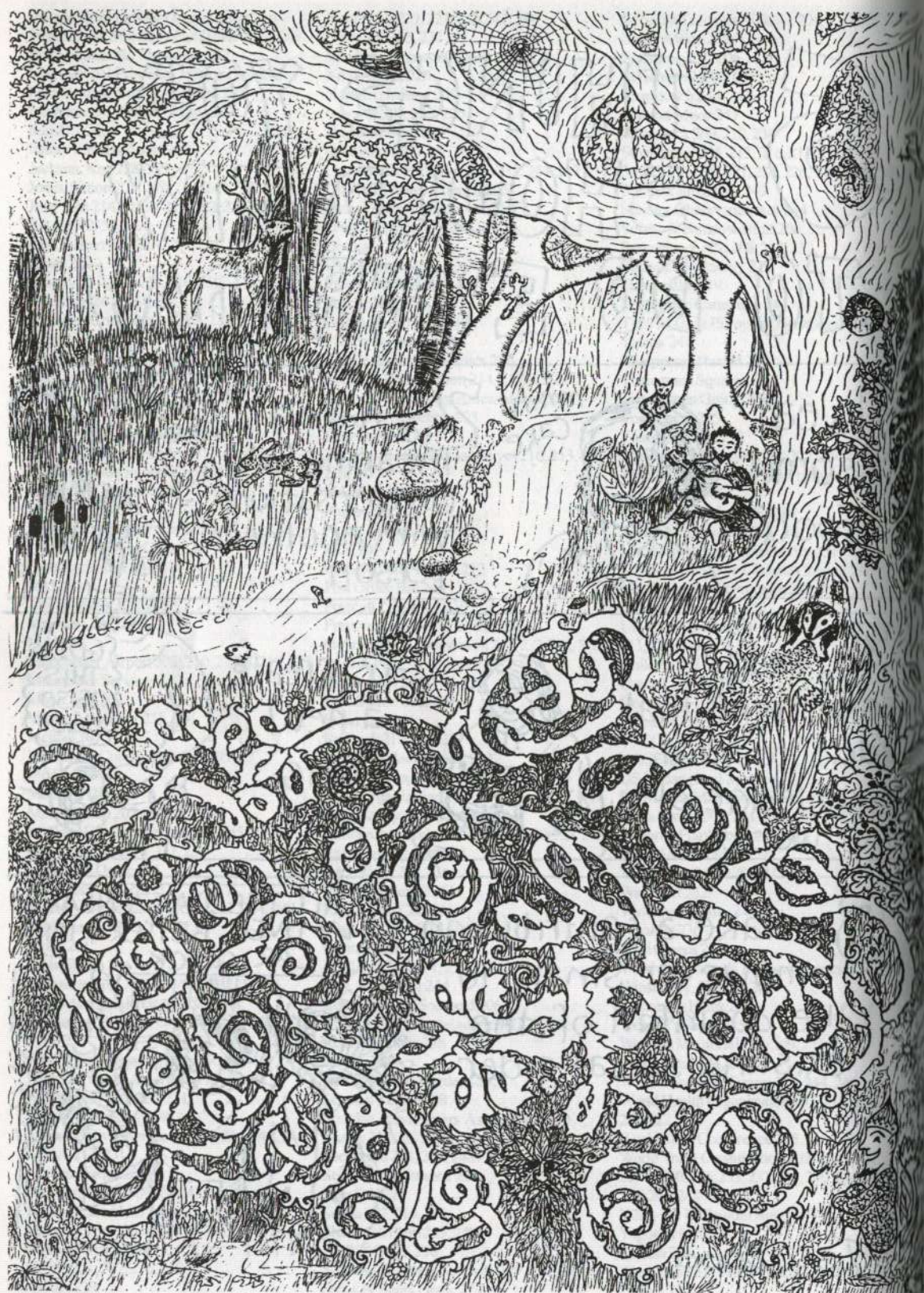


4. create a new thing



5. make a contribution, however small, to the downfall of the existing social order





# **Legal Warning**

## **Section 6 (clause B.2)**

Right To Lunch Out Act 2000

Stick this up on your washing up or kitchen sink particularly when under eviction:

### **Take Notice**

- That** these are our pots, pans, cutlery and crockery.
- That** this washing up is not to be done. This is our washing up and we have the right to not do it.
- That** you will have to wash out a cup for yourself if you want a cup of tea.
- That** if you use violence or threaten violence trying to get us to do the washing up this could lead to us lunching it out for a further SIX MONTHS.
- That** if YOU WANT to come in and do our washing up YOU ARE QUITE WELCOME.
- That** no cup in this building has a handle.

**Signed**

**The Occupiers**

NB This notice is valid no-matter how  
lunched out the rest of the building is.

# Legal Warning

Section 6 Criminal Law Act 1977  
As amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

## TAKE NOTICE

**That:** *we live in this house, it is our home and we intend to stay here.*

**That:** *at all times there is at least one person in this house*

**That:** *any entry into this house without our permission is a **CRIMINAL OFFENCE** as any of one of us who is in physical possession is opposed to any entry without their permission.*

**That:** *if you attempt to enter by violence or by threatening violence we **WILL PROSECUTE YOU**, you may receive a sentence of up to **SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT** and/or a **FINE** of up to £5,000*

**That:** *if you want us to leave you will have to take out a summons for possession in the County Court or in the High Court, or produce to us a written statement or Certificate in terms of S. 12a Criminal Law Act 1977 (as inserted by Criminal Justice And Public Order Act 1994.*

**That:** *it is an offence under S. 12 a (8) Criminal Law Act 1977, (as amended), to knowingly make a false statement to obtain a written statement for the purposes of S. 12a. A person guilty of such an offence may receive a sentence of up to **SIX MONTHS** imprisonment and/or a fine of up to £5,000.*

### **The Occupiers**

*n.b. SIGNING THIS LEGAL WARNING IS OPTIONAL. IT IS EQUALLY VALID WHETHER IT IS SIGNED OR NOT.*

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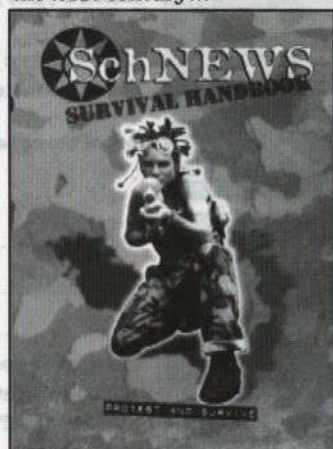


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