



SchNEWS

PEACE DE RÉSISTANCE

Annual 2003

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
NO WAR
THIS IS A PROHIBITED PLACE WITHIN THE
PERIMETER OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT
UNAUTHORISED PERSONS ENTERING THE
AREA MAY BE ARRESTED AND PROSECUTED

Inspect This Book For Weapons Of Mass Direct Action

Featuring Issues 351-401



SchNEWS

**PEACE de RESISTANCE
ANNUAL 2003**

Issues 351-401

PEACE de RESISTANCE
SchNEWS Annual 2003

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Cover by Joe Plant www.joeplant.com

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SchNEWS is also online www.schnews.org.uk. The website is updated each week with the latest issue of SchNEWS as well as new Party & Protest listings: our guide to parties, festivals, demos and actions happening in Britain and elsewhere. (If you would like to put an event in this then contact us...)

You can also receive SchNEWS each week for free in either PDF or text file version by email - see 'Subscribe' on the website.

Also available on the banana yellow website:

- * back issues of SchNEWS from issue 1 (Nov 94) onwards.

- * DIY guide - direct action how-to guides

- * Yellow Pages - regularly updated contacts list featuring around 800 direct action, community, alternative media, etc etc groups, campaigns & centres in Britain and abroad (a shortened version updated to June 2003 is in the back of this book).

- * The articles featured in our previous book 'SchNEWS Of The World'.

- * Prisoner support page

- * search facility

Your turn now: As Indymedia say - 'don't hate the media, become the media' - keep SchNEWS (and all other alternative media) up to date with the news of actions and events - big & small - global & local - to help inspire others and keep us all in touch. And we are already open to submissions for - cor blimley - next years book - so send in yer articles and photos of events & actions, UK & abroad, or any satirical images, cartoons, subverts, subverted billboards and the like. (Send pics preferably as email tifs/jpg files - the higher the res the better.)



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FOURTH WORLD

Welcome to the eighth SchNEWS annual. As per usual with our books, this is a compilation of another 50 issues (actually, 51 this time) of the free weekly direct action newsletter produced in Brighton, plus loads of additional articles, photos, satire and more. This book covers issues 351-401, the period of April 2002 to April 2003.

SchNEWS has been producing weekly newsletters (as well as maintaining a website, producing annual books, touring festivals and doing countless info-stalls) since November 1994. It is funded by donations and run by a group of volunteers, people otherwise involved in a range of activities in Brighton: community organisation, direct action and culture (ie not career journalists). We cram each issue with frontline stories from the fight against the forces of global environmental and social havoc, and about those working to build sustainable alternatives to consumer capitalism and ecological meltdown.

In eight odd years this has seen us go from focussing on the big road protests and resistance to the Criminal Justice Act in the mid nineties, through to the mass anti-capitalist events like June 18th and Genoa in latter years, and all stops in between: genetically modified food, climate change, Neo Labour privatisation, and the rest. Which brings us to the past twelve months.

This year something unique happened for SchNEWS – we covered the same story every week for over six months. That story, of course, was the war in Iraq. But it wasn't just the deceitful manoeuvrings of the gangsters who led the war that got covered: we were more interested in the myriad of actions being taken to stop it, and doing all we could as an alternative media outlet to let people know how to get involved. When we came to put this annual together we decided to build on the SchNEWS anti-war coverage by adding further articles to them – making this an 'anti-war special'. There were two reasons for this. First, we wanted to get a sense of the scale of what happened in the global protests, to look at the range of tactics that were used and give people a chance to think about what was effective and

what wasn't. Second, we wanted to give the coverage SchNEWS gave week in week out a bit more of the background it hasn't got the space for – so there's extra stuff here about the history of Iraq, the question of oil, the uprisings and the sanctions, as well as loads about the direct actions and protests against the war that happened across the globe.

In our coverage of the global anti-war protests we capture just part of the incredible force that reared it's head against the war machine. What we saw was what a much-quoted New York Times editorial called 'the second superpower: public opinion'. Military bases around the world are now under the glare of attention from those ready to sabotage the war effort. The throngs of schoolkids who came out across the world for their own mass actions showed that the brutal reality of this system is reaching kids younger these days – and they're also finding out earlier that it's healthy to do something about it. People came out on the streets all over the world for this one, in numbers never seen before. US Embassies from Jakarta to Athens have never had so many visitors. And for every organised event, there must have been countless unreported and autonomous efforts, like kids smashing the windows of US military vehicles in Turkey.

But of course this book isn't just about the war on Iraq. Outside the war coverage it's business as usual for SchNEWS, with a spectrum of articles from the counter-culture and direct action frontlines. There's reports on the International Solidarity Movement in Palestine; the spectacular Pink Castle GM crop action in Dorset; the Castlemorton free festival and the rise of the Criminal Justice Act; the riots against privatisation across South America and more. But it's not all heavy going – there's also bags of laughs including Kenneth Williams starring as Tony Blair in 'Carry On Bombing' and pages of choice cartoons and subverts.

About this book...

You may notice that the SchNEWS issues reprinted in this book are spread out over extra pages, with other text and pictures inserted in and around them. This is because in previous books there was criticism about the microscopic size of the print in the SchNEWS issues, particularly the back pages. So this time we are bringing the actual SchNEWS articles to the fore by making sure you can actually read them. If this is sacrilege then get the 'proper' layouts in pdf format off our website.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this book (knowingly or otherwise) including Squall, Bristle, all the activists who sent us stuff, and everyone who posted stuff on Indymedia and Ainfos that's been reproduced here.

Disclaimer: Everything in this book is for education and entertainment purposes only. SchNEWS wouldn't encourage anyone to get off the arses and do anything at all. Honest.

EN ATTENDANT LA FIN DES DINOSAURES



'Waiting for the end of the dinosaurs'

PINK CASTLE



Weeding out every single GM plant from the field.



Down in the dungeon of the Pink Castle.



Hardcore GM crop-trashing or Historical Re-enactment Society - you decide...

Once upon a time, in a field not far away, a pink castle appeared by the light of the moon, on one of the two GM sites that besiege Littlemoor in Dorset.

From the 25th April the pink fortification stood guard over the field in which the mutant remains of the previous year's GM maize crop could still be found. The castle residents hoped to obstruct the farmer and prevent further GM contamination.

On the 16th May, three weeks into the occupation, farmer Charles Foot entered the field with seven tractors and a massive police presence. People d-locked onto his digger, and a further thirty local Littlemoor residents risked arrest for aggravated trespass to join the protest. The several tractors which were immobilised with d-locks went on to plant the field with Aventis GM maize - albeit having to work around the Pink Castle and the other stranded vehicles. Four people were arrested.

After the police and media had left, at least 20 locals - entire families - were seen digging the freshly sown seeds from the ground. It is worth pointing out that picking up the seeds and sending them back to Bayer/Aventis would constitute neither Criminal Damage or Theft, and Aggravated Trespass can only apply when there is a worker present whose current work you are interfering with. In other words, there is no sensible charge that would stick, so if you wanted to get involved ...

Only two thirds of the field was planted so the pink castle remained to defend the rest. Of course there was plenty to do after the maize went in and loads of

people visited to ensure that the job was done.

Last year, Littlemoor residents decontaminated a massive 70% of the maize planted in the field and all five Dorset GM trials were destroyed or damaged. Within hours of the seeds being sown, at least 20 locals were seen digging them from the ground.

Within a few weeks of this year's planting, it became obvious that both Aventis and the farmer had written off the 'trial'. The 'scientists' never came to put down the insect traps, the field was never marked out and the farmer never returned to spray. Further more, by early June, the entire crop of GM maize had been pulled up by visitors to the pink castle.

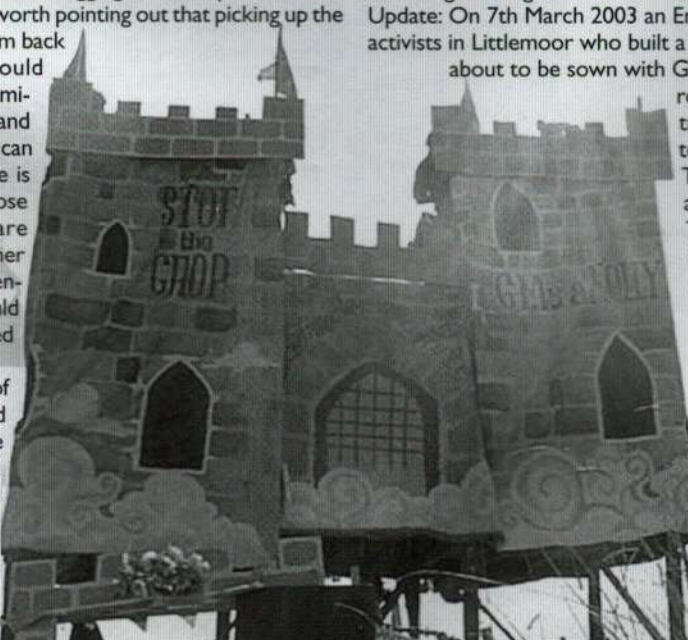
On Saturday 15th June there was a celebration at the pink castle - a silly sports day with activities such as welly wanging, three legged chicken race, crazy golf, seed and spoon race and pin the law suit on the farmer.

The pink castle was dismantled on Sunday and by the following evening the residents and their camp had gone. Update: On 7th March 2003 an English judge found that activists in Littlemoor who built a big pink castle on a field about to be sown with GM seeds were acting

reasonably in order to try and prevent damage to neighbouring crops.

They were acquitted of all charges against them. The magistrate noted that the activists, "acted reasonably by locking themselves onto tractors because simply standing in front of them would not have prevented the crop being sown".

<http://www.sayhi.to/thecastle>



Modifying The Crops

It has been another busy year for people opposing the introduction of genetically modified (GM) crops, as both covert nighttime raids and open daytime actions continue to hold back the development of GM crops in the UK, whilst decontaminating local environments where test sites are planted.

Last July there was a national celebration of GM crop trashing - an open show of defiance against Neo Labour's blatant backing of GM companies. A convoy of about 200 people carried bags of genetically modified produce that had been torn up from seventeen different fields across Britain and dumped them on the steps of DEFRA (Department of Food and Rural Affairs). The poor minion sent out to talk to the crowd never really stood a chance. Outraged grandmothers and stropky fairies queued up to have firm words with him over a megaphone whilst dumping bags of oilseed rape and maize at his feet. "We don't want your GM crops, and we'll take them out if you plant them there again" pronounced a Scottish mum as she deposited her offering.

Such actions are not popular with the government. Blair had said about anti-GM protesters "It is wrong to make heroes of people who are preventing basic scientific research taking place... Those people who want to protest should do it lawfully..." Well Tony, the GM field trials have about as much to do with "basic scientific research" as bombing Iraq had to do with "freedom and democracy". And considering that juries nearly always acquit people who have trashed GM crops - then maybe their actions are legal! And what happens when a GM crop has been planted illegally? Do the police arrest those responsible and have the crop pulled up and destroyed? Yeah, right...

On 16th August 2002 the government announced that at least 25 farmscale trials of GM oilseed rape (planted over a four year period) had been accidentally contaminated with an unlawful variety of rapeseeds which contained genes for antibiotic resistance. The government admitted that a clear-up would be necessary, so the good folk of Dorset hastily rallied round to help. Three days later around 50 people attended a Sunday afternoon protest at their neighbouring field in Hilton. Around 20 people in white paper suits entered the site to start the cleanup job, but were interrupted by some 40 police who, not to be outdone on the short-notice accessories front, brought dogs, several vans and a helicopter. Four months later they were told no prosecutions would be pressed.

The news was reported in the national media, but as a 'protesters make blunder story', based on a police press release which claimed that the wrong crop had been damaged and no GM plants removed.



Hilton, Dorset 18th August 2002

This was despite everyone on the ground, including the (now) disgruntled farmer running the trial, being very clear that the right plants were targeted. After the story had been covered the police issued a second press release admitting their first statement was wrong, but issued no apology or explanation for the discrepancy.



Bags of GM crops dumped at DEFRA, July 2002 Pic: Bill Poster

When news of the contamination broke, the DEFRA Minister issued a statement that the biotech company responsible, Bayer, could be prosecuted for "possible breach of contract". In addition to the embarrassment of a highly regulated 'trial' being part of an unlawful mix up, later negligence had made matters worse. Bayer were told about the problem in June when decisive action could have removed the threat before other crops were pollinated, but they kept the contamination from the government until August. The Hilton field (with the exception of the



bit that was trashed by protesters) was not harvested until many of the seedpods had shattered. To date no legal action has been taken against them.

Most people facing trial in England and Wales for GM actions have their cases dropped before trial, get acquitted by a jury or receive light fines for their actions. (Protesters in Scotland have suffered more heavily). But it had to happen that eventually a jury would find someone guilty. In April 2002 two women, Yvonne Davies and Rowan Tilly, were arrested during an anti-GM protest against the last remaining GM trial site in Wales. The two women defended themselves, saying that they pulled up GM crops to protect the crops of other farmers, public health and the environment. They were fined £400 and £750 for their efforts. Yvonne Davies, of Carmarthen, said: "I am disappointed with the verdict but nevertheless I took my action with the support of the people of Wales. With the threat of commercialisation around the corner we must keep giving a clear message that Wales will not accept GM crops."

While it's good to pull up crops as they're planted, it's surely a better tactic to stop the crop being planted in the first place. In Tinkleton, Devon everyone in the village signed a petition asking the farmer not to plant, and he respected their wishes. Activists in Devon and Dorset went on an outreach exercise talking to farmers. They cycled around the area, stopping at random as they passed farms and seeing if they could find anyone up for a chat. About 40 farmers were visited in all; awareness of GM among those they met varied, but most were eager to explain the problems they were facing, and they only encountered one "get off my land" type comment. Leaflets were left to counter the promises made about GM in the farming press, and a GM-free-zone pledge collected a respectable number of signatures. One of the riders concluded, "Pressurising producers and consumers is probably a more effective tactic with GM, as the stranglehold of the supermarkets has left dairy producers in crisis. But we learnt a lot from talking to farmers, and they got

a glimpse of a new threat on the horizon which they may now try and avoid."

The most spectacular GM action this year was the Pink Castle in Dorset in May 2002 (see previous article).

For more information on decontaminating fields of genetically modified crops contact Genetic Engineering Network: 0845 456 9329 www.geneticaction.org.uk

Munlochy Monster

The anti-GM movement against the farmscale trials in Munlochy in the north of Scotland has been so successful that the Scottish Executive has cancelled further crop trials in the Highlands, thus creating a GM-free zone. Nice One!

Last September, a Scottish farmer growing GM crops, Shirley Harrison was presented with a cake and a bottle of whiskey by anti-GM protesters! Er, why? Well the cake was made with genetically modified ingredients and the whisky contained 2.7% methanol, which is an acceptable level of contamination according to Shirley Harrison and Aventis, whose crop she was growing. We doubt she ate the cake or drank the whisky, but she did carry on with the crop trial until...

On 6th October a free decontamination of Mrs. Harrison's farm took place, with nearly all the crop destroyed. "Silently we came, silently we left, to strike a blow for a GM-free Scotland" said the crop pullers. The Police are appealing for anyone with any information concerning the incident to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 551111. In a concurrent investigation, campaigners are appealing to anyone with information regarding the farming of Genetically Modified Crops to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 551111.

For info on keeping Scotland GM free contact "pro-Natural Food Scotland", 35 Hamilton Drive, Glasgow, G12 8DW. www.gmfreescotland.net

The successes in Scotland have come at a price, notably fines (usually between £100 and £300) for all involved in destroying GM crops. The fact that more Scottish activists have been found guilty is down to slight differences in their legal system, notably the lack of a jury trial. In England and Wales nearly all GM activists to go before a jury have been acquitted.



Hilton, Dorset 18th August 2002



SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 26th April 2002 Free/Donation Issue 351



GET PREPARED

Mayday falls diagonally in the middle of the week, so make sure you have the day off work, school, college or university, call a friend (you know it, make sense, phone in, or better, make off - do whatever it takes to be on the streets of Mayday on Wednesday 1st May.

For Mayday in Mayday to be a huge success we all need to prepare. Make costumes, banners, flags, picnics, whistles, candles and musical instruments. Get hold of inflatable, balls, and other games. Make food and bring it to share. Look at a map of Mayday and consider the possibilities.

Contact us for leaflets and stickers or prepare your own. Spread the word! Get together with your friends and form an affinity group - a group of people you know and trust who will look out for each other on the day, above all get planning as Mayday is fast approaching.

MAYBE MAYFAIR MAYHEM

Two weeks ago the Radical Dairy, a squatted social centre in Stoke Newington, was raided by the cops on the pretext that drugs and electricity were being used illegally. No arrests were made but two computers were taken as 'evidence' that electricity was being smoked, and just for good measure the leccy board then dug up the road and removed the centre from the National Grid! This sort of over-the-top activity can only mean one thing - May Day will soon be upon us. It's that time of year again - when anarchists climb out of their winter gutters and threaten the very fabric of our society.

The raid on the London centre follows increased activity from the cops, which has been steadily building over the past few months. The Met Police threatened to raid any internet servers who dared host the website for this year's 'Mayday Festival of Alternatives' while at MayDay meetings and fundraisers cops hang around outside like a bad smell snapping pictures and putting pressure on landlords of any venues that are being used. Meanwhile the corporate media have talked about the most violent May Day for decades and running battles with the cops.

Throwing a Wombly

Seven WOMBLES (whose dress sense makes the police break out into hot sweats and reach for their truncheons) are up in court at the beginning of next week after being nicked on Halloween. They were arrested while walking down Oxford Street on their way to a party, many wearing white overalls to symbolise ghosts (the original context of the white overall movement in Italy) and Halloween

masks. The cops involved were part of "Operation Calm", an anti-terrorist response to September 11th who calmly started pushing people up against shop windows, arresting them for complaining then holding them for up to 19 hours. By some amazing co-incidence the trial will be going on during May Day and it looks like the judge will be Roger Davies who was in charge of all last years Mayday trials. This is the man who sent down someone for three months for throwing a crumpled up piece of paper at a cop and told a Romanian woman that he'd put their children into care if they were caught begging again.

Last summer the Legal Defence and Monitoring Group (LDMG) uncovered secret Mayday Sentencing Guidelines that instruct Judges to hand down heavy sentences to those arrested during May Day actions. The document titled "Mayhem" first came to the attention of the LDMG at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court. The defence barrister asked to look at the document, but the court refused this on the grounds that it was secret! As for the Radical Dairy - well the centre is still running thanks to generators, candles and a lot of local goodwill.

The centre has proved very popular with local residents who have seen Hackney Council shut down and sell off community assets in order to try to pay off its debts. One local resident said, "The people here have been nothing but good for the local community. This place was empty for three years, that's bad for everybody: it was unsafe and it was unhealthy. It is now clean, occupied, safe. It's used for socially constructive purposes." One local 15-year-old girl added "I

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For not paying library fines.

An American woman who failed to return her 3 library books was jailed for 10 days and fined \$125. Hopefully that will teach her not to renew them.

For stickering, 8 people were arrested for criminal damage after one sticker was put on the window of a worker from the Newchurch Guinea Pig farm. All 8 were bailed to return to the police station, in the meantime police are undertaking forensic analysis of the offending sticker. www.guineapigs.org.uk

think the Radical Dairy is a good place for the community. It's a better place for us kids to go because we can play on the decks and also learn new things like yoga and shiatsu which are fun...the police should not be bothering the people in The Radical Dairy when there is so much criminal activity happening on the streets of Hackney. We can use the computers here to do school work and use the Internet free for research."

So, while the police are no doubt scanning the computers for links between the anti-capitalist movement and Al-Qaeda, a few local pissed off kids are wondering when they will get their homework back.

* The Wombles Trial is from 29 April - 3 May at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, SW1. Demo outside everyday wear a white overall/white armband in solidarity. Details: 07960 973847 sevensupport@temporary.org.uk www.wombles.org.uk

* The Radical Dairy is at 47 Kynaston Road, Stoke

Maybe Mayfair Mayhem cont...

London Calling

Full list of the 'Mayday Festival of Alternatives' from 26th April till May 6th and "attempting to provide constructive ideas and alternatives to commercial and corporate Britain" check out www.ourmayday.org.uk or call 07786 716335.

* 7.30am Critical Mass - from the south (Camberwell Green) and north (Camden Town Tube), to meet up at 10am outside US Embassy, Grosvenor Square.

* 9am Breakfast Against Routine Fit-ups. - Vegan breakfast outside WOMBLES trial at Horseferry Road, SW1.

1pm Mass Action: "Mayday in Mayfair" - Multiple Meet-up Points with four themes - Travelling Circus, Wake for Capitalism, Carniball! (old fashioned footie) and Critical Mass bike ride.

"Now one of the most opulent and cloistered areas in the capital, full of luxury pads, exclusive shops, fancy hotels and national embassies, (Mayfair) takes its name from the fair which was held every year from

1 May for 15 days until its suppression in the mid-18th century. Mayday in Mayfair will be a fluid, spontaneous and exciting return to the Mayfayre, happening everywhere at once, without a fixed starting point or finish...! We all need to take the initiative in Mayfair... keep moving and don't let the cops trap and surround you! This way our festivities will not be crushed."

* 5pm "Nobody is illegal" Sexual Freedom Coalition event in Soho, with sex workers union & samba band - meet Cambridge Circus.

* 8pm - 1am Comedy and magic night at Chats Palace, 42 Brooksbys Walk, Homerton, E8. Nearest train station: Homerton.

May Procession

Brighton April 30th Sainsbury's go to court to evict the Locomotive Works Community Project. Demo against Sainsbury's meet Sat 27th 1pm at the Loco Works (1 New England St). Mayday - events at the Loco Works, with Beltane Bonfire show at 9pm. 01273-622727.

Liverpool Noon from St Lukes (bombed out church) on Bury St.

Nighttime. Play about Tolpuddle Martyrs at Casa, Hope Street followed by bands and entertainment. www.peoplenotprofit.co.uk

Bradford 12.30pm Infirmary Fields, Westgate (adj Beehive pub) march through town to Centenary Square. www.lin12.com

Edinburgh Noon onwards in Princes Street Gardens (West) 0131 557 6242 www.ourmayday.org/edinburgh/

Glasgow Noon outside Buchanan tube in the city centre. www.ourmayday.org/glasgow

Haringey - 10 days of Mayday activities & a spoof newspaper Tel. 0208 374 5027

Mayday Mayhem against the Fur Trade 10am outside Fairheads, 60-64 Cranbrook Rd., Ilford. Call day before to check event is still happening 12pm Philip Hockley's, 20 Conduit St., W1 - biggest fur shop left in London. London Animal Action 0845 4584775 laa@londona.demon.co.uk

Noon Sat 4th Nottingham Carnival from Forest Recreation Ground to The Old Market Square, live music stage and speakers till 4.30 pm maydayuk@yahoo.co.uk

Caterpillars of Society

On April 11th pro-Palestinian activists occupied the Caterpillar HQ in Desford, Leicestershire in protest at the bulldozer-building company profiteering from the murderous Israeli activity in Palestine. Activists gained access to all parts of the site, occupied the managing director's office, and leafleted the 1,500 workforce some of who helped by handing some out to their colleagues. Israel uses Caterpillar bulldozers to wreak enormous destruction in the Occupied Territories - bulldozing Palestinians' homes, creating

roadblocks, and digging mass graves.

* Check out what's really going on in Palestine www.electronicintifada.com/diaries/index.html ** Peace activists who've recently returned from Palestine are holding a meeting on Monday (29th) Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James St, Sheffield ** The Sussex University Students who took part in international solidarity actions in Palestine are giving a talk next Saturday (4) 2 pm. at the Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton ** From 24th June- 7th July the International Solidarity Movement are organising non-violent direct actions in Palestine alongside the Palestinians.

As they say "We do not know what the situation will be like this summer. If the Occupation continues, we will resist. If it ends, we will joyfully reconstruct". To prepare for this there will be a UK training weekend. uksolidarity@yahoo.co.uk, www.palsolidarity.org

April 20 Washington DC

Over 100,000 people from a diverse range of groups including anti-war activists, muslim communities and Latin American solidarity groups marched on Washington DC in the largest pro-Palestinian rally in U.S. history. Another 35,000 turned out in San Francisco. www.internationalanswer.org



Close Chavez

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www.narconews.com

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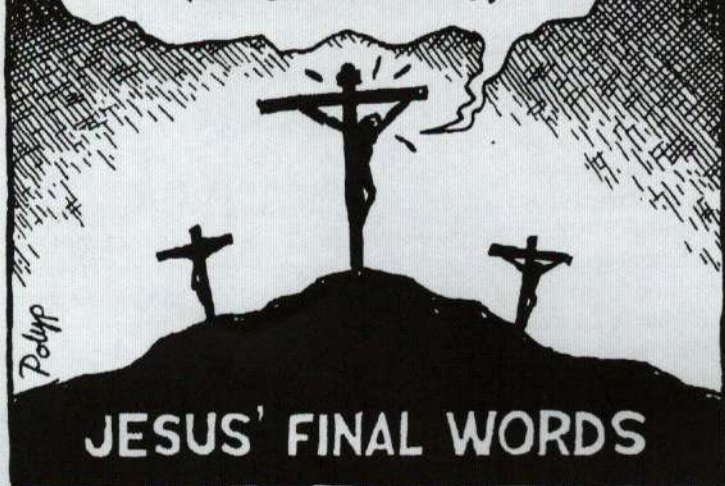
www.indymedia.org.uk

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... AND I DON'T WANT ANYONE
TO GO TWISTING WHAT I'VE SAID
INTO AN EXCUSE FOR A LOAD
OF RIGHT WING BULLSHIT...
YOU GOT THAT!?



JESUS' FINAL WORDS

SchNEWS in brief

12 towns and cities took part in Wednesday's day of action against casualisation organised by the Simon Jones Memorial Campaign. In Brighton 80 people including a band, lots of balloons and an old dragon demonstrated outside Personnel Selection, the temp agency that sent Simon to his death. The company decided to shut down for the afternoon as a mark of respect. www.simonjones.org.uk ** 75,000 marched in Washington DC last Saturday. Originally planned as a mobilisation against the World Bank and IMF, people also marched against the wars on drugs and terror and for Israel to withdraw from Palestine. <http://dc.indymedia.org> ** Choke on It demo outside Downing Street where the Queen, Tony Blair and ex-Prime Ministers will be having a tea party. Meet 6pm, Monday 29th www.fuckthejubilee.com Tel: 07931 301901 ** Cold Bath Times is a new alternative monthly newsletter currently being set up in Southampton. If you'd like to get involved coldbathinfo@yahoo.co.uk

** Stourbridge ABC are campaigning against a bypass that will destroy 37m of green belt land. They would really appreciate any help/advice kari@cauldron90.free-serve.co.uk ** April 16 saw the first general strike in Italy for 20 yrs with the country brought to a halt by over 80% of union workers stopping work for 8 hrs, and over 2m people took part in street protests against govt labour policies. ** Five acres of GM crops in the Highlands have been mysteriously destroyed. The incident comes only days after a Scottish parliamentary committee called for the crop trial, which had just started to flower, to be ploughed up www.genetixactionsotland.org.uk ** A pink castle has appeared on a field near Littlemoor estate, Weymouth, which is due to be planted with GM maize soon. Castle residents are vowing to stay to prevent the crop being planted. Support is urgently needed Tel: 07815 925214 www.sayhi.to/thecastle ** Sheffield Toxic Avengers were stopped by police from building a 13' model of an incinerator in the

front garden of Councillor Peter Moore. A spokesperson for the group said "Peter Moore wants to build an incinerator in our front yard, so we thought we'd build one in his." ** Manchester's 2nd radical bookfair is happening on the 5th May, 1-5pm, at Merci, Bridge Mill, 22A Beswick St, Ancoats. www.radicalbookfair.org.uk ** Two ex-Black Panthers, one who spent years in American prisons are on a tour of N England over May Day week, inc. a date at the Manchester Bookfair. See SchNEWS party and protest site for details

RIP

* Pablo, who died in his sleep two weeks ago. Well known around the old protest camps, living life in the fast lane. * 22 year old Beth O'Brien died after falling 150 ft from a tree at Eagle Creek tree protest site in the Mt. Hood National Forest Oregon, USA. Beth's death came as protestors were packing up camp after winning their battle to save the woodland from road developers. www.cascadiaforestalliance.org

...and finally...

On Thursday residents of Faslane Peace Camp were told by police they were in danger thanks to an unexploded bomb. The road was closed for a couple of hours while a controlled explosion took place. But wait a minute....what is that on the other side of the fence? Yes, it's a huge unexploded nuclear bomb ferried around by Trident submarines. But don't worry peace campers and the rest of the world. Those bombs are in the safe hands of the British government.

* In June the Camp will be celebrating 20 years of existence. Fun and frolics planned 01436 820901 www.faslanepeacecamp.com

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers now Commander Paddick's seen the anarchist light he's gonna be May Queen with Druids dancin' round his pole. Honest!

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Congo: The Lost World War

The war on Iraq is not the only war in the world and it is not the only war being fought for our material benefit. Western consumers' seemingly insatiable demand for mobile phones, laptops, games consoles and other luxury electronic goods has been fuelling violent conflict and killing millions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire).

by Erik Vilwar (from www.corporatewatch.org.uk)

Either side of an 1800 mile front-line, a country the size of western Europe with a population no larger than England's has been carved up by warring factions and foreign armies from nine different countries, leaving millions dead or homeless. What little infrastructure dictator Mobutu Sese Seko did not wreck during his three decades of misrule has mostly been destroyed by fighting, or has finally succumbed to neglect.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is possibly the most mineral rich place on earth – though this has proved a curse to the people of the Congo. The Congo holds millions of tons of diamonds, copper, cobalt, zinc, manganese, uranium (the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were built using Congolese uranium), and coltan. Coltan, a substance made up of columbium and tantalum, is a particularly valuable resource – used to make mobile phones, night vision goggles, fiber optics, and micro-capacitors.

What Is Coltan?

Coltan looks like black mud, but is three times heavier than iron and only slightly lighter than gold. It is found in abundance in eastern Congo and can be mined with minimal equipment. Coltan is vital to the high tech economy. Wireless electronic communication would not exist without it. The 'mud' is refined into tantalum – a metallic element that is both a superb conductor of electricity and extremely heat-resistant. Tantalum powder is a vital component in capacitors, for the control of the flow of current in miniature circuit boards. Capacitors made of tantalum are found inside every laptop, pager, personal digital assistant, and mobile phone. Tantalum is also used in the aviation and atomic energy industries. A very small group of companies in the world process coltan. These include H.C.Starck (Germany, a subsidiary of Bayer), Cabott Inc. (US), Ningxia (China), and Ulba (Kazakhstan). The world's biggest coltan mines are in Australia and they account for about 60% of world production. It is generally believed, however, that 80% of the world's reserves are in Africa, with DRC accounting for 80% of the African reserves.

At the end of 2000, there was an unprecedented 'gold rush for coltan'. Over a few months the price rose tenfold. In January 2000, an international trader would have paid between US\$30 and US\$40 for a pound (lb) of unprocessed coltan. By December 2000 the price has risen to US\$380/lb. This dramatic price increase was driven by a sudden and steep rise in the demand for tantalum powder, caused by an overvaluation of the technology market triggered by a new generation of mobile phones and the consumer rush following the launch of the Sony Playstation 2.

At the height of the demand for coltan, it is known that Rwandan soldiers and other affiliated criminal groups were making roughly US\$20 million a month solely from the trade in coltan. However, the coltan boom was short-lived and prices rapidly fell as more and more coltan came on to the market. By October 2001, coltan prices were back to where they started. In the meantime, thousands of destitute Congolese people had gone digging for the precious ore, a few international traders had made a fortune and millions of dollars had flowed to the parties waging war. Prices have fallen from the late 2000 peak, but the trade in coltan is still fuelling the war.

The human costs of this conflict have been horrific. According to the UN, up until last September, in the five Eastern provinces of DRC alone, between 3 and 3.5 million people had died directly because of the war. Many were killed and tortured but most died of starvation and disease. The destruction of farms has resulted in malnutrition and starvation. Millions of people have been forced from their homes. Years of war have led to a social environment in which men abuse women on a staggering scale and children become instruments of war, forced to work in mines and conscripted into armed forces. Surveys in Butembo found that 90% of people were living on less than 20 cents a day and only one meal.

Most people in Britain appear ignorant of this war. The underlying causes of the war and the role of the British government and British companies are obfuscated by the media presentation of the war as a confusing ethnic conflict, involving seven African states and many rebel groups. In fact, the war is quite simple to understand. It is about money.

The 'second Congolese war' supposedly began in August 1998, with an attempt by Tutsi rebels backed by Uganda and Rwanda to depose former Congolese president Laurent Kabila, whom they accused of sheltering the Hutu Interahamwe militias responsible for the 1994 slaughter of some 800,000 Tutsis in Rwanda. Soldiers from Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Chad

were sent in, ostensibly to save Kabila's regime. It is clear that the primary motivation for the intervention of these armies was to loot Congo's rich resources and sell them.

The looting of the Congo's natural resources is carried out by elite networks consisting of a small core of political and military elites and business persons and, in the case of occupied areas, selected rebel leaders. These networks ensure the viability and profitability of their economic activities through control over the military and other security forces that they use to intimidate, threaten, torture and kill. Actual commercial activities are carried out through front companies, supported by organised transnational criminal groups. 'The role of the private sector in the exploitation of natural resources and the continuation of the war has been vital.'

UN Panel of Experts

Last October, an independent panel of experts reported to the United Nations Security Council that 85 multinational companies based in Europe, the US and South Africa had facilitated the plunder of the Congo and illegally profited from the war. Twelve of the companies named in the report are based in Britain.

Mahmoud Kassen, chairperson of the UN Panel of Experts, said 'The role of these companies is really important. Corporations have a direct and indirect role. Without them this kind of commerce would not be possible'.

The Panel's investigations had previously led them to conclude that the war in the Congo 'has become mainly about access, control and trade' of minerals, the most important being coltan. The one thing that unites the warring parties is the desire for money. 'Because of its lucrative nature,' the Panel said, the war 'has created a win-win situation for belligerents. Adversaries and enemies are at the same time partners in business, get weapons from the same dealers and use the same intermediaries. Business has superseded security.'

Britain is not only involved in the exploitation of the Congo's natural resources; it also armed all the sides involved in the DRC conflict. UK arms manufacturers have been granted export licenses to sell weapons to Zimbabwe, Uganda, Angola, Namibia and Burundi.

In a speech to the Labour Party Conference last year, Tony Blair said that, with UK help, the world community could 'sort out the blight that is the continuing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where three million people have died through war or famine in the last decade'. What Blair refers to as 'the blight' within the DRC was exacerbated by his own government's sanctioning of military exports and training into the region. Since the Labour Party came to power, Britain has more than quadrupled arms sales to Africa.

Congo History in a Nutshell

The Congo has been relentlessly pillaged for more than a century. To begin with, it was taken over as a personal possession by Belgian King Leopold II following a series of fraudulent treaties with African kings. Leopold thought a good name would be the Congo Free State, perhaps because he got it for nothing. Private companies were brought in to do the dirty work, extracting as much rubber and ivory as possible, and making money hand over fist. Leopold's rule was tyrannical and vicious and killed more than half the population in less than 20 years.

In 1909, Belgium took the country over and renamed it the Belgian Congo. They eased up on the killing but kept the forced labour. Fierce rioting in 1959 resulted in Belgium abruptly granting independence in 1960. The country was renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo. Shortly after independence, the US took over in a bloody coup. The CIA arranged the murder of Patrice Lumumba, the country's first elected leader. In his place they installed their paid agent Colonel Mobutu Sese Seko.

In Mobutu's 37 years as ruler of the Congo (which he renamed Zaire) he managed to amass a huge personal fortune and continued to oppress the general population. Nevertheless, he remained popular with Western governments and companies. From 1965 to 1991, Zaire received more than \$1.5 billion in US economic and military aid. According to the World Bank (a long-time supporter of Mobutu), 64.7% of Zaire's budget was reserved for Mobutu's discretionary spending. Mobutu's greed was ultimately his downfall. When he tried to stop sharing the Congo's wealth with his Western backers, the US prepared for him to be overthrown. In October 1996, the Rwandan army along with Ugandan troops invaded Zaire and by May 1997 had forced Mobutu to flee to Morocco. The invasion was disguised as a local rebellion. The Tutsi Rwandan forces called themselves the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) and recruited Laurent Kabila, an exiled Congolese Marxist, as a figurehead leader. Kabila was installed as President and changed the country's name back to the Democratic Republic of Congo. In July 1998, Kabila expelled Rwandan and Ugandan forces from the Congo. On 2nd August, Rwanda and Uganda invaded the eastern region of the Congo and set up surrogate 'rebel' armies. Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia sent their armies to support Kabila and Burundi joined the Rwandans and the Angolans. This was the start of the second Congo war. The US backed the Rwandan and Ugandan invasion and pressured Kabila into signing the Lusaka Accord which treated the conflict as a civil war. The result is a partitioned Congo with Rwanda and Uganda still occupying the eastern half and ignoring all deadlines for leaving. On 17th January 2001, on the fortieth anniversary of the assassination of Lumumba, Laurent Kabila was assassinated. Joseph Kabila, Laurent's son, took over as President.

For the full article see www.corporatewatch.org.uk



www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 3rd May 2002 Free/Donation Issue 352/353



MAYWATCH

"Mayday has been a celebration of life, renewal and pleasure since ancient times. More recently it was declared International Workers' Day to commemorate the execution of four anarchists in Chicago for their part in the struggle for an eight-hour working day. Both these aspects of Mayday were intertwined - a festival against work, want and denial, and a vision of freedom and plenty throughout the world."

From 'Our May Day' website What does May Day mean to you? Well, if you're a Pagan maybe you were out on the lash drinking flagons of mead and dancing naked around a fire to welcome Beltane - the coming of Spring and the rebirth of life. If you're part of the corporate media then it's always a time to relax, dust off some of those old clichés and talk about the end of civilisation, as we know it. If you're a copper then it's a time to get physical and talk about a hardcore of violent protestors bent on changing the status quo. If you're an anti-capitalist then there are a number of choices. It could be the opportunity you were looking for to try out that outrageous new outfit - chances are the media will love it and want to chat you up (but try to think of something good to say beforehand). Or you could dress in black and look all moody at that McDonalds window. If you're a trade unionist, then what better way of using one of your days off work than to march around with a placard and listen to some riveting speeches from some Old Labour politicians.

Wherever you're coming from there's no doubt that over the past

few years May Day has been put firmly back onto the political map with millions across the world taking to the streets. The biggest demos were in France with an estimated one million protesting against the fascist Le Pen. In Australia thousands turned out in Melbourne beginning the day by blockading the entrance of the company that runs the country's immigration detention centres. In Indonesia thousands took to the streets calling for the day to be made a national holiday, higher minimum wages and a halt to subsidy cuts on fuel and electricity demanded by the International Monetary Fund. In Athens four separate demonstrations marched to the United States and Israeli embassies to protest Israeli attacks against Palestinians. In Seoul more than 10,000 people called on the government to swiftly introduce a five-day work week and to withdraw its plans to privatise state-run industries.

Hardcore

Across the UK the demonstrations were smaller, but on the whole thought to be more successful than the last few years especially in London where six thousand cops patrolled the streets with four helicopters buzzin' over head. The idea in Mayfair was for people to adopt a theme and be 'fluid and spontaneous...without a fixed starting point or finish.'

This meant crowds kept moving and the police couldn't use their trusty old Section 60 so easily (that's when they pen a crowd in for hours because they 'fear violence might happen') So it was a 'Travelling Cir-

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK For playing music...

A minibus driver from the Kurdish region of Amed in Turkey was nicked for the outrageous crime of playing traditional Kurdish folk music on his daily journey to Cinar. The case against him was that he had 'aided and abetted' the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) - by playing the music of his choice. What happened was that an overzealous off duty cop who got a lift on the bus objected to these revolutionary tunes and promptly called for reinforcements. Sulhattin Onen, the bus driver was then arrested and held for two days. Sulhattin was finally was tried and received a 10 month sentence and over 26 million Turkish Lira fine.

cus' with a thousand sparkle-faced anarchists wheeling round a huge red and yellow shiny plastic Big-Top flanked by pixies, lusty crusty wenches, clowns and screaming queens. Then there was Carniball - old fashioned footie - kicking off down Oxford Street with inflatable beach balls, and two five foot wide red footballs that got the crowds through police lines and provided a new sense of team-crowd spirit, as they bounced off the heads of the plod quite gloriously amid cries of 'GOAL!!'. Or what about a critical mass of bike rides heading for the American Embassy; or a carnival of colour as part of the sex workers parade in Soho (which later got Section 60'd and turned violent as the police hemmed everyone in to take down peoples particulars [pardon]).

Some complained about walking around aimlessly, but on such a do-it-yourself day this just shows the importance of people organising be-

Maywatch cont...

forehand and forming affinity groups. This needn't be rocket science, just a bunch of mates getting together to plan actions, anything from bringing along props to targeting specific companies. A dozen anarchists from Worthing took the initiative by protesting in Berkeley Square, Mayfair, outside the HQ of the Carlyle Group, an American finance firm closely linked to the US government and the arms trade. Other smartly dressed English gentlemen and women showed those ghastly American coffee chains a thing or two about etiquette, setting up stalls outside their stores and dishing out some good old fashioned tea & cucumber sandwiches to the protesting masses.

Last year the press reckoned it was one nil to the cops after they penned everyone in Oxford Street for eight hours. Not this year. As one anarchist 'ringleader' told Schnews "Any suggestion of the cops winning the game are shallow - the cops were on the hop constantly. People broke away spontaneously into groups and reclaimed the streets of central London at the action's height. Hopefully next year we can learn to generate more autonomous actions, bring along more musical instruments, rinky-dink sound systems, balls etc and build on this, because it's definitely a better way to structure mass actions." Or as one reveller told SchNEWS "This year I think we won on away goals."

May the first last

This years events in London weren't just focused on May Day but ten days of activities under the banner of May Day Festival of Alternatives. "We want to show our goals of creating a society based on solidarity, autonomy and co-operation - in practice. We want to show that there is a future beyond capitalism, wage-labour and the state; that we can create our own alternatives and that our land, time, resources, entertainment, and ultimately, our lives, can be reclaimed from a system that has disempowered us from realising our individual and collective potential for centuries."

* Just over 50 were nicked, mainly for minor charges. However if previous May Day court cases are anything to go by, then sentences for even minor offences could be harsh. If you saw any arrests contact the Legal, Defence and Monitoring Group ldmgmail@yahoo.co.uk

* Find out what happened around the world www.indymedia.org

* For the incomplete history of Mayday www.midnightnotes.org/mayday

* For in-depth history of the Haymarket martyrs http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/haymarket/Haymarket.html

* Get clued up on section 60 www.urban75.org/mayday02/s60

Inside SchNEWS

Satpal Ram was sentenced to life imprisonment after defending himself against a violent racist attack, he has been moved 72 times in the 13 years he has been inside and SchNEWS reckons this is some sort of Guinness Book of Records. Satpal is now back in open prison. He'd like to thank all those who faxed and wrote over the last period. Though he is back in open conditions, he is grounded for a month for risk assessment. write direct to him: Satpal Ram, HMP Blantyre House, Horden, Goudhurst, Kent, TN17 2NH. Or email the campaign SatpalRam@satpalram.connectfree.uk.com

* Long-term US anarchist prisoner **Harold H. Thompson** is challenging a decision that will decide whether inmates across the States are able to receive mail containing so called 'political content'. Currently up to 25,000 prisoners receive anarchist, environmental or animal rights literature. SchNEWS itself has had newsletters returned because apparently the content was 'unsuitable.' One supporter told SchNEWS "This is a seriously heavyweight legal contest with far-reaching implications for every prisoner held in US jails nationwide, particularly those prepared to stand and fight the system from behind cell bars." Harold desperately needs more money to fight the case. Donations can be sent to (payable to Friends of Harold H.Thomson') PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2XL

Crooks

This month the International Criminal Court was finally ratified by enough countries to be established (SchNEWS 326). It's aim is to "investigate and bring to justice individuals who commit war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide." Shame it can't try crimes committed before 1 July 2002, the date it officially comes into force otherwise you'd have a few ex-US presidents and advisors running for cover. As it is George W is doing all he can to make sure he won't be appearing in the Hague, by refusing to ratify the treaty. China, Israel and Iraq are also refusing to sign up, no prizes for guessing why! www.iccnw.org www.hrw.org



"You can search me I haven't got your fucking maypole" Mayday, London Pic: Alec Smart

Group 4 Profit

It's still unclear what happened to the asylum seekers still missing after the Yarl's Wood Detention Centre fire in February (SchNEWS 348). After the fire, detainees were described as 'being at large', but a former detention officer recently contacted a Bedfordshire paper to say that she believes a group of 10 detainees who were in the prayer room were killed in the fire.

Campaigners calling for an independent enquiry into the incident have so far been ignored. In what appears to be a massive cover up, witnesses to the event are being deported and 10 of the detainees have now been charged with "violent disorder". An Early Day Motion calling for an independent enquiry and the halt of deportations, has so far only been signed by 48 MP's. You can fax your MP free through www.ncadc.org.uk and ask them to sign EDM1048.

Meanwhile Group 4 who run Yarl's Wood and Campsfield Detention Centre in Oxfordshire, are making big bucks out of making asylum seekers lives a misery. They've recently bought up Wakenhute the company that runs all of Australia's detention centres and other centres around the world with a total of 40,000 units. With the planned expansion of asylum detention in the UK under Labour's new immigration law Group 4 must be glad they've got involved in the 'immigration industry'.

Charlatans

In Rio de Janeiro in 1992 World leaders met to discuss what they were going to do about our polluted planet. The decade since Rio has seen rampant destruction of our environment. This September 10 years later - leaders are meeting again in Johannesburg, South Africa, to pat each other on the back and vow to carry on as normal. Campaigners going to Johannesburg are demanding that an international court for crimes against the earth be set up, and are asking people for their nominations. Post yours at www.resistenceisfertile.org.earthcrimes

SchNEWS in brief

Cops in Montreal, Canada are carrying out mass arrests on people who are having the cheek to get out and demonstrate. In March 371 people were held for five hours before being arrested on a demo in support of International day against police brutality. And last Friday hundreds of people demonstrating against G8 labour ministers (the G8 is made up of the eight most industrialised nations of the world) being in town were surrounded and 170 arrested, the majority charged with "unlawful assembly." <http://montreal.indymedia.org> ** The controversial Itoiz dam in Spain has been declared illegal by the Spanish Supreme Court. The Court upheld its opinion that filling the dam is illegal, due to the fact that it would destroy three nature reserves. Previous rulings have however so far failed to stop the building of the dam. ** Last weekend activists managed to storm the stage at the Annual get together of Bayer in Germany to let the company know that their new venture into Genetically Modified (GM) crops isn't going to go unopposed. All the activists

were removed by security, but not before they were given the chance to vote on a number of shareholder issues, as they all had share certificates. Bayer, at the end of last year bought up biotech baddies Aventis Crop Science, this acquisition will make them the leading company pushing for the commercialisation of GM crops in Europe. www.Bayerhazard.com ** Wales now has it's own bi-lingual Indymedia site at www.indycymru.org.uk ** OneWorld have set up a video website showing documentaries about global issues www.oneworld.net. Contributions welcome contact tv@oneworld.net ** A-spire, the Leeds squatted social centre is facing eviction next Wednesday. Events are running till then, including: Talks and Videos on International Resistance on Monday (6th) from 5pm, followed by a benefit gig, and an anti fascist speaker on Tuesday (7th) 07796 343 085 www.a-spire.org.uk ** The Locomotive Works squat (ex-Harvest Forestry shop, 1 New England Street) in Brighton, set up to oppose the Sainsbury's development is facing eviction on Tuesday (7th), see it before it's gone and lend a hand.



IT'S YER SCHNEWS SUMMER PARTY AND PROTEST GUIDE

MAY

5 Bass-heavy punky reggae bash with Restarts, Nomadix Roots, One Style + DJ Dave (Zion Train) 8pm-2am, Arsenal Tavern, 175 Blackstock Road, London N4. **5 Manchester Radical Bookfair** 1pm-5pm Merci, Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick Street, Manchester. www.radicalbookfair.org.uk for latest updates! **6 Film: Incitement to riot** - packed with footage from all the best riots of the past, and a hard hitting soundtrack at 6pm; followed by **Film: New Kids on the Block Black**. London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, London. **6 Radical Bookfair**, 11am-5pm, Exchange Community Centre, Sebbon Street, Islington, N1. **8 CITY meeting** CWU Building Edinburgh 7.30pm Edinburgh direct action groups get together www.EdinburghCITY.org.uk **8 Benefit gig for Kurdish Human Rights Group**. Wild Angels - live music plus comedy from Mark Thomas, Mark Steel, and others. The 100 Club, Oxford Street, London. 7.30pm **8 A Police Service for Northern Ireland?** Meeting on the 5th Anniversary of Robert Hamill's death. Committee Room 10, The House of Commons, 7.30pm. www.hamillcampaign.freesevice.co.uk **9 'War against Hedonism' Party** in aid of Stop the War and CND DJs from London's best free parties playing house, funk and drum n bass. 8pm-1am The Black Horse, 168 Mile End Road, London, free Indian buffet. £3/£2 waragainsthedonism@hotmail.com **9 Rock for Cuba at Night and Day**, 7.30pm, Oldham St., Manchester. £3. **10 No Sweat Comedy Cabaret** fundraiser for no sweat 'Indonesian workers' solidarity campaign. Starring Rob Newman and Atilla the Stockbroker, 7pm-late, The Bread and Roses 68A Clapham Manor Street, London. Tickets £15/£10/£5 07904 431 959 **10 Black Panther speaking tour and benefit gig** with Ashram plus DJ's, The Cumberland Arms, Byker Buildings, Byker 7pm £3/2. **10-12 Wind Generators and Solar Electrical Systems** - learn to run household appliances with wind and solar power. Redfield Community, Buckinghamshire. £150/100 all meals and accommodation included. Contact LILI, Redfield Community, Buckingham Road, Winslow, Bucks, MK18 3L. 01296 714184 www.greendragonenergy.co.uk www.lowimpact.org **11 Plan Colombia and its impact on human rights and the environment**. Two women speakers from the Colombia Solidarity Campaign talk about US military intervention in Latin America. News From Nowhere Club, The Epicentre, West St, (Leton Station) Free 020 8555 5248 **11 Sources of Radicalism** - the history of popular protest and radical social, political and cultural movements, Manchester. £7/£3, including lunch. Early booking advised. anne.morrow@man.ac.uk www.leftdirect.co.uk/sources.htm **11 Was your granny a Suffragette?** The Women's Library, Old Castle St., London. 020 8858 5545 **11 Fancub, the anticonsumerist group**, at the Dundee Centre for Contemporary Art. www.fancubbers.org **12 How can we save the countryside?** talk and discussion on the proposals of the Curry Report on the Future of Farming. £15 including lunch, tea and coffee. 9.30am-6.00pm at Braziers Park, Ipsden, Nr Wallingford, Oxon. 01702 556600 agkipps@hotmail.com **12 Poole Skate Fest**, Baiter Park, trick competitions in Skateboarding, Inline and BMX with new music talent from Hip Hop to Punk 11am-8pm www.temptfate.co.uk **12 Speak Out Against Racism: Don't let the extreme right set the agenda**. Rally in Trafalgar Square, followed

by march and human chain around Parliament. 1pm Trafalgar Square AA_R@compuserve.com **14 Invest in car-ing not killing!** Arab & Jewish women speak out against the holocaust in Palestine. Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London. 7pm £3/£1 020 7482 2496 <http://womenstrike8m.server101.com> **15 Prison activist and former Black Panther Robert King Wilkerson**, one of the prisoners known as "the Angola 3" will be speaking in Easton Community Centre, Bristol 8pm. www.marsbard.com/kebele **15 Benefit for Faslane Peace Camp/ Ploughshares** 8.30pm, Nice N Sleazy, Sauchiehall St, Glasgow. 0131 664 3231 **15 What's wrong with the war** - 'Not in my Name' and 'Greetings from Missile Street' Part of Tyneside Radical Film Festival at The Side Cinema, Newcastle Quayside 5.30 pm and 8pm 0191 2724635 radical.filmfest@tesco.n **15 International Conscientious Objectors' Day Ceremony**, Tavistock Square, London. 020 7424 9444. Temple of Peace, Cardiff, 12.30-2.30 pm 01446 774452 **16 'Zero de Conduite'** a film by Jean Vigo. Followed by discussion. Organised by Nought for Conduct Film Club 7.30pm Marchmont Community Centre Marchmont Street, London. £2/£1 07946 214590 **17 Anarchy's big problem**. Talk and discussion, London Anarchist Forum, 8pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. £2 donation appreciated LAF@anarchic.co.uk **17-19 Knockengoroch festival** in the remote Galloway glen of the Water of Deugh, Scotland. Featuring Zion Train, Croft Number 5, Burach, Nusa, Trudge Euphoria and the Wallace Clan with DJ's from Eden, Tonque n Groove and Flying Rhino plus many more folk, roots and world musicians Also open stage, session tents, stalls, story-telling, sculpture park, a multitude of workshops and demonstrations of country crafts, fine food, real ale. Tickets £28.50 £25. Young children free. Free camping. 01644 460662 www.knockengoroch.org.uk **17-19 Wheaton Aston Festival**, near Telford, Shropshire. "We're a small, warm and friendly Festival and have great music - an eclectic line-up of music, song and dance, some familiar, some less so, but all of the very best. The Festival occurs within the village and as well as concerts, there'll be sessions, workshops, street activities and dancing, a French ball, craft fair, food available and a campsite near the village centre." Weekend ticket £27. (camping £3 per person) www.wheatonastonfestival.supanet.com **18 National rally and demonstration for Palestine** Noon Hyde Park for march to Trafalgar Square. www.palestinecampaign.org Coaches from Brighton 01273 329925 **18 HAG Cabaret benefit for the Cowley Club** 8pm, Ray Tindle Centre, Brighton £5 in advance from Peace Centre/£6 on the nite. **18 Stop ESSO Day II** The aim is to boycott every Esso garage in the UK. 0870 0109510 www.stopesso.com **18 Magpie 10th anniversary festival**, Saunders Park, Brighton. FREE **19 McLibel Anniversary of the 1997 High Court Victory!!** Leaflets from Veggies: 0845 4589595 **20 Join Christian CND in visiting Embassies of the nuclear weapons states** to ask how they are progressing in their "undertaking...to...accomplish...nuclear disarmament." 020 7700 4200 **22 An introduction to the Trade Justice Movement**, led by Elened Jones of Christian Aid. 7.30pm Trinity Church Hall, Woodland Place, Penarth. 02920 711943, philip@kingstonp.fsnet.co.uk **22-24 Temporary Autonomous Art 5** "Explosion of art and culture from the underground. Gallery space and cafe throughout with all contributions welcome. Thursday night is open access film night and Friday night host live music and

performance." mid-day to midnight. Free. 07050 614804 <http://randomartists.org> **24 10th Anniversary of the legendary Castlemorton Free Festival** "Diverse meeting of all soundsystems and all walks of life - sometime around then but expect date to change, don't expect a venue until the last moment, if at all." www.guilfin.net/database/showevent.php3?ev_id=evINET1140 **25 Maidstone Green Fair**, Mote Park, Maidstone, Kent FREE. Two or three music stages and various incidental entertainments. Blues, folk, jazz rock and world, with markets, arts and crafts, kids activities, street theatre and workshops. Midday until about 9pm. **25 Campaigning For Peace**. A series of events looking at women's roles as campaigners, including Vera Brittain's pacifism, Greenham Common protests and women's role in Afghanistan. 12 noon The Women's Library, Old Castle St., London. 020 8858 5545 sam@chamerlainmcauley.co.uk **25 Samba Festival** hosted by Brighton's Carnival Collective. All the UK's samba bands coming together in one place...arghhhhh **25 Sixth Global Boycott Procter & Gamble Day**. Last year activists in over 25 countries took 130 separate actions to highlight Procter & Gamble's cruel and unnecessary animal testing policies, conveying the message "If you buy Procter & Gamble products, you are actively supporting and sustaining animal testing." www.uncaged.co.uk 0114-2722220 **25 James Connolly/Bobby Sands commemoration**. March and rally starting at Seven Sisters Tube at 1pm and marching to Haringey Irish Centre, Pretoria Road, London. Wolfe Tone Society 020-8442 8778 www.wolfe-tone.org.uk **25/26 Permaculture Introductory Weekend**, Bowlers Community Nursery, 81 Crouch Hill, London. Full cost £80, but negotiable. 0845 4584697 naturewise1@hotmail.com **26 Save Titnore Woods**. Protest against threat to destroy ancient woodland. 2pm Titnore Lane entrance to Northbrook College, Durrington, Worthing (Goring-by-Sea railway station). Bring banners, music and food. www.worthinga27.freemove.co.uk **28 Annual Levellers Day**, Warwick Hall Garden, Burford, Oxon. "Space, Peace or War" speakers include Bruce Kent (CND), Lindis Percy (peace campaigner and base invader) £8. **29 Questioning Development** - 'Work in Progress' and 'Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh' Part of the Tyneside Radical Film Festival at The Side Cinema, Newcastle Quayside (near Crown Posada Pub, Dean St.) 5.30 pm and 8pm 0191 2724635 radical.filmfest@tesco.net The Bell Centre, Blaenllechau, Wales 11am-11pm faldau2000@hotmail.com **31-2 June Feeling Of Life Festival** - 'somewhere' "A Celebration of 14 years of the scene representing music from the past and the present in a happy - safe environment inc systems from all over the U.K. . A Party With True Free Party Spirit. www.dubbit-up.com **31-2 June Off The Tracks Festival**, Donnington Park, Isley Walton. The Levellers, Nagus, Prego, Andy Boles, Diego Brown and the Good Fairy Jerry Carnhill ~ Spokane. "The organisers of this intimate gathering are old festival heads steering clear of the money-motivated corporate trend. They aim to create an honest, friendly event for up to 1,500 people." Weekend tickets with camping £25 advance 01332 384518 www.offthetracks.co.uk

**It's yer blatant plug for
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Up the Rector

An Essex Vicar who was under investigation by the police for an article about the September 11th attacks has had his case dropped.

Rev. Nigel Cooper in his monthly letter to parishioners expressed his opinion that the 3000 people that died in the Twin Towers weren't entirely innocent. Both towers were full of people working for the banks that fund the IMF, who in turn cause 30,000 deaths a day in the southern hemisphere. He also thought Bush was a greater threat to peace than terrorism, and that the US response was more to do with fighting for an empire than for civilisation. One reader took offence to the article and contacted the thought police who obviously couldn't find anything wrong with the comments, and have discontinued their investigations.

CAUTION



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Positive SchNEWS

Poolsbrook in Derbyshire is set to become the first village in Europe to set up a power station fuelled by methane piped from their rubbish tip to heat homes and generate electricity. The villagers set up a limited company and are raising the £2million they need for the project. The prices will be set by the villagers themselves at a meeting and the profit the company makes will be put back into community activities. It will cut the heating bills in half and drastically reduce CO2 emissions. Brian Cave-from Poolsbrook heating development said "We have a high ratio of unemployed, single parent families and pensioners so affordable heat is vital to them."

Can-Can't

The Can Masdeu squatted social centre in Barcelona, which played a major part in March's massive protests against the EU summit, was surrounded by police on Tuesday. As SchNEWS went to press the centre was being blockaded by 14 vans and police are refusing protesters inside access to food, water and blankets. They have so far failed to evict the squatters because a judge has said doing so would endanger the lives of 10 people who are hanging from ropes in various parts of the building. Attempts have been made to get food and blankets to them, including one by a group of 15 women who tried to break the police line and a mass action involving 200 people that was violently dealt with by the police. Just to be nice they also prevented the people who were injured in the actions from getting any medical attention. People are arriving continually to Can Masdeu to show support. 120 people stopped the traffic in both directions on the Rhonda de Dalt (a major ring-road) for an hour in solidarity. Police are threatening to move the ropes that the people inside are suspended from if there are more attempts to get them food <http://barcelona.indymedia.org>



...and finally...

Steven Boffey has just landed himself one of the most environmentally destructive jobs in the West Midlands. Employed by Midland Expressway, the corporate crooks behind the new Birmingham Northern Relief Road (BNRR) (Britains first toll road); his job is to encourage 100,000 drivers a day to use their brand new spanking road. The catch is that they have to pay a toll for the privilege. The road will be built with private investment, and Boffey's job will be to ensure that his new bosses line their pockets whilst the local people continue to suffer from shit air quality.

SchNEWS tried to contact Mr Boffey to discuss the benefits of his road over say the spaghetti junction, but he was unavailable, undoubtedly having a laugh at our expense. Cos' with £400million of tax payers money being spent on widening the M42 near the toll road, to cope with increased traffic, rather than on public transport, the locals aren't going to have any alternative other than to jump in their cars. The BNRR 'M6 Toll experience' is due to open in 2004. Contact Mr Boffey to discuss his job on 0845 6013611. More info on opposition to the road at www.ds.dial.pipex.com/beep/bnrr

*AMEC the nasty construction company who are involved in the BNRR also are playing their part in the Yusefeli Dam project in Turkey. They are having their AGM next Wednesday (8th) and would love to see you. Protests are planned. Meet 10am Speaker's Corner at the Marble Arch End of Hyde Park. Contact 0207566 1681 kathb@foe.co.uk www.ilisu.org.uk

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers this Summer don't be a dope or let the grass grow under yer feet. For the latest blow against capitalism check out our stash of info for action. Honest.

SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 10th May 2002 Free/Donation Issue 354

Neo Labour POLICE CONVOY

FESTIVAL PIED

"Society needs to condemn a little more and understand a little less. New age travellers? Not in this age! Not in any age!"

- John Major, 1992.

It was ten years ago this month when Castlemorton Common became home to the largest free festival this country had seen since the Stonehenge celebrations in the early eighties.

Travellers heading for the Avon Free Festival found themselves up against Avon and Somerset Police's all-new fun-stopping information-gathering 'Operation Nomad' with "dedicated resources...to gather intelligence in respect of the movement of itinerants and travellers and deal with minor acts of trespass." So people found themselves across the border heading for the picturesque Malvern valley where a truly amazing free festival sprung up with around forty thousand people partying for seven days and nights.

The Free Festival scene had been happening up and down the country since the early 70's, and this new explosion was a fusion of old style traveller culture and weekend ravers attracted to the soundsystems of DIY, Spiral Tribe, Bedlam and a host of others. One leaflet at the time explained "To be at one of these gatherings is to feel a surge of energy; to feel a people free from the restrictions of rip-off clubs, crap pubs, dumb shit security, money-mad promoters." Of course the authorities didn't exactly share this view and with the press whipping itself up into a frenzy ("Hordes of Marauding Locusts" and "These

Foul Pests must be Controlled" being a couple of classic headlines) - new laws we were warned, were just around the corner.

The authorities in particular seemed to be going gung-ho for a group of people who had pushed the free party boundaries for the past two years - Spiral Tribe. 13 people were nicked and put on trial for 'conspiracy to cause a public nuisance' with the judge promising two years in prison if they were found guilty. Thankfully they weren't despite a trial that lasted four and a half months and cost the taxpayer £4 million.

As a result of the free festival scene, mixing with the first stirrings of the road protest movement at Twyford Down and the M11, the Tory Home Secretary ranted about getting "Tough on rapists, tough on armed robbers and tough on squatters" a hotch-potch of a Bill was introduced into parliament - the most draconian ever to be aimed at alternative British culture. It's name - the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (which SchNEWS was a part response to, but that's another story).

Pig Posse Payout

Fast forward 10 years. This year's Welsh Green Gathering has been cancelled for the second year running - thanks to objections once again from the cops. Last year Dyfed Powys police objected on the grounds that festival land would be contaminated with "human waste, diesel and cannabis." This year the

gathering, in the planning since June last year, was to take place in Margam Country Park, South Wales and all seemed to be going well. Until the Detective Inspector of Port Talbot police stuck his oar in and said he feared serious public disorder so £60,000 to police the crowd of just four thousand had to be coughed up. The Council, fearing a riot, cancelled the booking.

Er, public disorder at a Green Gathering? Maybe if you count people overdosing on lentil flapjacks or being trapped in dozens of deadly dream catchers or perhaps a pack of pedal-powered powder peddlers pelting police with a barrage of crystals. In fact, the event was going to be so riotous members of the Welsh National Assembly were planning to take part in green forums and the Centre For Alternative Technology along with other such axe-wielding maniacs were to busy themselves at the event promoting sustainable living. Not to mention the festival helping to restore the park and converting to solar power the presently disused road-train.

The Welsh Green Gathering is now seriously out of pocket and threatening to sue the Council. Organisers reckon the decision was linked to a yearlong direct action campaign against an incinerator in Swansea. Yesterday the incinerator was given the green light. Green Party spokesman Martin Shrewsbury commented "Port Talbot council are supporting an incinerator to poison us all and cancelling a festival about alternative sustainable energy."



Barricading for eviction at the entrance to the old Harvest Forestry building, on the corner of the site of the proposed development

SQUATTERS - MAKING LIFE TASTE BETTER

The day SchNEWS hits the street the squatted community centre at the old Harvest Forestry organic shop in Brighton is due to be evicted. The centre, which has been open for two months and used as an info shop, occasional café, art space and for children's activities, was occupied in protest against the proposed Sainsbury's led New England Consortium's development due to be built there. The proposal includes a car park, two posh hotels, yuppie flats, inadequate key-worker

bedsit style accommodation and, a massive new Sainsbury's.

There has been massive local opposition to this plan and residents have vowed to resist the eviction by barricading themselves inside and are willing to risk arrest. They have put out a call for Brightonians to come down to show their support for community centres not corporate developments - as early as you can get down to the ex-Harvest Forestry building on New England St (near Hobgoblin pub).



li Occupation

Marchers at the Free Palestine March, London May 18th

Pic: Guy Smallman

Party On

Glastonbury has now gone to the Mean Fiddler dogs, with licensing regulations stating that the same sort of surveillance techniques ironically first used against travellers ten years ago now will now be used at this year's event. So it's watch towers and CCTV and infra-red cameras for gatecrashers and ticket holders alike.

So what are we gonna do about it? Isn't it time to rediscover the free festival spirit? Perhaps keeping our shit together and looking after each other at Stonehenge again this year can be a start to build on. As Tash, a free festival veteran, told SchNEWS "People nowadays expect to pay their money and for everything to be provided. In the old festival days, people had to do things for themselves such as sorting out the infrastructure such as toilets and welfare."

Of course, the state has now all the laws it wants to deal with any unregulated fun, so we've got to be cunning and we've got to be organised. But if we are to once again break away from the bureaucrats, cops and corporate leeches then what other alternative is there?

* For more on Castlemorton and the history of free festivals <http://tash.gn.apc.org/>

* Party and protest throughout the summer www.schnews.org.uk/pap/guide

* Festival Eye out soon. Send £3 to BCM 2002, London WC1N 3XX (out end of May). www.festival-eye.com

Inside SchNEWS

Last Friday five of the seven WOMBLES had their charges thrown out of court. On Halloween last year the seven were walking to a party dressed in white overalls and Halloween masks when they were set upon by the cops and then nicked. Two were found guilty of threatening behaviour and were fined £100 each but both are planning to appeal.

The two who were found guilty answered police questions in custody, this was the only evidence that convicted them. Remember if arrested answer "No Comment" to all police questions.

U'WA, U'WOT?

The U'wa tribe of Colombia were celebrating last Friday, after it was announced at Occidental Petroleum's AGM that the company were giving up drilling oil on their ancestral land. According to Occidental, after spending \$16 billion on exploration drilling they have decided there is no oil at that particular site. When Occidental's plans became clear in the early 90's, the U'wa became a symbol of resistance to oil exploration. Using tactics ranging from blockades at the drill site, lawsuits, shareholder resolutions and non-violent civil disobedience, the U'wa along with activists in over twenty countries have confronted Occidental and its major shareholders.

The U'wa at one point threatened a mass suicide if and when Oxy moved in to their mountains. The tribal leaders said that many would throw themselves off a high cliff in an act of mass ritual suicide. In a statement they said "the U'wa way of life is not negotiable" - an alien

concept to corporations who believe that everything ultimately has a price. Unsurprisingly Occidental responded with the might of the US backed Colombian military who have violently repressed them and their supporters, killing activists and U'wa children in the evictions. Perez, President of the U'wa Traditional Authority said about the struggle, "the blood spilled will not go unpunished... It will be a bittersweet memory that will remain in the minds of those who participated in the most difficult moments of this process."

Occidental also finds itself centre stage in the growing scandal around the Bush administration's military aid proposal to hand over \$98 million of U.S. taxpayers' money to defend the companies Caño Limon oil pipeline in Colombia, which runs through traditional U'wa land. Operations have been suspended since February because of intensive guerrilla attacks. This pipeline shows how oil drilling destroys an area - an estimated 1.7 million barrels of crude oil has been spilled since 1986, de-

forestation has occurred with forests cleared for oil exploration, production and roads, opening the forest to outsiders. The oil brought violence, with the Colombian military, leftist FARC guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries and drug traffickers battling over resources.

The U'wa are still threatened by another oil company, Repsol. As Kevin Koenig, from Amazon Watch, said "this is an important victory and a real milestone in the larger struggle to win recognition and respect for indigenous peoples rights around the world. Unfortunately, until we address our society's addiction to fossil fuels by transitioning to renewable energy sources, the world's remaining pristine ecosystems and traditional cultures will continue to be threatened by unscrupulous oil corporations."

More about the connection between the oil industry, threats to indigenous populations and global climate change at www.moles.org/ProjectUnderground/motherlode/drilling/intro.html

SchNEWS in brief

Police last night declined to comment on whether the 300-400 hardcore anarchist troublemakers they warned of on May Day, had got on the wrong train and ended up at Millwall ** DAAWN (Direct Action Against War Now) have called for an anti-capitalist bloc at the Palestine Solidarity demo on Saturday 18th May. Meet 12pm at Speakers Corner. <http://DAAWN.cjb.net> ** There have been protests throughout Europe at the inclusion of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) being added to the EU list of banned terrorist organisations. Yet they have given up armed struggle over the past years, and are changing its name! SchNEWS waits with baited breath to see if Turkey are added to the list for it's continuing military terrorism against the Kurdish people. www.khrp.org ** This Sat (11th) there will be a mass trespass at Hatfield Moor to protest against the commercial peat extraction. Only last week power lines mysteriously 'fell' down causing havoc in the peat mine. Meet 12pm, Tyrham Hall Hotel A614

south of Hatfield Woodhouse. 0778 778 2259 www.peatalert.org.uk ** On Sat 18th May there will be a demo against those baby killers Nestle at their UK HQ in Croydon 11am - 12 noon more info www.babymilkaction.org/press/press6may02.html ** The hotbed of anti-capitalism and socialism

which is Surrey is now publishing a monthly newsletter 'Black Star'. Offers of help call 07810 595392 or black_star_news@hotmail.com. ** The Subversive Sussex Walk takes in rebellions, sabotage, squatting, etc. starts 2pm on the seafront outside the Old Ship Hotel, Sat 11th and 18th.



'You are free'

'I am free'

Positive SchNEWS

On Wednesday AMEC, the company that wants to build the Yusufeli dam in Turkey (SchNEWS 346) held its AGM at the Portland Hotel, London. This time though the activist shareholders outnumbered the non-activist shareholders, so armed with a share each, whistles and red cards they messed up the proceedings.

The plan was to have 3 different noise demos throughout the morning - so that everyone wouldn't be thrown out at once- and to ask some quality questions from the floor. The first noise demo started after about 20 minutes leading to a dozen people being thrown out. Another happened about half an hour later and led to more being forcibly evicted by the now pissed off security. Each resolution was easily voted down by the activists which meant the company would have to conduct a poll after the meeting.

Questions were raised about not only the Yusufeli Dam, but also the Chalillo Dam in Belize and the Bingley and Birmingham bypasses. One shareholder who had nothing to do with the protest stood up to berate the board for dragging the company into this sort of situation. These sort of demos serve as a warning to other companies that grassroots movements won't take environmental destruction lying down.

THE DRINKS ARE ON US

Veterans for Peace was started in 1985 by ex-soldiers and peace activists who dedicated themselves to setting up non-profit educational and humanitarian projects in countries torn apart by war. As they put it "We know the consequences of American foreign policy because once, so many of us carried it out. We find it sad that war seems so delightful, so often, to those that have no knowledge of it. We will proudly, and patriotically, continue to denounce war despite whatever misguided sense of euphoria supports it." Their latest project is to rebuild Iraqi water treatment plants that were bombed during Desert Storm. They are trying to raise more than \$60,000 so that many Iraqi people can access safe drinking water. www.veteransforpeace.org

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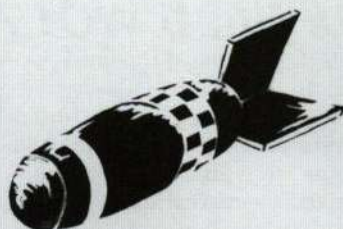
THUGS-IN-BLUE™

On May Bank holiday Irish activists held the biggest yet Reclaim the Streets party in Dublin, turning much of the city centre into a traffic-free party zone. That is until the thugs-in-blue™ put 24 people in hospital and arrested another 20, after repeated baton charges on a peaceful crowd. The protest started with a Critical Mass, which after causing chaos for 2 hours, met up with the mass of party people at the pre-arranged point. Here crowd barriers were d-locked together across the street to prevent the cops from following the now 1000+ carnival to the final destination. Two sound systems quickly set up and were joined by a samba band. At 4.30pm RTS activists pushed a broken down car, which they had bought and stashed nearby, into the party.

This was the cue for the pigs to steam in, batons drawn, but as they pushed people back someone threw a flare into the car, filling it with pink smoke and sending the pigs into a right tizzy. Lashing out with their batons they repeatedly beat one man while he was on the floor, attacked another who was on crutches and arrested people from Ireland Indymedia who were filming what was going on. Even a photographer from the Irish Independent was nicked after he refused to hand over his camera, while others from the corporate press had the batteries taken out of their cameras rendering them useless.

After a tense stand off, the crowd and a sound system moved off with the cops baton charging them and making more arrests, including on one occasion a man who had nothing to do with the protest and was just walking past. Further up the road riot vans drove at high speed at the front of the demo and tooled up cops charged into the crowd smashing skulls and beating people while they were on the floor. One youngster, who eyewitnesses put at about 14, was attacked by five thugs-in-blue™ leaving him with a cracked skull. At 9pm more people gathered at Pearce St. police station to protest at the brutality and in solidarity with those inside.

For more info check out www.indymedia.ie



JOLLY ROGERS

This Sunday (12th) at 1pm, A-Spire the Leeds squatted social centre will be leaving the Concord Street squat in a giant pirate ship setting sail for the city centre. Once there they will be giving out free coffee outside Starbucks, free info outside Borders and free clothes outside Harvey Nicks. As they say "They gentrify our areas, we will downgrade theirs."

www.a-spire.org.uk

...and finally...

With the American war on terrorism in full swing and busy checking out anyone who dare question the status quo, then it's reassuring to know that the Denver Police Dept. have been playing their bit to crackdown on dissent for years. They've been busy gathering 'evidence' on their local 'criminal extremists.' Dodgy characters like Sister Antonia Anthony, a 73-year-old Franciscan nun and the American Friends Service Committee, a pacifist Quaker group that has won the Nobel Peace Prize for its advocacy of non-violent social change! These 'criminal extremists' as the police like to call them, now have extensive files with lists of members, information about being seen at demos, physical descriptions, home addresses, places these do-gooders frequent... you get the picture. The American Civil Liberties Union are now suing the police for all this unconstitutional spying, and trying to get a court order prohibiting the Denver cops from making any more nosey-parky files. Info: www.aclu.org.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all festival goers not to let the pigs treat ya like sheep. Honest boyo!

Common Ground

The spring of 2002 saw the 10th anniversary of the now legendary Castlemorton Free Festival, the biggest and most notorious free party ever to take place in the UK. The anniversary was celebrated on Jubilee weekend with a massive teknival on Steart beach in Somerset. At least 50 rigs and 10,000 party people gathered on the beach for a 5-day party to commemorate the creativity and determination of the original sound systems, and to celebrate 10-years of underground rave culture. At a time when most of the country was being bored shitless with television specials about the anniversary of the coronation, the Castlemorton anniversary was a powerful reminder that real culture grows from the ground up, and that to stay alive it has to constantly mutate.

Rightly or wrongly, the names Castlemorton Common and Spiral Tribe have become synonymous with the biggest illegal free party in Britain to date. But behind the outrage and glamour of the front-page headlines of the time, there was another, more important story unfolding. To understand what actually happened we must go back and look at events leading up to that weekend in May 1992.

Spiral Tribe were a ragtag collective of musicians, artists, rappers, DJs and cyber-punk types who bounced about the country in a convoy of black, jelly-moulded trucks, putting on free parties. They identified with the primordial, all-connecting symbol of the Spiral - a representation of the asymmetric shape of nature and the turbulence in its fractal flow. With no door policy (and often, no door), the parties set out to create, and maximise, free social space. Bringing into being a place of contact for all people - all tribes. Actively resisting the rightwing regime built upon violence, private ownership of land and profiteering, the Spirals aligned their artistic and musical spirit with a relentless campaign of events that for brief (yet intense) moments took back the land into the realms of common shared experience [1].

In the decade immediately preceding the Spiral's whirlwind tour of the British Isles, it was business as usual with UK plc violently oppressing free gatherings, protests and nomadic life styles:

1981, 5th Sept: Peace Camp at the US base at Greenham Common starts, and survives several violent eviction attempts and serious abuses from troops.

1982: The meandering convoy of free festival types is named "The Peace Convoy" after travelling from the Stonehenge Free Festival to join the peace camp at Greenham Common.

1984: The Last Stonehenge free festival before the English Heritage ban.

It's important to remember Castlemorton because that was where the battle lines were drawn up for many of the struggles of the last decade. The government clampdown that followed the festival, which began with the arrest and prosecution of members of Spiral Tribe for their involvement in the event and culminated in the 1994 Criminal Justice Act, made it clear that the authorities saw the emerging free party community not as just a nuisance but as a political threat. In the following article, one of the defendants in the Castlemorton trial explains the history, and the connection of the free party movement to other struggles to reclaim public space for public use.



1984: Nostle Priory near Leeds. The violence against the Peace Convoy steps up.

1984-85: The Miner's strike. Police use unprecedented violence and make 11,000 arrests.

1985 Feb: Rainbow Fields Village protest camp, Molesworth US base. Violent eviction involving over 2,000 troops and police.

1985, 1st June: Battle of the Beanfield. 140 vehicles smashed and the men, women (including pregnant women) and children are viciously attacked by 1,000 police officers following "Operation Daybreak".

1986: New Public Order Act gives police more control over public gatherings and greater powers to evict trespassers from land.

1986, June: Stoney Cross, authorities launch massive attack against travellers, impound all vehicles and attempt (unsuccessfully) to snatch 47 children from their parents [2].

1989: Chief Superintendent Ken Tappenden, of Miner's Strike fame, starts national database on illegal parties and organisers.



Tash

1990, March 31st: The Poll Tax Riot.

1990: The introduction of the Bright Bill, which increased fines for throwing an unlicensed party from £2,000 to £20,000 and 6 months in prison.

The Spirals staged their first party in October 1990. By June 1991 they had a mobile rig and had pulled off events at some of the most sensitive areas in the country - namely the displaced Stonehenge Solstice Free Festival at Longstock and another at Stoney Cross. A flyer from the Tribe at the time read, "We are here to re-connect the Earth."

From then on the Spirals held an event every weekend (weekends that often overlapped into weeks) and by February of 1992 they'd taken a string of cheeky, high profile venues. This helped to boost morale on the festival scene, despite the jack-booted oppression it had suffered.

To the Spirals, building a creative culture independent and out of reach of the parasitic commercial cartels was of the utmost importance. "The real energy in the rave scene comes from the illegal parties, the pirate radio stations and from white label 12 inch singles that bypass the music industry altogether." [3]. But the police and their paymasters were already well aware of this, "...cracking down on illegal raves while allowing nightclubs to stay open longer - was intended to undermine the basis of the scene" [4].

Undaunted, the Spirals beat the shamanic drums, liquefying air with gurgling techno and skipping breakbeats. New life germinated in decaying urban voids. Inner city kids were teleported into the deep and mystic green of the British countryside. "The Spirals understood [the countryside] as a politically charged environment. A historic arena for a clash between rebels and oppressors ... that free parties were shamanic rites which could reconnect urban youth to the Earth with which it had lost contact, thus averting imminent ecological crisis." [5]

But the contempt they displayed for authority and consumer culture was making a mockery of the bureaucrat's clampdown on unlicensed events. And, as is always the way when corrupt politicians run out of plausible argument, they resorted to violence. The Territorial Support Group were sent in - an

anonymous paramilitary squad, their faces masked and ID numbers removed.

The TSG surrounded the Spirals' crowded warehouse in Acton Lane, London, on Easter Monday. They beat everyone who tried to enter or leave. Panicked partygoers barricaded themselves into the building, but after a bloody two and a half hour siege the police breached the concrete walls and beat everyone inside to the ground, including a pregnant woman. One boy who had tried to escape onto the roof was thrown off by officers, breaking both his arms and legs.

Outside victims were frog marched past three gloating fat-hats. Two were British; the third wore a US police chief's uniform. He was heard to say "In the States we would have cleared the building in twenty minutes" [6]. To this day there has been no explanation as to who this man was and why he was there.

The next day the Spiral's convoy was escorted out of London by a low flying police helicopter. There were no charges brought against them - it had been a terror attack, pure and simple.

Shaken and bruised, with most of their equipment smashed, the attack had left the Spirals with a strengthened resolve. The following weekends they staged huge gatherings on Chobham Common, Surrey (another Digger stronghold), Stroud Common and then the Cotswolds where, for Beltane, they teamed up with Bedlam to stage a 10,000-strong outdoor event at Lechlade. Then on again to a party in Wales. But as the Spirals played in a honeycomb of ancient mines, another trap was being devised for them in the bowels of Whitehall.

After regaining some of their former strength, they decided to go and take it easy at someone else's party for a change. So the next morning they set off to the Avon Free Festival.

On route there was a phone call. Avon had been quashed and JCBs had dug ditches around the site. Hundreds of vehicles were being moved off by police, but all was not lost: the caller was a Bedlam scout just ahead of the evicted convoy (according to one of Avon



Matthew Smith

Free's organisers, it was, "more like a 35 mile traffic jam" [7]), and the Bedlam crew had managed to get on to the Common at Castlemorton.

The Spirals cut across country and by the afternoon they were approaching the Common. Smiling Policemen waved them on to a track that ran under the strangely abrupt slopes of the Malvern Hills, to a deep blue lake in a flooded quarry. On either side were beautiful expanses of flat springy turf – too perfect.

The Spirals swung their vehicles into a wide circle and joined the other systems and circuses that were already rigging up. Great heaps of speakers were dumped out of the trucks. The infamous instrument of G-force exhilaration, the Gyrocycle, was set up centre stage. Black flags and banners with silver designs of crop-circle circuitry were hoisted high. Terror-strobes strategically positioned. And still the convoy of travellers rumbled onto site.

Soon the music was on (from all directions) and the crew could relax in a summer haze of bassline vibrations. But for some there was an uncomfortable feeling about the place. It's difficult to say whether it was just a delayed reaction to the hammering they'd taken at Acton Lane, or a sense of impending doom triggered by the eerie sight of smiling policemen. But there was no turning back, the convoy was still pouring onto site – in fact it continued throughout the weekend, swelling numbers to 50,000 plus.

The festival was cool – untold systems all putting on a great show, ravers, travellers, tourists, TV crews, a shed-load of liberated battery hens, skinny dippers, daredevil divers, and even a few police (but they were too busy enjoying the sunshine and playing rounders to bother anyone). Military jets buzzed the site (why do they do that?) and a police helicopter filmed, in minute detail, every scrap of rubbish being picked up by the people below – evidence that was used later in the court case to prove how clean the site was kept. At the time a Spiral-type commented to the press: "Since we've been here there's been more taken out of the ozone layer by jets and helicopters than any damage that we've done" [8].

By the end of the weekend everyone was exhausted, the rig was blown, the back drops in tatters, the vehicles' batteries flat. Time to go chill. No such luck. As the Spirals drove off site they were ambushed by police and arrested for conspiracy [9].

Everyone was locked up, along with some innocent bystanders who got caught in the swoop. Vehicles, equipment, money, personal effects – all were confiscated as evidence. After being formally charged and sent before a magistrate they were released awaiting trial. They walked out of the police station with nothing – so they camped on the station steps for almost two weeks.

In that time a man drove up to them in a large white Rover and handed them a piece of paper. On it was a pencil sketch

of riot police kicking a pregnant woman who was lying on the ground, underneath was written "Oh my god what have we done?" [10]. Later, on the steps of the court of the committal proceedings, Superintendent Clift (the chap who's jurisdiction the Common was under) came up to the accused and said, "I just want you to know that I don't agree with what is happening to you here, this is a political stitch up" [11]. Evidence he later gave (from his hospital bed) was of great help to the defence. But the case would take two years to get to crown court.

In that time the Spirals wangled a small record deal to buy a recording studio, which they installed as a community resource in a converted showman's trailer. They got a rig and vehicles together and disappeared into Europe to start the Teknival movement and numerous independent record labels. When the case finally got to Crown Court it became one of the longest running and most expensive cases in legal history, lasting four months and costing the country £4 million. Before the end of the trial, the judge told the defendants that if they were found guilty, he would be giving them each two years in jail. But the jury (bless 'em) found everyone "not guilty!"

Despite the vindication of the Spirals, the huge police investigation and court case finding nothing criminal about the Castlemorton gathering, UK plc, hell bent on protecting its interests, went on to install the monstrous Criminal Justice Bill. An act that has not delivered the intended deathblow to the dissenting masses, but has instead catalysed a generation into action and inspired a blossoming of creative resistance.

Footnotes: [1] At that time 87% of land in the UK was in private ownership. Marion Shoard, *This Land Is Our Land*, '87, Paladin, p.120 [2] From conversations between the author and Spider from Circus Normal. [3] A Spiral in *Melody Maker*, 06/06/92 [4] Mathew Collin on Chief Superintendent Ken Tappenden's role in setting up the police data base on illegal parties, in *Altered State*, '98, *Serpent's Tail*, p120 [5] *Ibid* p.203-4 [6] Witnessed by author. [7] John quoted in George McKay's *Senseless Acts of Beauty*, '96, Verso, p.120 [8] *The Guardian* 28/05/92 [9] Later modified by the CPS to causing a public nuisance, "We prefer to call it causing a public new sense," said a Spiral quoted in Lowe and Shaw's *Travellers*, '93, Fourth Estate, p.169 [10] Witnessed by author. [11] Witnessed by author.



Tash



www.schnews.org.uk



**'These Boots Are
Made For Walkin'
- Nancy Sinatra**

Friday 17th May 2002

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Issue 355

AMERICAN WET DREAM

On Tuesday the UN Security Council unanimously voted to overhaul the economic sanctions against Iraq – a move so radical it was immediately condemned by the sanctions-busting group Voices in the Wilderness, four of whom are currently in Iraq distributing medical supplies. They called the resolution “a deadly fraud that will do little to alleviate the on-going humanitarian crisis.”

Forget the cruel tyrant Saddam Hussein (once supported by the West when he towed their line), what about the ordinary people of Iraq? Who, thanks to these economic sanctions imposed on them by the West for nearly 12 years have seen 500,000 of their children die. Denis Halliday and Hans Von Sponeck, who were both at one time responsible for the UN's humanitarian programme in Iraq, both resigned in protest at what the sanctions were doing. Last year they wrote, “The death of 5-6,000 children a month is mostly due to contaminated water, lack of medicines and malnutrition.”

And it will be the ordinary Iraqi people who will again be suffering if President Bush and his cronies use their so-called war on terrorism to start bombing a country, that has already been bombed back to the dark ages. The Pentagon's ‘medium case scenario’ is that a war on Iraq could condemn to death more than 10,000 civilians. But this could be even worse if, as journalist John Pilger puts it, the Americans “implement their current strategy of ‘total war’ and target Iraq's electricity and water.”

Not that we should forget that American and British aircraft have, in a largely forgotten war, been bombing Iraq week-in week-out, for more than four years. The Wall Street Journal reported that the US and Britain faced a “dilemma” because “few targets remain.” “We're down to the last out-

house” bemoaned a Pentagon official.

Still, the US insists that action is necessary because Iraq has been defying United Nations resolutions and represents an imminent threat to the world, and to the U.S. in particular. Excuse us, but defying UN resolutions and ignoring international treaties is what the Bush administration does best, with Bush making it clear that he will not honour any treaty if he reckons it might harm U.S. interests. In fact just last week Bush pulled out of the International Criminal Court – you know that radical idea to create the world's first permanent tribunal to prosecute people for war crimes, genocide, and other crimes against humanity (see SchNEWS 326).

Bush and his militaristic government argue that they have to bomb Iraq because Saddam won't comply with United Nations weapons inspectors. So best forget that the Bush administration denied international inspectors access to U.S. chemical and biological weapons-related facilities because it might violate “commercial interests”.

Still the truth slipped out earlier this month when US Secretary of State Colin Powell said “regardless of what the inspectors do, the people of Iraq and the people of the region would be better off with a different regime in Baghdad.” Not that

SchNEWS could disagree with that – a lot of countries would be better off without dictators and corrupt governments - it's just the US wants another Saddam Hussein, but this time one who'll do what they say.

Meanwhile Cuba is now being added to the US hit list, because hey the US right has always hated Cuba. In a speech entitled ‘Beyond the Axis of Evil’, Under Secretary of State John Bolton pointed the finger at Cuba because of the country's advanced biomedical industry. Forget that Cuba's advance biomedics has more to do with their better-than-the-US Health Service and their policy of sending doctors to help third world countries (so hey, let's add them to the list). Plus Castro's visits last year to three “rogue states” accused by the US state department of sponsoring terrorism: Iraq, Syria and Libya. “States that renounce terror and abandon WMD [weapons of mass destruction] can become part of our effort,” Mr Bolton said. “But those that do not can expect to become our targets.”

So it's back to that old “you are either with us or against us” mantra. Each new stage of the war against terrorism makes it clearer that the real aim has little to do with what happened on September 11th and

TAKING THE PEACE

Israeli Human rights organisation B'Tselem has just published a report showing that Israel has illegally taken over 42% of the West Bank since they first occupied the area in 1967. Although built-up Jewish settlements occupy only 1.7% of the land, various excuses, including seizure for ‘military needs’, for being ‘Abandoned assets’ and even an obscure 19th century Law about ‘state Land’ -

has been used to take over the rest. Although the Land Grabbing is a violation of international law and of the Palestinians' human rights it is upheld by the Israeli high court. The settlers are not only more privileged than the Palestinians, they are treated better than other Israelis. In 2000, settlement councils received 165% more land than councils in other territories.

American Wet Dream cont...

more to do with what the American military describes as "full spectrum dominance". A document from the US Space Command spells it out "The United States will remain a global power and exert global leadership...Widespread communications will highlight disparities in resources and quality of life - contributing to unrest in developing countries..." So while everyone else must abandon those weapons of mass destruction the US this week got the green light from Russia this week to go ahead with its plan for the National Missile Defence Project or Star Wars II to keep us all in check (SchNEWS 307).

Rotten Apple Pie

When it comes to Israel of course then it's a different tune. Israel has been defying U.N. resolutions for more than 30 years. No action has been taken against their bloody and illegal rampage through Palestine. Hey, they were after terrorists. They face no sanctions for blocking a United Nations fact-finding mission into military action at the Jenin refugee camp. In fact their two fingers to the world earned them a serious reprimand in the US Senate who er... voted for an increase in military aid to Israel.

Is this because the Palestinian civilians, just like the Iraqis and the five thousand Afghani civilians killed in the last holy war against terror, are what John Pilger calls the Unpeople. "The killing of Iraqi infants, like the killing of Chechens, like the killing of Afghan civilians, is rated less morally abhorrent than the killing of Americans."

America's war on terrorism is just another word for imperialism - and Iraq is currently head of its wish list of countries where a new head of state needs to be put in place, one that will be a lot more open to Uncle Sam's way of doing things.

* John Pilger's new book *The New Rulers of the World* will be published by Verso soon. Read more of his articles at www.johnpilger.com

* The sanction busters will be giving a report on their visit next Friday (24) at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London (nearest tube Holborn) 7.30pm. Contact: Voices in the Wilderness 08454560282 www.viwuk.freemove.co.uk

* Bypass the corporate media: www.znet.org www.alternet.org

PALESTINE

March for Palestine this Saturday Assemble 12 noon Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch tube) Why not join the Anti Capitalist Bloc, not hard to spot, look for the only part of the march surrounded by Cops.

More than 1000 activists from around the world have been in Israel on solidarity actions since the army began its latest series of attacks against Palestinians. There'll be another group of peace observers going from the UK this summer and there'll be training weekends in Manchester, London and possibly Scotland and Newcastle for people intending to go, or planning to be part of support teams organising actions in this country or doing press work. The weekends will include non-violent direct action training, information on the area and opportunities to talk with former volunteers.

Marcia Tubbs, a British citizen recently in Palestine said "In the prison we were in, 3 Palestinian medical workers were also detained. You could hear people screaming as they were beaten. We can make such a difference by just being there as international observers, doing what the UN and governments are unwilling to do, protecting the basic human rights of the Palestinian people." More info: uksolidarity@yahoo.co.uk, or write to ISM, box 29, 22a Beswick Street, Manchester M4 7HR. www.palsolidarity.org

* On Monday, about 15 activists did a solidarity action against the Israeli embassy in London. They were beaten back by Israeli military police using golf umbrellas! On the same day another group did an action against the Israeli Tourism Information office and the office of El-Al, the Israeli airline which has been deporting international activists.

* "Dispatches: State of Terror" is being repeated on Channel 4, Sunday 19th 2.45am Dispatches reporter Deborah Davies was one of the first journalists to enter the Jenin refugee camp after the Israeli Army's brutal offensive. The programme looks at the real victims of this 'anti terrorist action.'

* Yigal Rosenberg and Yair Hilu, who signed an open letter along with more than 120 other high school seniors and refused to do military service in the Occupied Territories, are back in prison. Each of them have been imprisoned four times, 21 other objectors are currently in prison. They are asking for people to write to them and show support. c/oThe Forum in Support of Conscientious Objectors, POB 41199, Jaffa 61411, Israel. matzpoon@yahoo.com www.indymedia.org.il/imc/israel/

SchNEWS in brief

Park Nook Protest Camp is back. After a campaign to give the woodland in central Liverpool 'town green' status was lost, trees are now being cut and the camp needs people, tat, rope etc. Picnics on Sun 19th & 26th May. 0780 3609271. ** **London action resource centre** have an open evening with protest singer David Rovics, table-tennis and refreshments. 18th May, 4.30-10pm. LARC, 62 Fieldgate St. 020-7377-9088 www.londonarc.org ** **Debate The Problems of Anarchy** tonight (17th) at the London Anarchist Forum, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn 8pm ** **Not this Time- The Story of the Simon Jones Campaign.** The revamped film has its premier showing introduced by Mark Thomas, Tues 21st 7pm Ritzy Cinema, Brixton. £5/£3. If you are interested in organising a showing of the film email action@simonjones.org.uk ** A protester against the **Newchurch Guinea Pig Farm** in Staffordshire had to go to hospital after being punched by a neighbour of one of the farm's workers. The police, despite knowing who was responsible for the attack, have made no arrests. Now there's a surprise! www.guineapigs.org.uk

PINK CASTLE

The Pink Castle occupied on the site of a proposed GM maize crop near Weymouth was surrounded by 30 cops on Thursday morning. The farmer brought some tractors in and some protestors managed to lock themselves onto them (four were arrested for aggravated trespass), however it seems that the farmer had borrowed some more as he had six tractors and managed to plant the crop. Last week the local TV crew had been down looking for Swampy (of road protest fame). Despite the castle denying he had been there the TV said that protestors had refused to confirm or deny if he had been there! More people are urgently needed and occupiers of the castle say they intend to decontaminate the field. More info: 07773 640159 www.sayhi.to/thecastle

* **Earth Crimes - a newspaper** giving the low-down on the biotech baddies produced for April's Convention on Biological Diversity (See SchNEWS 346) is available now, send SAE to GEN 1 Archway Resource Centre, 1a Waterlow Road, Archway London N19. 020 7272 1586.

Inside SchNEWS

An international day of action is taking place on 5th June in solidarity with the 41 people who have so far been sent to prison after the protests during last summer's EU Summit in Gothenberg. (see SchNEWS 310). Many of the convictions have been based on very dodgy evidence and sentences are extremely harsh. Organisers of the day of action are calling for people to protest outside Swedish embassies, consulates or to do other similar actions in solidarity with the prisoners, and to call for the halt of the criminalisation of summit protesters. www.manifest.se/upprop

* **Evgeni Novozhilov**, a human rights activist and anarchist sympathiser has been sent to a mental hospital in Krasnodar, on the false charge of practising a "hoax about an act of terror". Two years ago he wrote an article in the local paper about the atrocities the Russian army committed in the 1994 Chechen civil war, since then he has been harassed by the FSB (former KGB). He has been imprisoned since last October, for an indefinite period, after the FSB tapped one of his phonecalls where he made a vague reference to skyscrapers and planes. This repression of free speech is akin to the soviet era where forced treatment in mental hospitals was a notorious anti-dissident tool. Evgeni feels very isolated and desperately wants to make contact with other people. Contact him

through his mother, by writing to:

Evgeni Novozhilov, ul. Ignatova 51, kv. 105, 350061 Krasnodar, Russia. Evgeni speaks English, German and Swedish. Read more about the case at www.anarchistblackcross.org

* A release fund has been set up for **Mark Barnsley**, the framed anarchist prisoner from Sheffield. Mark will have served 8 years this summer, and is expected to be released but will be homeless. His case has only just gone before the Criminal Cases Review Commission so he'll need money to continue his case from the outside, travel expenses etc. Send cheques/Postal Orders (made out to "Mark Barnsley Release Fund"/train vouchers (and anything else useful you can think of!)) to Mark Barnsley Release Fund, Sumac Centre, Box CC, 73 Beech Avenue, Nottingham, NG7 7LR.

* This weekend **Emma Murphy-Ellis** who was sentenced to four months imprisonment in Portland, Oregon for blocking a road in front of a forest that was being destroyed is celebrating her 19th Birthday. Send letters of support and birthday cards to: Emma Murphy-Ellis Clackamas County Jail 9000 SE McBrod Milwaukie, OR 97222, USA.

* **Haven Distribution** who supply books to prisoners have a new catalogue, available to prisoners for a second class stamp. They are also very skint and need donations. Haven Distribution, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX.



Brighton Briefs

The **Harvest Forestry** squat saw off Bailiffs on Monday, and expect eviction soon, keep up to date at the links page of <http://deltatrafic.co.uk/off>
** **Magpie** have their 10th Birthday Bash at Saunders Park, noon-8pm 18th May ** For the **StopEsso** day of action (18th) every Esso station in Brighton will be targeted - start noon - and a mass gathering at Hollingdean Road Esso 3pm. Info on demos nationwide 020 7354 5708, www.stopesso.com **
Ex-Black Panther Robert King Wilkerson speaks about the case of the Angola 3 who were framed for organising the local chapter of the Black Panther Party for Self Defence in Angola (Louisiana state penitentiary). Robert talks about 29 years behind bars, and the two men still imprisoned for a crime they did not commit! The Queens Head (opposite Brighton train station), 21st May, 7pm
** **Brighton Animal Rights Campaign** have a demo against Proctor and Gamble outside Sainsbury's on London Road, 1pm 25th May.

...and finally...

Cops doing it doggy style

Because of continued stop and searches by police with sniffer dogs on trains in Australia, activists have come up with a novel way of confounding the canine cops. Jokers (or is that tokers) have been spraying carriages with bong water and making the dogs, who have been trained to sniff out pot, go mental every time they board a train thus leading to commuters being frisked by over zealous cops. The railway companies have denied that the late arrivals have been due to grass on the line. More info: www.nswccl.org.au

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to attend any illegal gatherings or take part in criminal activities. Just stay at home, watch TV and go on endless shopping sprees, filling your lives with pointless consumer crap, then you'll feel happy. Honest.

CHECHNYA

This week saw one of the most senior Russian officers facing trial for the murder two years ago of **Kheda Kungayev**, an 18-year-old Chechen girl. This is the first trial of a Russian soldier over any atrocity that has occurred in Chechnya since Russia invaded in 1999. (See Schnews 334) After getting drunk the general and his men seized Kheda Kungayev. She was taken from her home, bound in a blanket, to the colonel's sleeping quarters. What is clear from the initial post mortem is that Kheda was then stripped and beaten, before being raped and finally strangled.

Although the colonel does not deny the killing, he claims that he strangled Kheda in a moment of rage during a night-time interrogation, which is being fully sup-

ported by the State's psychiatrists. He is claiming temporary insanity and if the court accepts this then he can walk free.

While large-scale fighting in Chechnya nominally ended in 2000, Russian forces continue to detain hundreds of people without charges. Pressure from the UN and human rights organisations have forced the Russian authorities to introduce some improvements, including the formal opening of investigations of war crimes although they have refused to allow designated UN human rights investigators into Chechnya. Unsurprisingly most abuses remain uninvestigated which could explain why only one soldier has been brought to trial when thousands of civilians have been killed by Russian forces.

Formore info see Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org/europe/russia.php

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Friday 24th May 2002

Free/Donation

Issue 356

BLOOD ON THE TRACKS

"The money he was getting was danger money. As far as I am concerned my son was murdered." - Mrs Mungovan.

Michael Mungovan had only been working on the railways for three days when he was sent to work unsupervised near Vauxhall station in south London. He was securing a section of track when he stepped into the path of a train travelling at 50 mph. The 22 year old student died instantly.

During a two week inquest that ended on Monday, the jury was told that Mr Mungovan did not have a valid track safety card, his colleague on the day of the accident did not have the relevant supervision skills and the experienced worker who Michael had been assigned to work with was suspended at the time. The jury at the inquest decided that Michael was "unlawfully killed" and the police will now be reopening a criminal investigation.

The death of Michael mirrors that of Simon Jones, who was sent to work as a docker with no training and killed within two hours. Michael had been in a classroom for only one and a half days' training and given just half a day on a rural single line before being sent to work on one of the busiest junctions in the country. His death once again highlights the hazards of untrained casual workers

being given dangerous jobs with little training. Jobs that not so long ago would have been done by a highly skilled railway union workforce.

In a submission to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee last year, the RMT rail union said that the number of permanent staff employed on the tracks had fallen from 31,000 before privatisation to between 15,000 and 19,000. The union's former general secretary, Jimmy Knapp, told MPs that many of them were being replaced by casual workers recruited in pubs and clubs. "There are now 100,000 individuals that have got personal track safety certificates. Who these people are I would not know, and who looks after them and sees that they are doing the right things I would not know, but that is a staggering figure."

Michael was employed by temp agency McGinley Recruitment Services, who in turn were being used as subcontractors by Balfour Beatty Rail Maintenance Ltd, who were in turn paid to maintain the line for Railtrack - an illustration of the long chain of command now operating on the railways. As for the devastated family, they said in a statement that privatisation of the railways had led to a "low regard for human life".

MAKING A KILLING

The Transport Select Committee attacked Railtrack's recruitment practices because it doesn't actually employ the gangs of engineers who keep the railways running, nor does it train them. No, that's left to companies like Balfour Beatty and Jarvis who at the weekend blamed saboteurs for the recent Potters Bar rail crash

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For having the wrong views...

New York animal rights activist Andrew Stepanian was recently sentenced to 6 months in prison after he asked one too many questions on a routine traffic stop. Watching a friend being beaten and arrested, he dared to speak up, an act which, unsurprisingly, ended with his arrest and beating. For his trouble, Andy received prison time for resisting arrest and obstructing government authority, "obstructing" being defined as getting in the way of a police officer's fist, apparently. This type of harassment is not new to Andy, a dedicated and well-known local activist in the fight against Huntingdon Life Sciences.

Andy has lived with a video surveillance camera pointed at his driveway since January 2000 and was told by a judge during his sentencing that he participates in "a level of activism not welcome in our society."! Maybe that explains why another six months has been tacked onto his sentence for speaking at a demo back in March. Write to Andy at: Andrew Stepanian, NCC 0200 1777, c/o Nassau County Corrections, 100 Carman Avenue, East Meadow, NY 11554-1160, USA.

where seven people died.

Just six days before Potters Bar, Jarvis were successfully prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for "unsafe practice during railway maintenance work." They were fined £7,000 for nearly running over several track workers, with the HSE railway inspector commenting, "The company's failure...led to people who were not competent being expected to do jobs they were not able to properly discharge." Not

SAVE TITNORE WOODS

Protest against threat to destroy ancient woodland this Sunday (26) 2pm Titnore Lane entrance to Northbrook College, Durrington, Worthing (just north of Goring-by-Sea railway station). Bring banners, music and food. Train from Brighton Station at 12.20pm. www.worthinga27.freemove.co.uk

Making A Killing cont...

that this is the first time Jarvis has been in the dock.

In July 1999 they were fined £7,000 after a worker lost an eye because they had failed to carry out a proper risk assessment and had too few staff working on the track. A year later they were fined £500,000 after two separate train derailments because it "failed to check the track before trains were allowed to run, exposing employees and passengers to risk of injury." In October 2000, 41 year old Mark Meadowcroft was killed by a train while working for Jarvis. Still, forgetting about all that, Railtrack's replacement, Network Rail, has appointed Jarvis as a "technical adviser" on safety issues!

As for Balfour Beatty, not only have they been found guilty by the HSE on numerous occasions for causing the death and serious injury of its workers, but they are also the proud winners of a record £1.2 million fine

after part of the tunnel they were building on the rail link to Heathrow airport 'collapsed'. And we're sure readers will be pleased to know that both Jarvis and Balfour Beatty are part of the consortiums wanting to take over the London Underground.

So what will happen now? Yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service announced a new investigation into the Paddington rail crash with a view to bringing corporate manslaughter charges. And hours before Monday's verdict, Transport Secretary Stephen Byers promised to examine the role of contractors and sub-contractors who work on railway maintenance. "A new relationship is needed...one based on best value, not lowest cost, providing a quality maintenance and renewal programme for railway track that puts the interests of the travelling public first."

Nice words - but surely private companies are always going to be in it for the money and cut costs to make

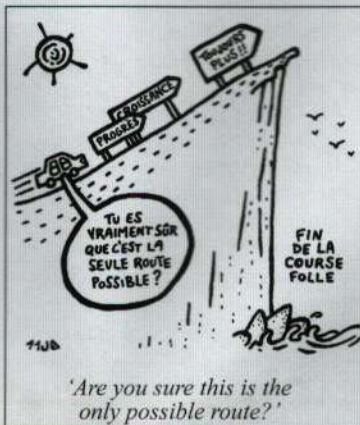
a few extra bucks. As Colin Chalmers from the Simon Jones campaign told SchNEWS "Profits are all these companies and their directors think about. If getting untrained students to do dangerous jobs makes more money than employing skilled workers, they'll do it. Casualisation kills - but it's good for dodgy companies' profits. These companies will only stop when we kick up enough fuss and make sure that directors start going to jail."

* 'Not this time - the Story of the Simon Jones Memorial Campaign (2002 update)' is out now. They are hoping to organise showings of this 25-minute film, with speakers, across the country in July. If you're interested in arranging a showing, email: action@simonjones.org.uk. For copies of the film send a cheque for £5 to Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 0EF. www.simonjones.org.uk

SchNEWS in brief

The **Harvest Forestry** squat opposing the Sainsbury's development in Brighton are still waiting for the bailiffs to show-up. Support needed call 01273-680499 ** Next Monday (27th) the **Bhopal Medical Appeal** hold a talk on how to make corporations liable for the environmental and social disasters they cause. In particular Dow Chemicals, the company that caused the chemical disaster at Bhopal. Function room, Queens Head (near Brighton station). 07762265427 ** **Hereford now has its very own anarchist group** - herefordanarchists@hotmail.com ** Training weekend for people going on **International Solidarity Movement Direct Action** programmes in Palestine 1-2 June in Manchester, uksolidarity@yahoo.co.uk ** **Womanzone** - discussions, self defence films, socialising and creche. Sat 25th noon-10pm, The London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, E1. 020 7377 9088, fieldgate@gn.apc.org ** May 29th is **International Day of Action Against Depleted Uranium**. Action planned in the Manchester area. 0161-273-8293 www.cadu.org.uk ** Biotech giants **Monsanto** are taking action to shut down the spoof

website www.monsanto.org, check it out now to get the low down on their dirty dealings. ** The field in Dorset that is being squatted by the **Pink Castle** has now unfortunately been two thirds planted with Aventis GM maize. But, the castle remains and actions are taking place to dig up the seeds. Brave knights are still urgently needed to help defend the castle. 07733 640159 www.sayhi.to/thecastle ** A group has recently formed to support asylum seekers arriving at the planned **Bicester Accommodation Centre**. They have their first meeting at the Rainbow Room, Bicester Methodist Church Sheep Street, Sunday 26 May, 4pm - 6pm. BicesterRefugeeSupport@btopenworld.com



Going Bananas

More than a thousand Ecuadorian banana workers have been on strike at the plantation complex Los Alamos since May 6. On May 16, armed men broke through the picket line of non-violent, unarmed workers, taking 25 hostage. The hostages were eventually freed by their colleagues, though two workers were wounded by shotgun fire. The gun-toting thugs were apparently employed by presidential candidate Alvaro Noboa, whose company exports Bonita brand bananas and is violently opposed to the fledgling union organizing. FENACLE, the national union federation seeking to organise the workers, is saying that solidarity action from trade union and human rights organisations is urgently needed.

Positive SchNEWS

Sustainability Works is a new website for anybody interested in sustainable housing. It's packed full of references and ideas on what sustainable housing is all about, and provides support for organisations wanting to develop their own sustainable housing policy. www.sustainabilityworks.org.uk



Royal Briefs

Celebrating 25 years of punk (oh and the Queen's Jubilee) 1 June Jambouree against the Jubilee Bristol Centre (Fountains/St Augustines Parade) Contact: black_cat_collective@yahoo.co.uk ** Also on the 1st **Never Mind the Jubilee** The Zion Housing Co-op in association with Hebden Bridge Cricket Club. Third Annual Cricket Festival with live music, fun, frolics, stalls, food and drink. Salem Fields, Hebden Bridge. £2 Tel: 07960 055846 ** And the **Anti-Jubilee Street**

Festival. At the Radical Dairy 47 Kynaston Rd., Stoke Newington, London. 020 7249 6996 1pm onwards theradicaldairy@hotmail.com ** 2-4 June **Up the republic! Stuff the Monarchy!** A long weekend of music, debate, videos, talks, practical sessions and direct action at Clwb y Bont, Pontypridd, Wales. For more details of events, accommodation, crèche and tickets, contact PO Box 661, Wrecsam, LL11 1QU Tel 02920 830 029 stuffthemonarchy@yahoo.co.uk

Lethal Lessons

Welsh schools in Newport and Llandudno are being sold off for a profit and the schools are then being rebuilt on toxic landfill sites.

Ysgol John Bright School in Llandudno is being rebuilt on a former gasworks, which, among other things, is contaminated with arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and asbestos. And then there's the gas itself—apparently there are “explosive levels” of methane still on the site, which have not yet been removed. And just to brighten things up a bit, the site is also on a floodplain, which adds to the danger of chemicals escaping. And what, you may ask, will become of the original school buildings? Why they'll be replaced by a shiny new Asda superstore, of course.

Durham Rd School and Nursery in Newport will be rebuilt on the

site of an old municipal dump once used by GM giant Monsanto. It's a load of rubbish, but not just any old rubbish - this is rubbish with added ingredient “X” - a mystery gift from Monsanto. Nobody seems to know exactly what was dumped there, and there is no official record of it, but when soil samples were taken there were “some small explosions”.

Locals have been assured everything will be peachy once a “protective membrane” is put over the site, sealing in the toxins, but as John Martin of Glebelands Action Group says, these membranes are notoriously ineffective. “This is just window dressing,” says Martin. “I don't think they can make it safe.” An alternative, relatively uncontaminated site had been proposed for the new school, but after soil testing, Newport council decided to sell the clean site to housing developers and put the school and

accompanying nursery on the toxic waste dump.

Both Newport and Llandudno councils have avoided debate, fudged information and ignored local opinion. In the words of the Corporatewatch website, they are “As transparent as mud and as accountable as God.”

So why have schools been shoved onto land considered unfit for housing? Who gains from this cavalier treatment of children's futures? Local campaigner Lesley McCarthy has claimed there are “Three levels of Exploitation” - first, the companies that made the mess (Monsanto), second, the companies profiting from building the new schools (McAlpine), and third, the companies that buy up the old school sites (Newport housing developers and Asda) for more information, go to: www.corporatewatch.org/news/private_sector_may_15.htm

Kernow of Knowledge

It's hard to believe that last month 20,000 people took to the streets of Penzance and there's not even been a whisper of news about it beyond Plymouth. The protest, the largest in Cornish history, was in opposition to the proposed closure of the Accident and Emergency department of West Cornwall Hospital, which according to officials is no longer economic. Closure of the A+E would mean patients would have to travel 35 plus miles to Truro for emergency treatment. A week after the march, a dozen protesters stripped down and blocked the front of the hospital in another attempt to get their message out, but were again ignored apparently because there weren't enough 'fit birds'. A decision has yet to be made on the future of the hospital, but campaigners have vowed they will do whatever it takes to make sure they keep their A+E unit open.

*SchNEWS VocabWatch
Kernow=Cornwall

Embargo Farrago

The US embargo on Cuba, which has been in effect for more than 40 years, is set to continue after a speech made by George 'Dumbya' Bush just before he jetted off for a fund raising tour of Florida. Incidentally, Miami has a large population of anti-Castro Cuban-Americans who are big supporters of the Republican Party. Bush said that there's no way the embargo would be lifted until elections are held there, which is pretty ironic on two counts. Firstly, the U.S. treats Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, China and Pakistan as their good buddies but in all of these countries elections are as rare as Accrington Stanley FC winning the Champions League. Secondly, cast your mind back to the US elections in 2000, where in Florida, 26,000 votes for the Democrats were not counted leading to Bush becoming president. Double helpings of hypocrisy anybody?

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"I've come to meet the head of the family" Alternative Jubilee Street Party London 3rd June

UN-Independence Day

After an independence struggle that lasted for 24 years and claimed 200,000 lives, East Timor became an independent state on Monday. Just how independent it is though is pretty hard to figure out, considering that their currency is the US dollar, and that most donor countries won't fund the new state unless the money goes through the World Bank. They've also been forced to sign away their oil and gas reserves, the most valuable national resource, to Australia. Australia negotiated a deal with Timor over the oil in which Timor stands to get 90% of the profits on resources taken from a joint Australian/Timor area. Sound good? Take a closer look at the fine print and you find that the richest oil and gas reserves are outside this area and so will be taken over by Australia. So Timor is getting 90% profits of bugger all while Australia gets to take resources from within what should be Timor's maritime boundaries.

This may have had something to do with the fact that it was the UN and not the East Timorese Government negotiated the deal. All that Mari Alkatiri, the Timorese prime minister, got to do was sign. Most Timorese don't even know their new nation's resources have already been signed away. More info visit www.etan.org, or www.melbourne.indymedia.org

...and finally...

SchNEWS has heard some corks in its time, but Councillor Woolsey Smith of the Democratic Unionist Party (Ian Paisley's party) in N. Ireland has got to win a prize for the biggest dumb arse of the year. In the six counties, cycle paths are outlined in green, the road junctions, as ever, are painted white, while the double yellow lines are unsurprisingly painted yellow – which all together make the colours of the Irish flag, green white and gold. According to Councillor Smith, this stunning fact shows bias to the Nationalist community. When the Department of the Environment heard of this 'complaint', they thought it was a belated April Fool's prank until they were assured that Woolsey was being quite serious. Now, some members of SchNEWS have at least one time after a mash up party/festival been a tad worse for the wear, but never have they been paranoid about road markings. So Woolsey Smith, if you're reading this, for your own sake start taking some chill pills before the men in white coats come to take you away and lock you up in a padded cell with the leprechauns.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all old buffers with one track minds if ya get side-tracked on the wrong side of the tracks start making tracks before you lose track then you'll be right on track. Honest.



SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 31st May 2002 Free/Donation Issue 357/358



KASHMIR SWEATER

"24,000 people, mostly children, die from poverty every day. This is the true terrorism and it is aided and abetted by politicians from rich, privileged and powerful countries who, in the cause of profit and reigning respectability, are salesman of death." - John Pilger.

We're sorry dear SchNEWS readers to interrupt your enjoyment of the World Cup and the right royal knees-up, and we know that for most of us it's a very long way away, but it looks like, a nuclear war could be just around the corner.

With a million battle-ready soldiers facing off against each other on the India-Pakistan border and nuclear warheads at the ready; India is talking of a "decisive victory" whilst Pakistan rattles its nuclear sabre by carrying out missile tests as the rest of the world looks on, strangely powerless. Neither Pakistan or India seems to care that a nuclear war could see 12 million dead and 7 million wounded in the space of a single hour - an instant slaughter unprecedented in the history of mankind.

Still, we in England can be proud of the role we have played. No, not by the last minute diplomatic visits by the Foreign Secretary but by our generous arms dealings. In 2000 the Government approved nearly 700 export licenses to India and Pakistan, showing how we haven't lost our sense of fair play by flogging weapons and military equipment to both countries. Is this what Neo-Labour meant when they talked about an 'ethical foreign policy' when they first came to power?

Hawking Jets

In January, as the two countries prepared for war, a 'Presidential' Blair arrived in the subcontinent on what was called a "peace mission" - which coincided with the UK flogging 60 Hawk jets to India for a billion pounds - some peace there. Three weeks later, the British High Commission in New Delhi threw a party at an arms fair for a group of arms salesman licking their lips at the Afghanistan and Kashmir crisis. In fact so keen has the Blair government been to exploit this opportunity of war that a British official has the full time assignment in New Delhi of "defence supply."

As for our Foreign Secretary calling on the two countries for restraint, Defence Minister Geoff Hoon showed good old British reserve (or hypocrisy) when he recently told the Defence Select Committee "There are clearly some states who would be deterred by the fact that the United Kingdom possesses nuclear weapons and has the willingness and ability to use them in appropriate circumstances... They can be absolutely confident that in the right conditions we would be willing to use our nuclear weapons". Which makes all of us at SchNEWS Towers sleep a lot more soundly at night.

So even if our boys don't bring back the World Cup, we can at least all be proud of the fact that this country is still up with the best in the world (second behind the good old US of A) when it comes to selling weapons to anyone who wants them, especially if they are on the brink of war.

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For naming children...

Nine families in the Turkish town of Izmar have been charged with being "a tool of propaganda" for the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) for the treacherous act of giving their children traditional Kurdish names. In its tyrannical fight against the PKK, the Turkish government has drawn up a list of banned Kurdish names, even though some of the names, such as Helin and Baran, are common in Turkey and are used by Turks as well as Kurds. And while another case, held just one day earlier in the town of Dicle, saw similar charges against seven parents dropped, the Izmar families are not so lucky - it's likely they'll be forced by the courts to rename their children!

20th Century Kashmir

"The leaders of India and Pakistan have now appropriated to themselves, as others had done before, the power that was God's alone to kill mountains, make the earth quake, bring the sea to boil, and destroy humanity." - *Eqbal Ahmad, political activist and writer.*

As the British Empire crumbled British forces withdrew from the Indian subcontinent, leaving a country divided, primarily on religious grounds, into India and Pakistan. At that time Kashmir was said to be part of India, but this has been contested ever since. The major stumbling block has been religious, as Kashmir's population is predominantly Muslim, which sets

20th Century Kashmir cont...

it apart from the Indian population which is predominantly Hindi.

In 1947 a United Nations resolution called for a referendum in Kashmir, but it was never carried out, the probable reason being that the Indian government feared the population would support Kashmir's unification with Pakistan.

This lack of any decision over Kashmir's sovereignty has made it the obvious place for Pakistan and India to play out their differences, with Kashmir becoming a part religious part political football cum time bomb.

Over the last 11 years around 30,000 people have died in the Kashmir conflict and what happens there is at the heart of the continuing tension between the two nations. Since the attack on the Indian Parliament building in December 2001, this tension has grown considerably with India accusing Pakistan of supporting terrorist groups; while Pakistan, in turn, pledges its support for Kashmiri freedom fighters, proving that one state's terrorist is another's freedom fighter. There have been three India/Pakistan wars since 1947, the difference this time round is that both sides have nuclear weapons.

1 in 10

It has been 25 years since the Peace Tax Campaign was established, encouraging people to withhold 10% of their taxes from the government, roughly the estimated amount that is spent on the military in the UK. One man who is refusing wrote in an open letter to the Inland Revenue "withdrawing financial support for the war seems to be the only means of objecting to the bombing... Every week, civilians including children are maimed or killed by unexploded cluster ordinance left in Kosovo by American and British forces more than two years ago. Their use in Afghanistan is unforgivable and I won't pay for it." Peace Tax Campaign 0870-7773223 info@conscienceonline.org.uk

Positive SchNEWS

Grants are now available towards installation costs of solar panels. By applying you could save yourself between 40 and 65% on total installation costs. For more information see www.solargrants.org.uk or call the Application Helpline 0800-2983978

According to the Campaign Against Arms Trade, the price of one Hawk bomber is roughly the amount needed to provide 1.5 million people with fresh water for life.

* **Stop the Arms Trade Week:** 8-16 June organised by Campaign Against Arms Trade. This year the focus is on the public funding of the arms trade - both the £760m of government subsidies per annum as well as the estimated £1 billion of local authority investments in arms trade companies. For an info pack email: chris.cole@caat.demon.co.uk or call 020-7281-0297 To check out your favourite arms companies operating in the UK see www.caat.org.uk.

* 13-18 June Trident Ploughshares Disarmament Camp, outside Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment near Reading, Berkshire. Aldermaston was recently involved in nuclear weapon tests in America and they want to carry out more tests in Britain to refine and develop the current bombs ensuring they will have the biggest bang! 0845-4582544 www.gn.apc.org/tp2000

* **Bypass the Corporate Media:** <http://india.indymedia.org>

* **Recommended reading:** John Pilger 'The New Rulers of the World' (Verso 2002). Salman Rushie 'Midnight Children'.

Inside SchNEWS

Tomek Wilkoszewski, a Polish student, is currently serving 15 years in a Polish jail after been framed for murder. Tomek, who was studying in Radomsko, was subject to regular attacks from local Nazis who started fights with people that didn't come from the town. During one of these fights, those being attacked decided to defend themselves and one of the Nazis died after bleeding to death whilst waiting for an ambulance. Tomek was accused of the murder after a flawed trial. He was sentenced to 15 years whilst the Nazi's involved in the incident received only 8 years each. Tomek has been refused parole.

His supporters now want the president to look at his case. In the meantime, they would like to raise

funds for a lawyer who may be able to help make conditions in jail better for him. Write to (in English preferably) Tomek Wilkoszewski, Zaklad Karny, Ul. Orzechowa 5, 98-200 Sieradz, Poland. The 25th June is a day of action for Tomek Wilkoszewski and the campaign is asking people to protest outside Polish Embassies on the day. www.tomek.most.org.pl

*A protester at this years May Day who was arrested for allegedly throwing a bottle at police urgently needs witnesses, otherwise he could be facing 6 months in prison. The alleged offending plastic bottle was in fact a harmless punctured football. If you saw the incident please contact the SchNEWS office or email kubla.khan@ntlworld.com



www.cleansurface.org

PROTEST CAMPS

For those of you who love nothing more than a dirty weekend... in-between partying at all the lovely festivals, get yourselves down to one of these camps set up to protect beautiful areas, even if it's just for a day or two:

Friarton Rd, Perth, Scotland

URGENT HELP NEEDED - Police are due on Monday 3rd June.

A protest camp - with a treehouse in a willow - has started, fighting to stop a small woodland on Friarton Rd, Perth from getting turned into a roundabout for a new tescos store. Police are due on Monday - so get up there NOW. Contact 07753808709 crusty_bob@hotmail.com

Park Nook, Liverpool

Planning permission to build luxury flats on Park Nook in Liverpool has been granted following a 3 year legal battle. Chainsaw men started to cut down trees earlier this month until the site was re-occupied by people opposed to the destruction. The site is now squatted with a camp and 24hour presence. There are still a couple of treehouses left and plenty of trees to build other treehouses. Eviction is imminent and people are needed now www.parknook.da.ru 0780 3609271

Nine Ladies, Derbyshire

For the last two years the nine ladies anti-quarry campaign has prevented the destruction of Stanton Moor hillside in the Peak District National Park.

There are also natural springs that supply water to the local village. If the proposed quarry is allowed to go ahead, this would have a disastrous impact on the area. Tel: 07974 049369 web: www.nineladies.uklinux.net

Peaceful Camps

If you want to help fight the war machine, there are some camps in Britain that are a thorn in the side of the military:

Faslane Peace Camp, Clyde, Scotland

The Camp celebrates its 20th birthday in June this year! This permanent camp has over 20 residents from Scotland, England, Wales, Finland, Belgium, Canada and the Netherlands with visitors from around the world stopping by to stay for a few days or weeks at a time. There are 11 Caravans, a Bus, a Tepee, a Bender, a Tree House and various sheds and self-built structures. The purpose of the camp is to oppose nuclear weapons and to live an alternative lifestyle to that of the mass of British society. Britain's nuclear weapons system is 'Trident' four submarines with nuclear warhead missiles based at Faslane Naval Base. The Peace Camp is on the east verge of the A814 road, which leads to HMNB Clyde and beyond. FPC is therefore visible to all traffic coming towards the base from the direction of Helensburgh. The camp is about 30 miles west of Glasgow, by the Gareloch, a river Clyde estuary sea loch. Faslane Naval base is on the Gareloch. Contact: 01436-820901 www.faslanepeacecamp.com



Nine Ladies camp

Menwith Hill, Yorkshire

The Women's camp at Menwith Hill spy base, near Harrogate North Yorkshire, a US base spy base is still going despite an injunction against anyone camping there. More women are urgently needed to camp or visit. WoMenwith Hill Women's Peace Camp, P.O. Box 105, Harrogate. HG3 2FE. Yorkshire CND 01274-730795 or cndyorks@gn.apc.org

Fylingdales' Star Peace Camp

The Star Peace Camp is a new permanent peace camp outside Fylingdales spy base, in the North York Moors. If the US have their way the base have their way will soon play an important part in the their National Missile Defence policy also known as 'Star Wars'. The camp is based at Ellerbeck to the east of the main entrance. People are welcome to visit or stay, but must come self-sufficient. There's also a Party on the Moor (14-15 June), public meeting on 14 June followed by a walk to Fylingdales for a rally there on Saturday 15 June. 0845-4588366 www.tridentploughshares.org

Modified Camps

Not only are there camps to save the countryside and fight the war machine but also camps opposing GM crops:

Pink Castle, Weymouth

Protestors, who put up a pink castle on the site of a GM maize crop near Weymouth are still there despite a farmer recently turning up with the police in order to plant GM crops. Within hours of the seeds being sown, at least twenty locals were seen digging the freshly sown seeds from the ground. This has continued with daily visits by people of all ages. Knights urgently needed. www.sayhi.to/thecastle 07773640159

Munlochy GM Vigil, Scotland

Camp next to a field growing genetically modified oil seed rape. It was set up soon after the GM seeds were planted and now has planning permission to remain until August 2002!. The camp has been the focus for the campaign for a GM free Scotland. A substantial amount of the GM crops has now been damaged. Contact Munlochy GM Vigil, The Layby, By Roskill Farm, Munlochy, Ross-Shire, IV8 8PAL 0781-330-7337 jacko@roskill.fsnet.co.uk or munlochyvigil@tiscali.co.uk www.munlochygmvigil.org.uk

It's yer SchNEWS Summer

June

The Nestlé sponsored Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival (31 May - 9 June) is in trouble as writers like Germaine Greer and Will Self have pulled out in protest over the involvement of Nestlé. The World Health Organisation estimates that 1.5 million infants die each year because they are not breastfed. Nestlé's baby milk marketing campaigns in Third World countries are a major cause of women choosing powered milk over breast. www.babymilkaction.org/pages/hayonwye.html **1 Halifax Green Fair**, Piece Hall, Halifax Check out the Generator X Wonky Weather Tour and find out all about climate change **5 International day of action for Gothenberg Prisoners**. In Solidarity with the 41 people who have so far been sent to prison after the protests against the EU Summit in Gothenberg last year. www.manifest.se/upprop **7 Benefit meal for Mark Barnsley and the Anarchist Black Cross**. 3 courses - pay what you can 7.30pm at Bradford's 1 in 12 Club. 01274-734160 **7-11 Earth Spirit Festival Spring Awakening Camp**, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Music, dance, kids stuff, crafts, healing, camping, eco forum, workshops. £75 01273-685553 **7 So Lost In Music**, Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire. Dance fest. 1pm-6am £43.25 www.wayahead.com **7-15 Faslane Peace Camp 20th Birthday celebrations** outside the Trident nuclear submarine base. 01436-820901 www.faslanepeacecamp.com **8 Strawberry Fair**, Midsummer Common, Cambridge. FREE. SchNEWS favourite one day festie, where you'll find us sitting by the river drinking pims and eating strawberries. 01223-560160 www.strawberry-fair.org.uk **8 Hackney Stop the War film Screening** of "Not in My Name" followed by a public discussion at the Rio Cinema. 4.00pm, 107 Kingsland High Street, London E8. £2.50/£1.50 07979-066447 hstwc@hotmail.com **8-9 World Development Movement Conference**, Institute of Education, London with John Pilger, our mates the World Trade Organisation and others. 020-7737-6215 www.wdm.org.uk **8-9 International Solidarity Movement Training for Summer Campaign in Palestine** "ISM participants will visit Palestine this summer in solidarity with the Palestinian people. We will carry out peaceful protests and non-violent actions against the military occupation, and we will live and work with families in the refugee camps." uksolidarity@yahoo.co.uk **8-16 Stop the Arms Trade Week** www.caat.org.uk **10-13 World Food Summit**, Italy www.italy.indymedia.org **12 Direct from Palestine 'Frontiers of Dreams and Fears.'** at The Side Cinema, Newcastle Quayside (near Crown Posada Pub, Dean St.) 5.30pm and 8pm. 0191-2724635 radical.filmfest@tesco.net **12-14 Sustainability in Education** The fifth International COPERNICUS Conference in Sweden will examine how we can further incorporate sustainability into higher education. Goteborg, Sweden. www.mls.miljo.gu.se/COPERNICUS/ **13 March and Rally for Palestine**. 1pm Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, then march to Trafalgar Square. Organised by Muslim Association of Britain www.islamevents.com **15 Albion Community Arts Trust benefit night**, Norwich Arts Centre to help fund the Earlham Park Festival. 7.30pm-midnight, £5/£4 www.albionarts.org **15 Heavyfest II** with Sloth, Evil Kneivel and The Sex Maniacs. 2pm-late. The 1 in 12 club, Bradford £7/£6 01274-7344160 **15 Justice for Palestine** - No war in

the Middle East. 10.30am Whitworth Park, Wilmslow Road, Manchester. 07760-224580 / 0161-2738283 **15-16 Leamington Peace Festival FREE!** www.peacefestival.org.uk The Midlands premier free festival with stalls, bands and workshops. Held in the Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa. **15 National Protest at Harmondsworth Detention Centre**. Protest to kick off the Refugee Week of Action 12-2pm. Outside the Detention Centre, near Heathrow. Bring banners, whistles, drums and balloons. 07960-309457 info@defend-asylum.org **1522 Week of Action in Support of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers** info@barbedwirebritain.org.uk info@defend-asylum.org/ info@ncrm.org.uk ncadc.org.uk **14 Electronic Civil Disobedience Action**. A virtual sit-in as part of the campaign to close down Huntingdon Life Sciences www.huntingdonsucks.com/ecd.html **14-16 Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival**, Cheshire. Two dedicated stages with stuff like Fairport Convention, Lindisfarne and Isla St Clair! £55. www.middlewichfolkandboatfestival.com **15 SK8+ Springfield Park, Hackney** - hip-hop, skate-metal and graffiti art. Free. www.stokenewingtonfestival.co.uk **16-22 Stoned 2002** "Environmental arts and healing festival." Only £145! www.stoned2002.co.uk **17-18 People and Planet Summer Festival**. A student festival for action to end world poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment. Braziers Park, Oxfordshire £10/£12 01865-245678 www.peopleandplanet.org/summerfestival **17-20 Eurosatory Arms Fair** at Villepinte, Paris France. www.caat.org.uk **17-23 Refugee Week**. www.refugeecouncil.org.uk **19 McLibel Anniversary of the 1997 High Court Victory!!** Leaflets from Veggie's: 0845-4589595 **20-21 Dartford Festival**, Central Park. FREE Very diverse festival including music, dog shows and the Dartford half marathon ! Tel 01322-343961 www.dartfordfestival.co.uk

Stonehenge Solstice

The stones can be accessed from 8pm 20th June, last entry at 4.30am on 21st for sunrise at 4.53am, stones close at 7am and car park at 1pm. English Heritage Solstice Hotline 0 870 3331186. Peace Stewards are urgently needed to help out on the night (see website for details). A site for a park up after the solstice has been sought but this has been hampered by police. The police have promised to shut down and confiscate equipment of anybody who tries to have a free party. Talks are underway for their to be a legal free party after the Solstice next year. www.summersolsticecelebration.org

21 'Woomera 2002' a video from Australia receives its UK premiere. 7pm Tower Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London. Followed by a discussion. www.chilout.org.uk/events.htm **21-22 EU Summit Seville, Spain** www.nodo50.org www.antiue.net **22 Cambridge Anti-Capitalist Street Party** 2pm Castle Hill for critical mass bike ride and Midsummer Common at same time for people on foot. Wear anti-capitalist colours (red/black/green/pink n silver), bring music, food to share, footballs, games etc. **22 Privatisation and war - what next in Colombia?** 6.30pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Speakers include Alexander Lopez, former President of SINTRAEMCALI Plus Music and Colombian food. £10/£5 07950-923448 colombia_sc@hotmail.com **22 Gatecrasher**,

Party and Protest Guide

Turweston Aerodrome, Brackley, Northamptonshire. 15 hours for £50. 0870-1210121 www.gatecrasher.co.uk **22 Porton Down. Rally against animal experimentation.** 01980-629692 **23 Camden Green Fair,** St James Gardens, Camden. London. 12-6pm **24-26 World Bank Annual Conference,** Oslo, Norway www.indymedia.no www.oslo2002.no **26-28 G8 Meeting, Kanannaskis, Alberta, Canada.** Protests planned <http://g8.activist.ca> www.alberta.indymedia.org

28-30 Glastonbury Festival SOLD OUT www.glastonbury-festival.co.uk News from Guilfin: "Mean Fiddler, who organise Reading in such a methodical and efficient manner ARE involved ... the local council insisted on them being in charge of site infrastructure. Reports suggest they get 20% of the net profit now, rising to 40%. They are not in charge of the actual festy. Yet. The Traveller's Field is apparently a big no-no ... they were more complaints about that than anything else last time. If a big party goes off outside the fence this time, the council are threatening to imprison Eavis." Open letter from Michael Eavis on why people shouldn't jump the fence. www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/michaelsletter.html Stuff about the Mean Fiddler security www.guilfin.net/reports/?id=rwINET941 This will make you puke - VIP's helicoptering into the festival. www.flyglastonbury.com Latest is that Guilfins Ambient Lounge, Squall and the Greenpeace stage have been refused tickets. Rumours of free festies gathering pace...we will keep you posted. (SchNEWS 340).

28 Terrorism - mapping the new legal framework. A one-day conference organised by Justice at The Hatton, Hatton Garden, London. 020-77626437 rallen@justice.org.uk **29-30 Diaspora free festival,** Kew Gardens, London. Noon-9 pm 020-7456-0404 www.culturalco-operation.org **29-30 South West Permaculture Convergence** at Plants For A Future in Blagdon, Devon. 01208-872963/07813-067250 www.pfaf.org

WOT?

On Tuesday, May 21st at a conference for Australian accountants, a representative of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) announced that his organisation was going to dissolve and reform, and begin to assist the world's poor. The Australian accountants, after the initial shock had worn off, soon came around to the idea of "giving something back to the countries we've been doing so well from." Hearing of the announcement, the Canadian government discussed it in Parliament, but couldn't decide how they'd cope without the WTO to tell them who they could trade with. The Canadians were therefore pleased to hear that the whole thing was a hoax. Although the Australians thought they were listening to somebody from the WTO, it was in fact an impostor from the now infamous 'Yes Men' whose parody website <http://gatt.org> has managed to fool unsuspecting capitalists to book them to represent the WTO delegates at conferences.

Despite being discovered, the Yes Men believe the joke's on the WTO. "We've already demonstrated that audiences of experts will accept anything whatsoever so long as it comes from the mouth of the WTO."

NO BORDERS

A European Union report has blasted all the myths governments are using to justify their racist immigration policies. The report concludes that refugees far from coming to Europe 'to live a life of luxury on benefits', are largely fleeing war and persecution in their own countries. The report also goes on to say that Europe's 'flood' of refugees is more like a trickle compared to other much poorer countries. This year the UK is expected to get 78,000 asylum application. Rather insignificant compared to the 2 million refugees in Pakistan and 680,000 in Tanzania.

The European No Border network was set up to bring together campaign groups across Europe to protest against the harmonising of brutal immigration policies in 'Fortress Europe' while countries put up barricades to asylum seekers they are pulling down barriers to trade so we can be swamped by sweatshop consumer crap. This summer a chain of border camps is taking place across Europe. The camps aim to create a space for people to gather, discuss and take action against militarised borders and racist immigration policies. Seven camps are so far planned for this year in Germany, Poland, Finland, Slovenia and France.

The No Borders camp in Strasbourg, France (19-28 July) is described as 'a ten-day laboratory of creative resistance and civil disobedience to reinforce demands for freedom of movement and settlement'. Strasbourg was chosen as the location of the camp because it is home to the central database of the Schengen Information System (SchNEWS 312). A European wide computer system that can be consulted to determine whether a person is wanted for deportation or arrest, as well as providing other information used to monitor an individual's movements and activities. www.noborders.org

GRAIN OF TRUTH

Malawi the sixth poorest country in the world is on the verge of famine, and if nothing is done, it is expected that at least 2 million of its 11 million population will die. But the Malawian government are trying to keep their problem under wraps so it "doesn't put off tourists".

The famine has been blamed on excessive rains and prolonged drought. But this is only part of the picture. Just three months before the crisis began the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ordered Malawi to sell off the grain it had in storage the money they made then undoubtedly went straight back to line the pockets of the IMF. Now Malawi are facing a severe grain shortage and are being forced to import grain at three times the cost of that they sold a few months ago. Doh! 70% of the population can no longer feed themselves and are starving. A small minority of the population though are doing very well out of the IMF's screwed up economic policies and the country now has the second highest disparity between rich and poor in the world. The IMF have refused to help the Malawi government anymore, so they've been forced to plunge themselves further into debt with another bunch of dodgy loan sharks. www.wsws.org/articles/2002/mar2002/mala-m14.shtml

PENALTY LABOUR

Nike, Reebok and friends are all expecting to net fat profits from the World Cup, but they have yet to clean up their act on child labour and working conditions. Although FIFA and UNICEF are joining forces to dedicate the World Cup to the children (bless 'em). "Child labour is still common and other labour standards are still grossly violated despite the fact that the contracts between FIFA and sporting goods companies promise the opposite," so says Kailash Satyarthi, from the Global March Against Child Labour. "We hope that FIFA and the sporting goods industry will take the leadership to make football truly a fair game for all", declared Satyarthi.

If Nike were to reduce its publicity and promotion budget by just 3.4%, it could double the pay of all employees working for Nike contractors in China and Indonesia. In Indonesia, production line workers earn an average of 80p per day. David Beckham earns £110,000 a week, more than enough to keep Posh in dresses. Nike has spent \$73 million to buy the right to use an Elvis song in its World Cup marketing campaign. But

in the dodgy, subcontracted factories Nike uses around the world, starvation wages are paid to the thousands of workers who produce their goods. Instead of paying their workers a living wage, Nike's profits (over \$400 million a year) are helping their chairman Phil Knight increase his \$6 billion personal fortune, and paying for flash advertising campaigns to keep the cash rolling in.

So, NoSweat is bringing the struggle to NIKETOWN, the flagship UK store. Forget Nike's 3-a-side tournament and come to Oxford Circus to shut down NIKETOWN. Bring your mates and a football for the 3-a-side No Sweat Match of the Day. Let's turn Nike's advertising blitz into an own goal. On Saturday June 15th 2pm, Oxford Circus, Central London. There's also a 5-a-side tournament the weekend after the World Cup (7th July) to raise funds for Indonesian trade unions. Rob Newman and Billy Bragg will be there and it is rumoured that the winners will have to face comedian Mark Thomas in a croquet match. More info: No Sweat 07904-431959 www.nosweat.org.uk

SchNEWS in brief

REBEL ALLIANCE: Brighton's get together of Direct Action groups and individuals, 7.30pm 11th July at Harvest Forestry squat, New England Street. ** **Free Alternative Jubilee Alldayer** 4th June noon-dusk, Concorde2, Brighton - Jamaican & Ital food, DJ's, Bands, fire jugglers, steel drumming, stalls and fun 4 kidz. ** Any holiday plans? Get hold of **The Good Alternative Travel Guide** with info on ethical tourist projects. Tourism Concern, 020-7753-3330 www.tourismconcern.org.uk ** The government in a momentary fit of sanity has refused permission for the expansion of an incinerator in Edmonton, North London which would have turned it into one of the largest in the world. www.greenpeace.org.uk ** **A Hungarian Radical Bookshop** is facing closure unless they can raise over 1000 Euros to pay their rent (that's about £600). They'd really

appreciate any donations. Postal address is Goldolko Auntonom Antikvarium, Budapest 1066 O u40, Hungary. www.geocities.com/subesipu/ ** **Envision** is trying to recruit at least 30 people to help schools in London develop their own eco-projects. More info check out www.envision.org.uk ** **A new Social Centre** has just been opened at 227 Deptford High St, London. ** In a report published this week, **Amnesty International** have accused the British Government of using the attack on the Twin Towers to rush through legislation "unparalleled in Europe" which seriously erodes our human rights - all in the name of national security. Amnesty rated the UK's civil liberties-robbing reaction to the Twin Towers alongside those of India and South Korea, who knows what further steps are being dreamt up in the Home Office, all in the name of the 'war against terrorism.'

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BUNCH OF TITS

The Police's attempts to stop protesters taking part in last week's protest at Titnore Woods near Worthing in Sussex were unsuccessful as hundreds of people still turned out and managed to block Titnore Lane for a couple of hours. In the run up to the protest, police had spurred on the local rag to run a story entitled "Don't walk into trees trouble" with warnings that militant eco-activists were going to take over the protest, and then tramp across fields, damage crops, and disturb wildlife. Which of course is going to cause a lot more damage than the bulldozing of the woodland to build 895 homes. www.worthinga27.freemove.co.uk

...and finally...

Attention walkers, ramblers, and lovers of the great outdoors! Are you bored, restless, looking for something NEW to spice up your treks? Do your countryside hikes lack a pervading sense of danger, aggression, and militaristic threat?

If so, SchNEWS has found the book for you - the newly published fourth edition of "Walks on MOD Lands." Always helpful, the Ministry of Defence assures hikers that walks through "danger areas" are only open on "non-firing days," and has even developed a sunny grading system for its walks, including such categories as "Walk on the Wildside," "Sunday Stroll" and "A Taste of the Sea." Top tip for your MOD lands experience: "Do not approach, touch or pick up any metal objects lying on the ground." Otherwise you could be doing a bit of flying. For more info on this exciting new outdoor opportunity, visit www.defence-estates.mod.uk/access/walks_index.htm or write to Wendy Molyneux, Agency Secretariat, Defence Estates, St. Georges House, Blakemore Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 7RL and tell her just where she can put her disused metal objects!!

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers there's nothing like a big bang at the end of a garden party. Honest.

No SchNEWS next week - too busy flag waving for the Jubilee and watching the World Cup in our nuclear bunkers.



SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 14th June 2002

Free/Donation

Issue 359



Here's looking at you kid

F. B. LIED

After decades of harassing, framing, imprisoning, or "eliminating" anyone seen as a threat to the American status quo of big business, big brother, and big shopping malls, the FBI is finally getting a taste of long-overdue justice. In a landmark ruling reached on Tuesday (11th), a US jury found three FBI agents and three police officers guilty of violating the rights of Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney.

This tale of FBI lies and repression began on May 24th 1990, when Judi Bari, a Californian environmental activist, was nearly killed by a motion-triggered pipe bomb wrapped with nails that exploded directly under the driver's seat of her car. Judi was maimed and disabled and Darryl Cherney, the passenger, was also injured. Upon arriving at the scene, the FBI and local police decided to help Bari and Cherney through this traumatic event by blatantly ignoring evidence of their victimisation, and deciding instead to arrest them for the bombing, telling the media that Bari and Cherney were violent Earth First! activists who had accidentally blown themselves up on the way to carry out some evil terrorist plot.

And just why did the FBI and local authorities want to ignore this attempt on Bari's life and instead use the incidence as an opportunity to slag her off in the media? Because Bari and Cherney were fighting against commercial logging in an area where the timber industry has friends in high places. On the day of the bombing, Bari and Cherney had been driving through California on

a speaking tour aimed at recruiting college students for Redwood Summer - a campaign of non-violent mass protests against intensive logging. She and Cherney were seen as such a massive threat to the corporate logging industry that in the two months prior to the bombing, both had received numerous death threats from timber industry supporters. They reported these threats to police, who told Bari "If you turn up dead, then we'll investigate."

But instead of investigating the bombing as attempted murder, the FBI and Oakland Police, tried to frame Judi and Darryl for the bombing, accusing them of knowingly transporting the bomb that nearly killed them. These sensational false charges made national headlines, and the FBI and their accomplices kept a two-month media smear campaign going with a series of false claims about physical evidence linking Judi to building the bomb. But after delaying formal charges for seven weeks, when it was finally time for the State to present evidence in court, surprise, surprise, the FBI and Oakland Police didn't actually have any. The State announced it would not file charges, citing the lack of evidence. The Oakland Police closed their "investigation," but the FBI continued theirs, using the pretext of "investigating" the bombing as a cover for spying on Earth First! activists, sending agents to create files on over 500 people who had nothing to do with the bombing.

A year after the bombing, when it was clear that the authorities were making no genuine effort to solve the case, Judi and Darryl filed a federal civil rights suit against the FBI and

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK For Something or Other...

Last January, Cymru Goch (Socialist Wales) organised their popular "Stuff the Monarchy" republican festival. On the eve of the royal visit, law lecturer Tim Richards, chair of Cymru Goch, had his house raided by police at 7am on the pretext that Tim allegedly suggested people start spray-painting stencils of Cymru Goch's Stuff the Monarchy poster. He was arrested for "threatening to cause criminal damage with a stencil", which is pretty funny since they didn't find any stencils and no-one has sprayed any stencils. He's in court this Tuesday 9.45am at Rhondda Court, support welcomed. Info: tim@iforbach.demon.co.uk.

Oakland Police Department. The lawsuit was delayed from coming to trial for nearly 11 years by legal shenanigans aimed at wearing down Bari and Cherney. The FBI gained an immense advantage when Judi died of breast cancer in 1997, but Judi's estate, Darryl Cherney, their legal team and supporters have kept the suit alive and have cleared every hurdle and won every appeal.

The trial that had taken 11 long years to come to court finally ended with a stunning vindication of Judi and Darryl, and a \$4.4 million award of damages. A full 80% of the damages were for free speech violations, showing that the jury understood that the motivation for the false arrest and illegal searches was to interfere with Judi and Darryl's political activism. "This case is not just about me or Darryl or Earth First!", Judi once said. "This case is about the rights of all political activists to engage in dissent without having to fear the government's secret police." More details: www.judibari.org or www.sf.indymedia.org

BUG EYED



This week England became Champions of the World. Not on the football pitch, but in the Nosey Parker Premier League thanks to plans to give a whole host of bureaucrats the power to spy on us. From NHS executives to your local council, the Department of Work and Pensions to the Department for Transport; from the Home Office to the Post Office all could be getting the same powers of surveillance as the police. This brilliant idea comes thanks to a proposed amendment to the Regulation of Investigator Powers (RIP) Act. If the order is approved by MPs next Tuesday and the Lords a week later, these organisations will be able to make telephone companies and internet service providers hand over detailed personal information on any of us - without a court order.

The RIP Act was passed two years ago and authorises the targeting of groups or individuals in order, as the Home Office puts it, "to obtain a picture of his life, activities and his associates". It also authorises the bugging of homes and cars and the use of undercover agents. It covers the interception of pagers, mobile and satellite phones and e-mail, as well as private networks, including office switchboards.

Victims of surveillance cannot even appeal under the Human

Rights Act, which supposedly enshrines the right to privacy because the RIP Act explicitly prevents such appeals. Your only chance to complain is to a tribunal - which of course meets in secret.

Not to be outdone and no doubt cheered-on by the British government, the European Parliament recently gave further powers to all EU governments to retain all communications data, monitor internet, phone and email traffic. European governments are now also able to force Internet service providers and phone companies to keep logs of their users' communications for an as yet unspecified length of time. These records will allow investigators to build up a detailed picture of an individual's movements online, including which websites they have visited, the nature of internet searches they have made, who they have e-mailed and when.

Since September 11th governments across the world have used the threat of terrorism to pass new laws to listen in on our every move. As Tony Bunyan, editor of Statewatch, says, "This is the latest casualty in the war against terrorism as far as civil liberties are concerned. The problem with wanting to monitor a few people is that you end up having to keep data on everybody." Ian Brown, Director of the Foundation for Information Policy Research added "which websites we visit or where we travel with a mobile phone in our pocket reveals a great deal of personal information. Accessing this information needs to be made more difficult, not opened up to this huge range of new enquirers. I look at this list and wonder not at who they've added, but if I can possibly think of anyone they've left out."

* Statewatch: 020 8802 1882 www.statewatch.org

* For more on surveillance: <http://tash.gn.apc.org/watched1.htm>

* www.stand.org.uk, the campaigning group that fought against the original RIP Act, has been resurrected to fight the new powers.

SchNEWS in brief

McDonalds has agreed to pay \$10 million to vegetarian and Hindu groups who'd taken them to court after they had failed to tell customers that they used beef based flavouring in their french fries (sorry excuse for a chip). ** **Aldermaston International Disarmament Camp** will take place 13th-18th June, at the Atomic Weapons Establishment near Reading, Berkshire. On Saturday (15th) there will be a carnival and march in Reading, and on Monday an action day against AWE Burghfield. Info: 07905-917532 or www.gn.apc.org/tp2000 ** **Trade Justice March** against international trade rules and practices, taking place in London next Wednesday (19th) 020-7404-0530 www.tradjustice.org.uk ** **56a Infoshop** are running a month of freeschool events throughout June, from vegan baking to sex toy making, from haircutting to clay oven construction. Visit them at 56a Crampton Street, London SE17 www.eroding.org.uk/freeschool ** 15th-22nd is the **week of action in support of asylum seekers**. Begins on the 15th with protest outside Harmondsworth Detention Centre near Heathrow 12-2pm. Info: 07960 309457. And ends on 22nd with a National Demonstration Against Attacks on Asylum Seekers 12 noon at Malet St, London W1. Transport from Brighton. Tickets £6 from The Peace Centre, Gardner St, Brighton www.barbedwirebritain.org.uk ** Work has started on a 100 meter wide roundabout which is part of the **A701 Edingburgh City bypass** in Midlothian, Scotland. Campaigners would really appreciate any help. www.spokes.org.uk/naag

Inside SchNEWS

Wayne Heaton, an anti-fascist activist, has been sentenced to 18 months for violent disorder during the Burnley riots last summer. Wayne, who grew up in Burnley, was none too happy seeing the growth of support for the BNP in his home town. So when the police defended the BNP, Wayne like many locals stood up and fought. He'd love letters of support. Wayne Heaton - GK 7292, Wing G1 8, H.M. Prison, 2 Ribblesstone Lane, Preston PR1 5AB.

A MOX ON YOU

On Tuesday, a British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) train transporting a nuclear flask collided with a lorry at a level crossing in Kent. The flask was on its way to Dungeness, where it was due to be filled with up to five tonnes of radioactive spent uranium flue rods before heading to Sellafield for reprocessing. The collision came in the same week as two BNFL boats arrived in Japan to pick up enough useable plutonium to create 50 nuclear bombs.

The plutonium is supposedly on its way back to Britain after BNFL were forced by Japanese anti-nuclear groups to admit falsifying data. Although Greenpeace is attempting to stop the plutonium shipment with a legal challenge in the UK. One of the ships will be acting as an armed escort and the other will be carrying plutonium mixed oxide fuel (MOX) that had originally been reprocessed at Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria by BNFL and transported to Japan in 1999 for use in their power plants. The return of this material will be in defiance of both international and UK law.

There is fear that they could be sitting ducks for 'rogue states' and 'terrorists' that could capture the plutonium and use it for weapons.

Former government nuclear physicists, ex-MoD senior staff and authorities on international terrorism warn that the journey is too risky but there is too much money involved for BNFL and Blair to heed these warnings. Refusal to take back the plutonium would sabotage around £4bn of investment between Japan and BNFL. The new MOX plant at Sellafield cost \$500 million to build and therefore needs this trade with its biggest potential customer Japan to justify its existence.

As journalist George Monbiot points out "this programme can sustain itself only until the public grasps the two unavoidable facts of nuclear power. The first is that there is, as yet, no safe means of disposing of the wastes it produces. The second is that even if one were found, the monitoring and safe management of these wastes requires 250,000 years of political and economic stability. No government on earth can guarantee five." The route the return shipment will take if the legal challenge fails is still unknown, but whichever route it takes, a protest flotilla will be there to meet it. www.nuclearfreeflotilla.org

More info on nuclear transport see www.greenpeace.org

Brighton Briefs

Saturday 15th there's an **Iraq sanction-busting action** outside the Peace Centre, Gardner St. noon-4pm which will move down to the seafront from 4pm-6pm. People can come and get involved in wrapping and sending parcels to the Red Crescent in Iraq. Parcels will be sent from the Ship St Post Office on Friday 21st at 1pm, in defiance of the sanctions on Iraq. **** Sunday 16th June Marxist Forum on Kashmir.** What is behind the Kashmir conflict? Starts 7pm at the Phoenix Brewery Community Centre, Phoenix Place, Brighton (on the small alley that runs down the left hand side of the Phoenix Gallery on Richmond Place). **** Tune in this weekend to Radio 4A** on the new frequency of 107.8FM also online at www.piratetv.net **** Meeting** to show opposition to Brighton's bid to be **European Capital of Culture**, next Wednesday (19) 7.30pm Brighthelm Community Centre, North Road. **** Chalk Circle** squatted community centre in Hove opens its doors to all this Sunday from 2pm. There will be a raw food banquet and evening chill out from 4pm with assorted holistic fluff including massage, meditation and music and events running throughout the week. They are at Medina House on Hove seafront next to a café called Marrocco's.



GOLDEN SHOWER

While the TV news and the tabloids were stuffed with flag-waving God-bless-'er sentiment over the Golden Jubilee weekend, another story was unfolding behind the scenes. In London, police nicked around 40 people before an anti-monarchy protest, even pulling some out of pubs, apparently to 'prevent a breach of the peace'. A protester complained "The National Front are routinely allowed to march through sensitive areas - why not us? The cops tell us that we have to apply for permission to hold a protest - but what's the use when they'll never grant it in the first place?"

The police were understandably touchy though after an action by the London cell of the Biotic Baking Brigade. An operative calling herself Agent Royally Pissed Off launched a chocolate fudge cake at Prince Edward during a royal visit to Hackney. A press release was issued to press and public saying "We need resources not Royals". Meanwhile police pulled out all the stops to block an alternative Jubilee free festival. The festival was for a different royal anniversary, 10 years since Castlemorton, the King of Free Parties (see SchNEWS 354). Despite police bringing in roadblocks, dogs and helicopters, the Feeling of Life party went off anyway and ran for 4 days with thousands attending at Steart Beach on Somerset's sweeping Bridgewater Bay.

For info about this and other free parties/festivals that happened over the Jubilee weekend check out <http://uk.indymedia.org>

* **The Queens Gallery in Buckingham Palace** was renovated with rare rainforest woods despite Prince Philip being ex-president of the World Wildlife Fund and an outspoken opponent of unsustainable logging. More info from Greenpeace Forests campaigner Andy Tait 020 7865 8250.

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Genetix Round Up

Instead of the backbreaking, muscle straining exercise of pulling up or snapping GM crops, a group calling itself the **Brassica Broadcasting Corporation** simply scattered conventional seeds on the ground over the top of a recently planted GM crop trial. The conventional and GM plants have since been growing up together, sabotaging the oilseed rape trial at Alderminster, Warwickshire. This new-style midnight operation went completely undetected at first and has changed the density of the control crop, added crop debris to the herbicide resistant crop, and rendered the results dubious, if not invalid. The group can be interviewed by email: brassicabroadcast@hotmail.com

** Last Saturday an estimated 250 people from across Scotland met at Wester Friarton Farm in Newport for a "Tea in the Field" protest. 70 anti-GM crop demonstrators trampled crops in the field. Four people were arrested during the trashing. ** **Victory for the Pink Castle!** The Pink Castle had been occupying a field in Dorset since April because the field was due to be planted with GM crops. But now the farmer's nephew says it is packing up because the Aventis trial has been written off and they now want to plant a non-GM commercial maize crop there. On June 15th-16th there'll be a 'tat down' weekend. They're going to need plenty of people power and vehicles - so please do go and help 'em out. There'll be a party on the Saturday evening. More info: 07773-640159 www.sayhi.to/thecastle

WEST PAPUA

The tribal people of West Papua have been fighting from independence from Indonesia since it 'absorbed' their country in 1969. Since then 300,000 West Papuans have been killed at the hands of the Indonesian army. Last year Dorthays Hiyo Eluay the Papuan political leader was kidnapped and murdered by Indonesian Special Forces. Benny Wenda, the Secretary General of Koteka Tribal Assembly, an important representative of the people of West Papua has now been arrested and could be the next person to die at their hands if action is not taken to obtain his release. There is a call for international support, see www.westpapua.net.

...and finally...

We always thought that Devon was practically another country, but a suggestion by the Mayor of a small town in Devon looks set to send the South West back into another century. Mayor Richard Brown, who isn't too impressed with the "vandalism, littering rowdiness, boy racing, and a nasty tendency to foul mouthed abuse" from the town's youth, has suggested the use of pillory (stocks) to deal with this "nasty subspecies of human" (i.e. any one that's younger than him). And it may appear that legally he'll be allowed to do it, as the use of stocks has never been formally abolished. SchNEWS ain't too sure if the kids of Devon really deserve this punishment, but we can think of quite a few politicians who could do with getting splattered with a mouldy tomato or two.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all bug eyed snoopers that we won't be spooked. Honest.

CHOKER-COLA

As all SchNEWS readers will no doubt know the Coca-Cola Company "exists to benefit and refresh everyone it touches." Which will come as great news to the villagers in the Kerala State of India who, thanks to one of Coca-Cola's 'refreshing' factories, are suffering water contamination and shortages.

Coca Cola's bottling plant at Plachimada was set up three years ago in the middle of fertile agricultural land and has sucked the local aquifers dry. Worst hit are the indigenous and Dalit (oppressed castes) communities who live near the factory. They have seen their wells dry up while they wave goodbye to truck loads of soft drinks that are making their way from the factory to distant markets.

Barely six months after the factory set up, villagers and farmers living nearby began noticing changes in the quantity and quality of well water. Water from a well in Plachimada became unfit for drinking, cooking and bathing. Complaints and requests to the company and the Government repeatedly fell on deaf ears so on the 22nd April locals began an indefinite picket outside the factory gates demanding its closure. For 49 days the peaceful protests continued until police violently arrested 130 people including nine children and infants.

As Nityanand Jayaraman from CorpWatch India said "As the summer and the water crisis intensifies, the hardships of the local people have worsened. But Coca Cola has continued its production and groundwater extraction uninterrupted with police protection."

The water scarcity has now even hit Coke. Until recently, the company was drawing 1.5 million litres a day from the common groundwater resource – now it is only able to extract 800,000 litres. The remainder is brought in by

truck from borewells in neighbouring villages. According to local estimates, Coke's water mining has now parched the lands of more than 2,000 people living within 1.2 miles of the factory.

Dr. S. Janakarajan, an economist working on groundwater issues said, "The trouble with Coke [in Plachimada] cannot be seen in isolation. In this case, a community may have lost its access to water for drinking or agricultural purposes for the sake of supplying Coca Cola. The same has happened in other places where industries have privatised common groundwater resources or polluted them... In this race, those who have the resources are the winners; the poor are the losers." Or as one famous French woman might once have said 'Let them drink Coke.'

For more on this story www.corpwatchindia.org/action/PAA.jsp?articleid=1703

THE REAL THING

The United Steelworkers of America have filed a law suit against Coca Cola accusing the company of failing to ensure that workers at the plants were protected against persecution of trade unionists. "This case involves the systematic intimidation, kidnapping, detention and murder of trade unionists in Colombia, South America, at the hands of paramilitaries working as agents of corporations doing business in that country," the lawsuit said.

"With respect to their business operations in Colombia, the Defendants hired, contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that utilized extreme violence and murdered, tortured, unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders of the union representing workers at Defendants' facilities".

Colombia Solidarity Campaign 07950 923448 colombia_sc@hotmail.com

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For doing a handstand!

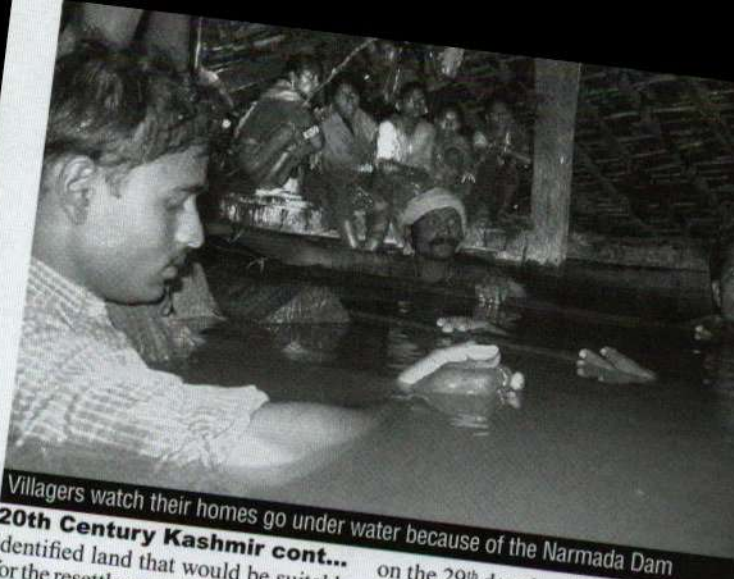
A protestor at the recent Reclaim the Streets in Dublin was arrested, according to his charge-sheet, because he "engaged in the act of a handstand in the middle of a junction so as to cause or was likely to cause the traffic through such a place to be obstructed". Phillip Thompson claims he is the victim of a miscarriage of justice because he was practising yoga.

NO MAR DAMS

Four villagers from the Narmada Valley in India who had been fasting for 29 days in a suburb of Bhopal, ended their protest on Wednesday. All four, who have been directly affected by the huge Narmada Dam Project, began their fast to demand the fair resettlement of the 6,000 people who are going to be displaced when the Maan reservoir fills up during the monsoon season. All four were willing to die unless their demands were met.

The Maan dam is one of the dams in the Narmada Dam Project, a massive irrigation scheme that will according to the development crazy Indian government 'provide large amounts of water and electricity which are desperately required for the purposes of development'. In reality the project is sucking money from truly long term sustainable water solutions in this drought prone region, and will leave the majority of the people waterless, as big agricultural projects suck up the lion's share.

As the Maan reservoir fills up during the monsoon season 17 villages will be submerged, displacing 6,000 people. The villagers had been promised that they would be resettled land-for-land by December last year, but in reality as has happened with other villages in the Narmada valley, there is no resettlement package. Those affected by the Maan Dam have already



Villagers watch their homes go under water because of the Narmada Dam

20th Century Kashmir cont...

identified land that would be suitable for the resettlement of the villages. The local government though had refused to consider the option, which they thought would set a precedent.

Instead of being resettled, the villages were forcibly evicted in May when police and bulldozers moved in and sealed hand pumps, demolished school buildings and clear felled trees. The hunger strike began on the 21st May as part of a wider protest against these evictions. Finally

on the 29th day the fast was called off after the Chairman of the Grievance Redressal Authority agreed to ensure that the rehabilitation of the Maan dam oustees would be completed no later than July 31st this year. Thousands of people face submergence over the coming monsoon, which will start next month and many have vowed to drown rather than leave their homes. Keep and eye out for solidarity actions happening around the globe. www.narmada.org

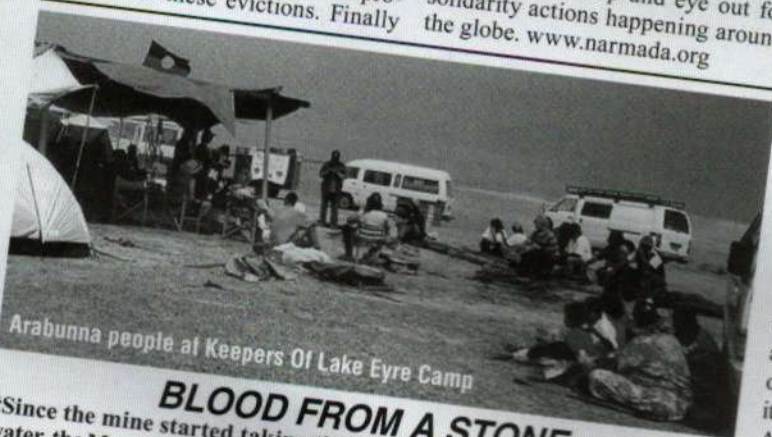
Inside SchNEWS

Great News! After 8 years of wrongful imprisonment anarchist prisoner, **Mark Barnsley** is due to be released next Monday (24). The Mark Barnsley campaign would like as many supporters as possible to be outside the prison to welcome Mark. Meet 9am, at HMP Whitemoor, Longhill Road, March Cambridgeshire. There is a slight chance he may be released earlier www.freemarkbarnsley.com for any updates. Transport is being organised from around the country, email: barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com for details.

On Tuesday **Satpal Ram** was freed after spending 15 years in jail. Satpal received a life sentence after he defended himself against a racist attack, his attacker later died. His release came after David Blunkett was forced by a European Court ruling to overturn a previous decision by former Home Secretary Jack Straw that kept Satpal in jail because of his refusal to admit his guilt. Satpal's release does not mean that his conviction has been quashed. There is still a massive legal battle to clear his name. www.appleonline.net/satpal/

* 1 year on from the EU summit in Gothenburg and 71 people have been prosecuted, mainly for rioting. The average length of the sentence has been 14 months. Many of the prisoners would appreciate letters, addresses are available from abc-stockholm@auton.om.zzn.com. The Gothenberg Solidarity Group desperately need donations. All money will go directly to help the prisoners. Money payable to 'Nisse-Latts minnesfond' at Solidaritetsgruppen, c/o Syndikalistiskt Forum, Box 7267, 402 35 Göteborg, Sweden Tel +46(0)733-16 42 96

* The Infamous and outrageously moustached French farmer Jose Bove was ordered to turn up outside a French jail on Wednesday to serve his 3 month prison sentence for his part in the 1999 demolition of a McDonalds. In true style he turned up on a tractor. His sentence has been postponed for two months as politicians feared his incarceration may effect the presidential elections. www.commondreams.org/headlines02/0617-07.htm



Arabunna people at Keepers Of Lake Eyre Camp

BLOOD FROM A STONE

"Since the mine started taking the water, the Mound Springs have gone right down and they don't function like they used to. Our traditional story is that if the water dries up, then so do the people." - Kevin Buzzacott, of the Arabunna people.

The Western Mining Corporation's Beverley Uranium mine in central Australia is sucking the life juice out of an area the size of Texas. Slurping a whopping 42 million litres of water a day from the Lake Eyre Basin, the mine affects hundreds of river systems, tributaries and creeks, and threatens the livelihoods of the aboriginal people in the vast desert area.

The uranium mine - the largest in the world - relies on underground water,

using a process called 'in-situ leaching' where millions of litres of sulphuric acid is pumped into the groundwater to dissolve the uranium, which is then pumped out. This leads to the permanent radioactive contamination of the underground water system. To top it all, once they've used the water they put it back into the ground, radioactive as hell.

A protest camp of local traditional people, and others has been held since the mine started in 1999, though it has been trashed several times by the mining company security.

Earthdream are throwing a solstice party this weekend (20-21st) on mine land next to Lake Eyre, in support of local Arabunna people. For details contact: www.active.org.au/sydney

GRIZZLY GOINGS ON

The G8 summit, the annual meeting of the seven major industrialised nations plus Russia, is taking place next week in Kananaskis, Canada. As usual they will be plotting and scheming on how to take more from the world's poor by promoting slave labour and environmental destruction (AKA 'globalisation' and 'development') and claiming that they're good for us by branding them 'sustainable'. Devised by the big three, the WTO, IMF and World Bank, this year's lucky theme is Africa – lucky because the unholy trinity will focus all of their manipulative money making scams on it.

After last years massive protests in Genoa (see SchNEWS 314/5) it was decided to move to the remote-

ness of the Rockies for the summit and put up a security fence stretching 6 ½ kilometres. There will also be hundreds of police and soldiers, with a top-level military commander commenting, "we are very serious ... we have lethal weapons and we will use force if we think there is a serious threat," warning that protesters and "limelight seekers" who intend to test summit security in Kananaskis will be risking their lives.

Potential terrorist threats – such as the native grizzly bears – are being used as an excuse to bring in these new hardcore security measures. Apparently the bears pose such a threat in the rockies that the cops will be kitted out in some very

fetching outfits (check out www.onf.ca/grizzly/suit.html and drool). Activists are still urged to go to Kananaskis, to disrupt as much as possible using roadblocks and "Ewok" tactics such as tree climbing. Masses of demos will also be going on around the country and thousands of people will head to the capital.

Unfortunately Canadian cops are known



J26 for the G8 - march on June 26th in Calgary followed by convoy to Kananaskis

to respond to anti-capitalist demos with the subtlety we'd expect, at the last one in Ottawa, protestors at the G20 summit, were zapped with stun guns, mauled by badly trained police dogs and threatened with rubber bullets as riot cops held loaded MP5 machine guns with their fingers on the triggers.

For more info on the various actions, different coloured blocs and tactics see www.takethecapital.net and <http://g8.activist.ca/event/>



It's a mad mad world: The G8 circus comes to Calgary

WOODSIDE

In 1997, 27 Gypsy families clubbed together to buy Woodside, a 17-acre touring caravan park with full planning permission. But when the Gypsies moved on to the park, Mid-Bedfordshire council claimed they did not have permission for permanent occupation and issued enforcement notices. In July last year the council set aside £230,000 to finance clearance of the community. On Monday (24), the council is going to the high court to be allowed to carry out its enforcement notices, forcing the community back on the road.

The Woodside caravan park is unlike any of the 325 council Gypsy sites in this country. It isn't surrounded by barbed wire fences designed to keep the inhabitants in. It hasn't even been built near a sewage works or any other industrial facility. It looks, in fact, more like a modern hamlet than a ghetto, except that the homes are on wheels rather than stone foundations.

At the centre of the community is a large green where children play in safety. Yet the council wants the site removed on the grounds that it is having an adverse impact on the environment. The Gypsies say the council is using an environmental smokescreen to hide their bigotry.

"They say we are out of character with the area, but how can we be when we've always been here?" says Woodside spokesman and National Traveller Action Group chairman Clifford Codona, who, like many Gypsies, once worked as a seasonal agricultural labourer. "They don't need us any more, so they want to expel us. They can't stand the fact that, for the first time ever, Gypsies have their own village green!"

Current government policy recommends that travellers should house themselves on their own land, yet Gypsy families who attempt to do so are often denied planning permission. While over 80% of planning applications from settled people are granted consent more than 90% of applications

from Gypsies are refused.

If you believe it's time to stop shoving British Gypsies from pillar to post, they need your help to turn away the bailiffs. Come the night before the expected eviction attempt from Monday onwards. Enjoy a midsummer night of Gypsy singsong around the fires - and be ready to protest when the council and private contractors come. There's plenty of room for tents and caravans. Woodside is in the village of Hatch near Sandy, Bedfordshire just minutes off the A1. For directions <http://www.streetmap.co.uk/>

If you can't get to the site send an email to andy.rayment@uk.uuimail.com head of Mid Beds Council urging him to reconsider his intention to evict the community of Gypsies at Woodside Caravan Park, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

For more information on how British Gypsy sites policy has made many homeless, read "No Room to Move" www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4427029,00.html



Campesinos in Tacna, Peru set up a road block on the main Panamericana highway

SWITCHEROO

It kicked off last week in Peru when the government decided to privatise two local power companies in the city of Arequipa – and the locals, looking at the privatisation disasters in neighbouring Bolivia and Argentina, weren't having it. What followed was a back-down from the sell-off – but only after five days of rioting which left two dead, hundreds injured and US\$100 million of damage. The country's so-called shoeshine boy-turned-president, the "man of the poor," Alejandro Toledo was elected last year promising not to flog the power plants – but that's politicians for you. Egasa and Egesur, the two electrical companies, were to be "auctioned off" to the one bidder – Belgian firm Tractebel – for roughly half what they were worth.

Things started on June 11th when the central province of Pasco downed tools for a 48 hour general strike, followed by 24-hour general strikes in four other provinces including Arequipa, and a large demo in Lima.

Marches in Arequipa on the 13th and 14th started peaceful, but were then teargassed and attacked by police, by which stage the crowd of 20,000 – featuring workers, campesinos and students alike – kicked off and government buildings were smashed. General strikes and mass demonstrations took hold in the cities of Tacna, Juliaca and Puno, attacking and looting privatised businesses and banks; meanwhile large solidarity marches took place in Cusco, Iquitos and other cities.

On the last night, when the sale of the plants was suspended, 10,000 gathered in Arequipa's Plaza de Armas, and the pro-privatisation Interior Minister resigned.



Resistance is rock solid in Arequipa

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SchNEWS in brief

Plans for everyone and their dog to spy on our every email/phonecall (see last years SchNEWS) have been shelved for the time being after massive protests. Still, as one our readers pointed out, we shouldn't forget about America's Echelon – the worlds greatest surveillance system, which captures and analyses virtually every phone call, fax, email and telex message sent anywhere in the world! <http://fly.hiwaay.net/~pspoole/echelon.html> ** On Working Links? Think it stinks? AWOL (Abolish Working Links) meeting for benefits claimants in Brighton and Hove this Thursday (27) at Queens Head Pub, Queens Road, Brighton 7.30pm. Info 540717 ** There's a meeting about the selling off of Brighton's council housing. It's at Leech Court, Albion Rd next Wednesday (26) 7pm 608704 for more details ** Go to www.huntingdonsucks.com/ecd/ and join in the online protest to shut down the website of evil vivisectioners Huntingdon Life Sciences. ** Activists managed to halt work on a new incinerator in Basingstoke by suspending themselves in cargo nets for 3 days. The action was one of 50 held throughout the world on Global Anti-Incineration Day www.greenpeace.org.uk

POSITIVE SchNEWS

Three hundred people, ten mar-quees, three days, countless work-shops, discussions, advice sessions and a chance to meet people from all over the UK who are changing their own and others' lives. No, it's not a Christian summer camp it's... the Groundswell self-help forum! From 16-18 July, Groundswell will be hosting the fourth national self-help forum in Sheffield, featuring loads of practical workshops to learn new skills. Groundswell are a group that promotes and supports a self-help network with people who are homeless, landless, or living in poverty. Groundswell 020 7737 5500 www.groundswell.org.uk/

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all Stonedhengers looking for a golden age goal when it comes to a world cup full of coke y'knows the score. Honest, ref!



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Friday 27th June 2002

Free/Donation

Issue 361/362

SUMMIT OUTTA NUFFIN

"It is dangerous to assume that the goals of the private sector are somehow synonymous with those of the United Nations, because most emphatically they are not. Business and industry are driven by the profit motive...The work of the United Nations, on the other hand, is driven by a set of ethical principles." - Carol Bellamy, Executive Director UNICEF.

Oil companies, chemical corporations and mining multinationals will be heading to Johannesburg, South Africa in the next few months - because they want to help save the planet with a new brand of greenwash.

The biggest United Nations Conference for a decade will take place from August 26th to September 4th when over 60,000 delegates are expected to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development - or Rio + 10 because it is 10 years since the first UN Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil. Ten years on and the planet is in more of a mess than ever.

Issues on the agenda include poverty eradication, unsustainable patterns of consumption, sustainable management of resources and how to make globalisation work for everyone, but it's the profit-hungry corporations who are muscling-in to make sure that instead of agreeing real solutions it will be 'carry on profiteering' for big business.

Major lobby groups like the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and their latest offspring, Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD) will be flying the corporate flag. BASD's main task is to make sure that busi-

ness interests are secured at the summit, so they've been busy finding examples of good business practice to use as proof of good 'corporate citizenship'. Just because there are some examples of companies doing some good, for the sake of PR doesn't mean they promote these values all the time. Still, who cares about all that - these good examples are being aggressively marketed to show these companies as 'good guys' and used to demand that there is no need for any legally binding agreements at the summit, because the environment is safe in their hands. It's all about partnerships, but as Erik Wesselius from Corporate Europe Observatory comments "The most vocal supporters of the partnership approach are generally corporations from some of the most environmental and socially dodgy industries - namely oil, gas, chemicals and mining." For them the so-called partnership approach is an ideal marketing opportunity for what is known in the business as greenwashing.

Green-wash is the term used for corporations who spend millions on adverts telling the world how green they are, while behind the scenes they do everything they can to oppose or avoid any social or environmental law that might harm their profits.

Former Shell boss Sir Mark Moody Stuart is now head of BASD and knows a thing or two about greenwashing. After being taken to the cleaners over the proposal to dump the Brent Spar oil rig in the sea and its oil exploration of Ogoni land in Nigeria, Shell have been busy re-branding themselves as a responsible company. Their 'People,

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For looking happy!

In Iran, on the anniversary death of Ruhallah Khomeini, the main man who turned the country into an Islamic state, police and military arrested anyone who "looked happy" or seemed to have "enjoyed" the date.

Planet, and Profits' report has been heralded as 'ground-breaking', with this new type of 'environmental and social reporting' all part of the greenwash process. As one of the business lobby groups admits, the reports give "increased credibility" while not requiring companies to fundamentally change anything.

Green Wash and Go

So in the lead up to Johannesburg we get BASD pushing partnerships like the Energy and Biodiversity Initiative, the Global Mining Initiative, and the Responsible Care program. But as Corporate Europe Observatory point out "These projects are largely an attempt to improve the corporate members' tarnished images. They are also a reaction to pressure by campaign and community groups or as a move to pre-empt binding regulation." For example, the Responsible Care program, long criticised as greenwash by campaign groups and academics, was established by the chemical industry after the Bhopal disaster where a Union Carbide plant leaked poisonous gas killing 4,000 people instantly and injuring tens of thousands more (see SchNEWS 238). The move effectively killed off efforts to toughen regulations.

We get sustainable mining reports funded by er... mining companies, among them notorious

Green Wash and Go cont...

companies such as Rio Tinto and Freeport McMoran.

We get the European Union pushing the World Trade Organisation's so called 'Doha Development Agenda' (SchNEWS 332) agreed back in November last year, with claims that it will benefit the world's poorest countries and so contribute to 'sustainable development'. Forget the fact that corporate globalisation has increased poverty and environmental degradation around the world.

We get the UN, working with some of the world's most notorious human rights and environment abusers.

We get warnings from BASD that anyone who dares calls for tougher regulations on corporations must be part of the lunatic fringe.

And we get thousands of delegates being wined and dined and put up in posh Sheraton hotels, nextdoor to the black shanty towns of Alexandra and Soweto.

In fact we're sick of it. - As Corporate Europe Observatory tell

us "The world's leaders need to start listening to the demands by civil society groups and ordinary people, that business can not be allowed to continue as usual. Unless a dramatic U-turn in policy and approach is made soon, Johannesburg risks becoming little more than a propaganda circus." Or as Jens from ASEED puts it "The World Summit promises to be a shambles but will no doubt be promoted as a success...the immense amount of money and time could have been spent on something a lot more useful."

*For more of the above see www.corporateeurope.org/observer11/rio

* Recommended reading: Codes in Context by Corner House 01258 473795 <http://cornerhouse.icaap.org>

* A SEED have called for a Global Day of Action on August 31st against big business muscling in on sustainable development. www.aseed.net. To find out more about their campaign against the privatisation of the UN email

uncorp@aseed.antenna.nl

* The Greenwash Academy are looking for nominations. www.earthsummit.biz

* The South African government has warned groups not to protest and spoil the Earth Summit, but demonstrations will happen whether they like it or not. Keep an eye on <http://southafrica.indymedia.org>

* The recently published Global Environment Outlook predicts the destruction of 70% of the natural world, mass extinction of species and the collapse of human society in many countries in the next 30 years unless radical action is taken. Written by over a thousand scientists and compiled for the UN, partly as a wake up call to world leaders in the run up to the Johannesburg summit, the report also paints 'four environmental scenarios'. One includes the current pattern of free trade and short term profit at the expense of the environment, which they say will lead to disaster. www.un-ep.org. Copies available from Earthscan 0207 278 0433 www.earthscan.co.uk

SchNEWS in brief

Can't afford a ticket or unimpressed with Glastonbury going to the Mean Fiddler Dogs? Check out a multi-rig gathering for the right to party... Call 07092310245, 07813620336 or 07811906642 after 11pm on Saturday night Expected to be on a piece of land not far from the Pilton Farm site. And the Druids of Kaos present a Midsummer Nights Moot, phone 07870 489123 www.systemprojectmayhem.cjb.net. However, after the 10,000 strong free festival on Steart beach during Jubilee weekend the Chief Superintendent of Somerset got so much shit that he's apparently on a personal mission to nick rigs. www.network23.org. Has Glastonbury sold out? See www.corporatewatch.org/news/glastonbury.htm. Why the Mean Fiddler are such tossers www.urban75.com/Rave/raverant ** Don't know what to do after Solstice? Free party soundsystems are promising a huge party somewhere in the South West this weekend. Call 07980401646/07815627676/

07816984913 from Friday morning or www.guilfin.net/ ** The London Social Centres Network have set up two new email lists. To subscribe to the discussion group send an email to londonscn-forum-subscribe@lists.riseup.net. For the events listings and newsletter group e-mail: londonscn-events-subscribe@lists.riseup.net ** To Coincide with the EU Summit in Sevilla over 1000 people Occupied a Dutch Motorway in Utrecht for seven hours. The protest was in response to the Dutch governments plans to expand the motorway network www.groenfront.nl/english ** Ned Ludd's News the independent radical newsletter in Nottingham has been resurrected and is available from the Sumac Centre (245 Gladstone Street) info: nottingham_freedom@hotmail.com. ** Globalisation and the Media is a new video from undercurrents exploring the role of the media in the corporate led take over of the planets natural resources. It's £10 - details from www.cultureshop.org

BOOKED

Two independent bookshops, Housmans and Bookmarks, in London are currently in the middle of fighting a libel case, which if they lose will ruin 'em. The case is one of a number filed against them by someone criticised in a 1993 edition of the anti-facit magazine, Searchlight. At the time both bookshops stocked Searchlight and under a warped British law it is possible for the person who thinks they've been libelled to sue a shop, distributor or library handling the alleged libellous publication, as well as or instead of suing the author, editor and publisher. Both bookshops feel it is important for them to make a stand on behalf of other independent bookshops, which are few and far between these days. But this will mean massive legal bills. A legal fund has been set up and contributions are desperately needed. Send money to the "Bookshop Libel Fund" c/o Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX. Phone 020-7278 4474 blf@housmans.idps.co.uk

Howzat For A Work Of Art

Forget the faddish fluff of the Turner Prize nominees - this was art event of the year. On the 3rd July Paul Kelleher took performance art in an exciting new direction when he knocked the head off a statue of Margaret Thatcher.

Five days after conducting a "reccy", Paul entered London's Guildhall where the statue was being displayed armed with a cricket bat. When that didn't work a metal bar across the nose did.

After performing the act - which will take its place in art history somewhere between Duchamp's urinal and Winston's mohawk - he chose not to make a run for it and waited quietly by the statue to be arrested. When police arrived, he told them, "I think it looks better like that."

Defending himself in court, Kelleher insisted he had a "lawful excuse" for his actions since he believed 'his young son was in "immediate need of protection" from "this stupid world" and the political system represented by Lady Thatcher.

Later, in February 2003 he was sentenced to three months imprisonment at Southwark Crown Court for decapitating the £150,000 statue (see also SchNEWS 394). The judge said, "I don't doubt the sincerity of your beliefs. Many people share them, particularly in relation to what is happening in Third World countries ... and I would be the last person to deny any person the right to freedom of speech and the right to protest against matters which support his beliefs." But he concluded... "The way you acted to knock the head off a valuable statue of a politician who left power over 10 years ago and whose party is no longer the party of government, was very much the wrong way." (That's right - Blair and Neo Labour are the current enemy.)

Kelleher reiterated to the judge, "I am becoming increasingly worried as to what sort of world I have brought my son into."

She was always off her head



The prosecution had described the attack as an "ill-conceived publicity stunt" carried out by a man who was "not an avid fan of the former prime minister".

The court heard that on the day of the attack Mr Kelleher arranged a babysitter for his son and purchased a Slazenger V600 cricket bat. Once in the gallery he waited for his "window of opportunity". When the cricket bat "pinged off" the statue, Kelleher picked up a metal crowd barrier and successfully beheaded the statue.

Note: We tried but failed to get a contact address for Paul while he was in prison - as we always post SchNEWS free to prisoners. If Paul could contact us we will gladly send him a copy of this book.

Daily Refugee

Another EU Summit - this time in the Spanish city of Seville. There were massive protests against a 'Europe of Capital', and a Spanish general strike against welfare cuts.

Tony Blair's plan to use "financial and economic clout" against countries that did not co-operate on migrants was rejected but plans for a Fortress Europe march ahead. Because it's OK for governments to go on about the free movement of goods - but not the free movement of people. OK to sell arms to countries, helping to fuel conflicts, displace people and create refugees, but not OK for those refugees to try and come over here. OK for industrialised nations to pump greenhouses gases into the atmosphere, but not OK for environmental refugees whose land has been devastated by climate change to try and find somewhere else to live.

Seven of the top ten countries of asylum seekers arriving in the European Union over the past decade have been from war-torn regions, according to the data from the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. And in any case, if you look at the numbers of asylum seekers coming to Europe, you'll see that this is nothing if you compare them with developing countries that receive hundreds of thousands, or in the cases of Iran and Pakistan, millions of refugees. If people had a bright, rosy future in their homelands, would they need to seek asylum elsewhere?

*** A Palestinian held without charge for six months in Belmarsh high security prison** under all the UK's new Terrorism Act is too seriously mentally ill to remain there a judge has ruled. Mr Rideh came to Britain in 1995 as an asylum seeker and was being treated for severe post-traumatic stress

disorder following torture at the hands of Israelis when he was a teenager living in Gaza. His detention in Belmarsh caused flashbacks: the rattling of keys and the sight of guard uniforms brought back memories of torture. His illness was not taken seriously by prison staff and he had been described as a "malingerer".

*** Who said this?** "The way stateless Jews from Germany are pouring in from every port of this country is becoming an outrage." In these words, Mr Herbert Metcalf, the Old Street magistrate, yesterday referred to the number of aliens entering the country through the 'back door' a problem to which the Daily Mail has repeatedly pointed. Why it was the Daily Mail in 1938. Now go and read the bile from them now about refugees and see how much has changed.

*** There will be a No Borders action camp in Strasbourg 19-28 July** www.noborder.org

IT'S YER SCHNEWS PARTY AND PROTEST GUIDE

The film NOT THIS TIME - THE STORY OF THE SIMON JONES MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN chronicles the death of Simon Jones on his first day as a casual worker - and the fightback, involving direct action against government agencies and departments, that forced a prosecution of those responsible for Simon's death.

The 20 date film tour has its first British date at the **Glas-tonbury Festival** Left field stage on Saturday night on the same bill as Billy Bragg and Mark Thomas. Dates in July: **London (3)** National Probation Service, 71-73 Great Peter Street (nearest tube St James Park) 1.30 pm **Banbury (3)** St John's Catholic Club, under St John's Church, South Bar 7.30pm, **Battersea (8)** Lara Community Centre, St Paul's Church, 92c St John's Hill (nearest rail Clapham Junction) 7.30pm, **East London (9)** London action resource centre, 62 Fieldgate Street (nearest tube Aldgate East) 8pm, **Bristol (10)** Easton Community Centre, Kuburn Street, Easton 7.30pm **London (16)** RMT Union, Somerstown Coffee House, 60 Chalton Street (nearest tube Mornington Crescent) 5pm, **Sheffield (17)** The Red Dear, Titt Street 7pm, **South London (18)** Union Tavern, Camberwell new Road (nearest tube Oval, nearest rail Vauxhall) 7pm, **Reading (19)** Global cafe-bar, RISC, London Street 7pm, **Brighton (21)** Sussex Arts Club, Ship Street 7.30pm, **Stokesly (22)** Stokesley Community Centre, Station Road 7pm, **Worthing (23)** Upstairs at The Downview (opposite West Worthing railway station) 7.45pm, **Leicester (23)** City Rooms, Hotel Street 6.30pm, **Manchester (24)** Hare & Hounds, Shude Hill 8.30pm, **Leeds (25)** Roger Stevens lecture theatre 15, Leeds University 7pm, **Hull (26)** Kingston Social Club, Beverley Road 7.30pm, **Leicester (11 Aug)** Phoenix Theatre, Upper Brown Street 5pm.

The 25 minutes film is available for five pounds including postage from the Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2,600, Brighton BN2 0EF. More information: www.simonjones.org.uk 01273-685913.

JULY

Unitl 10 July Peace camp Cape Wrath, Durness, North West Scotland where warships from the US, UK, France, Sweden and Denmark will be taking part in live firing at the Cape Wrath ranges. The US Navy have been stopped from using the ranges in Puerto Rico after protests following the killing of several locals and the discovery that they were using depleted uranium "by accident". 0141-4231222 www.banthebomb.org **4 The annual 'Independence From America' demonstration**, Main Entrance of NSAMenwith Hill, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire 12-4pm. 01943-466405 www.caab.org.uk **5-7 Winchester Hat Fair FREE** "The Hat Fair is Britain's longest running festival of street theatre, with oddball characters, breathtaking performance, unbelievable stunts, specialist circus, crazy clowning and new world music." 01962-849841 www.hatfair.co.uk **7 Big Chill Enchanted Garden**, Larmer Tree Gardens, Wiltshire. Sold Out 020-7503-7504 www.bigchill.net **5-7 Bracknell Festival - Out There**, Southhill Park. Seems to have shaken off its folk festie with Lamb, David Byrne and Stereo MC's among the acts. 01344-484123: www.outtherefestival.co.uk **6 London Mardi Gras**, Hackney Marshes, London. £17. www.londonmardigras.com **6 Thurrock Mus-**

sic Festival, Orsett Showground, nr Orsett, Essex. A back-to-roots event for unsigned bands and DJs. 40+ live bands, two dance stages. Tickets £5 in advance (more on door). www.tmfonline.co.uk **6-7 Diaspora free festival**, Regent's Park, London. noon-9pm 020-7456-0404 www.culturalcooperation.org **6-7 Ocean FM Balloon and Flower Festival**, Southampton Common. Free. www.southampton.gov.uk **7 Ambient Green Picnic**, Shalford Park, Guildford, Surrey. www.ambientpicnic.co.uk **7 Peace Messenger Fair**, Hove Lawns. 01273 671213 peacemessengeruk@yahoo.com **7 Carnival against GM crops** Assemble 12.30pm outside the Black Boy Pub, Weeley, Essex. March and parade past GM crop farm to village fete against GM crops with Kids bouncy castle, music, car boot sale, tea and cakes, open forum on GM, organic produce, morris dancing, beer and much much more! 07931-638938 www.nogm.cjb.net **7 Israel-Palestine day long event** bringing together individuals from the region and from diaspora community (include music and poetry) Institute of Contemporary Arts The Mall, London 10am-7pm **7-8 Protest at the Manchester Military Tattoo at the M.E.N. Arena**. The event glorifies war, and in its literature, shows glossy photos of our troops in Afghanistan. Meet Friday 7th 6.30pm at the Post Office by Victoria Station. Contact 0161-273-8283 for details of possible pickets on the Saturday shows. **8-14 National Vegetarian Week** 0161-925-2000 www.vegsoc.org

10-14 Earth First! Summer Gathering, West Country.

An opportunity for anyone interested in non-hierarchical environmental direct action to get together and spend Five days in the countryside learning new skills and discussing campaigns. With a range of practical workshops and theoretical discussions on everything from 'how to do an office occupation', facilitate meetings and run a newsletter to self defence, land collectives and community organising. Discussions on past, present and future UK campaigns, the implications of the global economy and building international resistance. www.eco-action.org/gathering

11 Nought for Conduct film night. Matewan - true story of a West Virginia mining town that formed an unlikely union between striking hillbilly miners and black and Italian scabs in the 1920s. 7.30pm, Marchmont St Community Centre, Marchmont St, London. £2/£1. 07946-214590 noughtforconduct@hotmail.com **12-14 Anarchist Youth Network first national conference/gathering**. Meet mid-day outside Holborn Tube Station. Free accommodation for those coming from outside of London. 07814-629780 www.anarchistyouth.net **12-14 Positive News Readers Weekend**, Herefordshire. 0845-458 4758 **12-14 Willow Festival FREE** The "region's largest rock and pop extravaganza set within the beautiful surroundings of the Embankment of the River Nene in Peterborough and is the culmination of the Peterborough Festival." 120 bands on six stages over three days - just avoid the Queens Jubilee bullshit. Volunteers needed. Limited camping 01733-346529 www.willowfestival.co.uk **12-19 5th No one is Illegal-Camp** in Jena/Thuringia/Germany, on the 19th July a convoy will start from Jena to Strasbourg. www.nadir.org/nadir/kampagnen/camp02/aufruf1e.htm **13 Food for Life Festival**, Camden Centre, Judd St., London. 11am-7pm. 01273-777688 www.factoryfarming.org.uk **13 Hornsey**

www.schnews.org.uk

Visit our website for a comprehensive and regularly updated party and protest guide throughout the year. Plus Critical Mass bike rides, protest camps, free party hotlines, DIY Guides, what's happening in your area, prisoner support...

History Bike Ride 2pm Great Northern Railway Tavern, Hornsey High St, London 13- **14 Compost Toilet Design & Building Workshop**, Dial House North Essex (home of CRASS). grahamburnett@blueyonder.co.uk 01702-303259 **13-14 Diaspora free festival**, Greenwich Park, London. noon-9pm. 020-7456-0404 www.culturalco-operation.org **13-14 T in the Park**, Balado, by Kinross. £37.50 per day, or £74 for the weekend with camping. www.tinthepark.com **13-14 Leicester Belgrave Mela**, Abbey Park. Asian arts and culture. Free www.leicester-mela.co.uk **14 Finfest 2002**, Finsbury Park Community Festival 1-7 pm. World stage, youth entertainment; a photography contest; sports contest; a space for acoustic music and poetry; a children's village; market stalls; and a grand finale of a carnival procession. **16 INJUSTICE** - feature length documentary about struggles for justice by the families of people who have died in police custody in the UK - will have a special public screening at which the Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith QC, will be present to take part in a Q&A session after the film. 6.30pm at Prince Charles Cinema, 7 Leicester Place, London. 020-7494-3654 www.injusticefilm.co.uk **16-4 August Crisis** - an exhibition offering critical perspectives on the political upheavals of globalisation and the struggle against war, violence and injustice. Vaults at The Foundry 84-86 Great Eastern Street, Shoreditch, London. 020-7515-6291 **16-18 Tools for Change**. The 4th Groundswell self help forum. Bringing together homeless people, activists and housing professionals. At the Poderosa, Sheffield. 020-7737-5500 www.groundswell.org.uk **17-21 Buddhafield Gathering**, Devon. Advance booking only 020-8671-7144 www.buddhafield.com **18-21 Larmer Tree Festival**, Larmer Tree Gardens, Wiltshire. Family folk festival in 11 acres of garden, surrounded by eastern temples, peacocks and Nepalese pagodas. Weekend adult tickets with camping £68. www.larmer-tree.demon.co.uk **19-20 Wickerman Festival**. Main stage, campsite, dance and cult music tents, children's area, trade stalls, alternative area, bars, a talent stage and food stalls. And Yes, they will burn a wickerman on both Friday and Saturday night. www.thewickermanfestival.co.uk **19-21 Guildford Festival**, Stoke Park, Guildford. A main stage, comedy and dance tents, Aladdin's Cave - full of classic musical gems, comprehensive children's area and over 100 craft stalls. The Guilfin Ambient Lounge offers a 24-hour mellow performance zone, a daily open stage slot encourages participation from budding young and unknown musicians. £30 per day or £90 for the weekend, including camping. 01483 536270 www.guildford-live.co.uk **19-21 Video Activist Training Weekend**, Oxford. A few places left for a video activism residential course in Oxford - and its free. 01865-203661 hamish_campbell@hotmail.com **19-21 Festival at the Edge**, Stoke Barns, Much Wenlock, Shropshire. Storytelling festival. Weekend ticket including camping £35. www.festivalattheedge.org **20 Respect Festival**, Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets, London. Free anti-racist festie. 020-7983-4000 www.london.gov.uk/respect **20 Rally against GM crops in Cheshire**. 0161

232 0860 **20-27 Blitz Festival** "A radical political arts festival will be held in Manchester UK, timed to coincide with the opening celebrations of the Commonwealth Games. The 20th will be a big opening party with Undercurrents, BeyondTV and others showing films and bands playing right through the day. The end celebrations on the 27th will be more spontaneous and bizarre. www.nato.uk.net No Sweat - the anti sweatshop campaign - will also be doing actions before, during and after the games. 0161-861-7160 manchester@nosweat.org **20-21 Truck Festival**, Hill Farm, Near Abingdon, Stevenon, Oxfordshire. 07979 646 815 "There is no cut throat capitalism here, no huge entry fees, and huge advertising boards. It's a nice day out in the country side with a few bevises and a plethora of bands." www.truckrecords.com **20-21 Ashton Court Festival**, Bristol - finest free event in the West Country www.ashton.court.festival.com **20-21 Organic & Real Food Festival**, Powderham Castle, Kenton, nr. Exeter. 01934-813407 www.naturalhealthshows.co.uk **20-21 Home Herbal Training**. Skills and Inspirations for a greener future. 01503 250135 ediblewolfpeaches@btinternet.com **21 A year to the day that protester Carlo Giuliani was shot dead by Italian riot police**, Jonathan Neale will talk about his new book describing the dramatic events at the Genoa G8 summit. The Foundry 84-86 Great Eastern Street, Shoreditch, London, 7pm 020 7515 6291 **24 No to GM Crop commercialisation**. 12 noon Victoria Tower Gardens, next to Houses of Parliament Bring your own picnic 2pm DEFRA, Smiths Square, Westminster. 01273-628441 or 020-7272-1586. **24-28 The Big Green Gathering** 01932 229911 www.big-green-gathering.com **25 5-a-Side No Sweat Challenge Fund-raiser** at Fulham's Craven Cottage Minimum £50 to enter, 32 teams and you will each play at least 3 games, more if yer any good. 07904-431959 for an application pack www.nosweat.org.uk **26-28 WOMAD Rivermead**, Reading. Ticket bookings 0118-939-0930 www.womad.org **26-28 VooV-Experience**, northern Germany. Open Air Trance Festival. 35 Euro's www.voo-v-experience.de **27 Godskitchen**, Long Marston Airfield, nr Stoke-Upon-Trent, Dance Festival 4pm-7am £45 www.godskitchen.com **27 Skate Attack and Critical Mass!** "Skateboarding in Manchester city centre is banned, cycling in Manchester is dangerous and not particularly pleasant! On Saturday the skaters and cyclists are invited to take part in simultaneous reclaiming of space and celebration of cycling and skating." Meet 1pm in St Peters Square by the Central Library, anyone with wheels, without an engine is welcome to join in. 07763740453 **27 War Tax Resistance** public conference. Friends Meeting House, 120 Heath St, Hampstead, London 10.30 am-3.30pm 0870-7773223 lobby@conscienceonline.org.uk **27-4 Aug Woodcraft Folk camp**, Lurgashall in Sussex. "We're an educational movement for children and young people, designed to develop self-confidence and activity in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, peace, social justice and co-operation." 020-8672-6031 www.woodcraft.org.uk/venturecamp **31-4 August Goddess Conference**, Glastonbury (where else) Celebrating "with ceremonies, adorations and praise songs, talks, workshops, beautiful womanspirit exhibitions, music, stalls, fun and dance." 01458-833933 goddessconference@ukonline.co.uk **31-8 Aug Szeiget 2002, Hungary** £7 per day Bands inc: Pulp, Muse, The Cure, Mambo Kurt, Trans-global Underground, Stereo MC's, Herbalizer "Wipes the floor with a lot of the moneymaking mainstream festies in the UK." www.diaksziget.com

YEW FOOLS

Campaigners against the Stour-bridge, Wolverhampton and Southern Dudley Bypasses are mourning the death of a 2,000+ year old yew tree which was on the proposed route. The tree was on top of Wychbury Hill, site of an Iron-Age Hill Fort, on the site are another 28 yew trees up to 2,000 years old. The bypasses run virtually exclusively through the region's green belt and link with the Birmingham Northern Relief Road and the M5/M42 to form a massive Super-Highway around Black Country and Birmingham. Once again the authorities are building a road that is environmentally damaging and won't solve traffic problems. The Anti-Bypass Campaign meet every Thursday at 8pm in The Crispin, Church Street, Stour-bridge. Or Phone 0789 0973458. www.tararabeat.worldonline.co.uk www.antibypasscampaign.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

* Get a copy of all the lovely new proposed road schemes by emailing andrew@transport2000.org.uk

ANIMAL FACTORY

After a year of undercover filming across the country, a coalition of animal rights groups are marching to demand an end to factory farms. The march coincides with the release of the shocking film which shows the horrific conditions endured by billions of animals all over the world. As well as the usual offenders the film rips the lid off the RSPCA's "Freedom Farms" and the bogus quality assurance stamps that supermarket suppliers slap onto every corpse that comes their way.

Viva's national march and rally against factory farming will be held on Saturday July 13th, noon at Kennington Park, London WC1. Info: 01273 777688 www.viva.org.uk

* Badger killing is expected to start soon on Exmoor National Park and North Wiltshire. Find out how you can help stop it: 07779 442395 www.badger-killers.co.uk

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

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

ES\$OLES

Oil giant Esso, the world's richest corporation and premier league polluters, are suing Greenpeace about the French StopES\$o campaigners using their logo. The StopES\$o campaign is a world-wide alliance united against Esso's dirty fuels, tricks, money and lies. Esso has a history of throwing money around to buy researchers to deny the existence of global warming. They also bought themselves a president by donating more cash to the Republicans than anyone else.

The company says the replacement of the middle two letters of Esso with dollar signs makes it resemble the Gothic-scripted symbol of the SS and this is confusing to the public.

Stephen Tindale, Greenpeace UK director, explains: 'We simply replaced two letters in Esso's logo with the internationally recognised symbol for the US dollar. We find it ironic that the richest corporation in the world can't recognise the dollar sign and confuses it with a Nazi symbol.'

Esso (or ExxonMobil in America) pressured Bush into backing out of the Kyoto agreement on global warming and were caught out this April when secret memos to the White House were leaked. One asked Bush Jr to get rid of top UN climate scientist Dr Watson and replace him with someone "less biased". Under Watson the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had concluded that "most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities" and predicted that average global temperatures will rise between 3°C and 10°C by the end of the century.

Bush did just as his oily friends told him and led the charge to get Watson out. He has now been thrown out of his job and is not even allowed a position on the panel. Bush's top climate negotiator now refuses to take stock of climate change until 2012.

Inside SchNEWS

Malachie Nichols has been sentenced to nine months imprisonment for trying to stop a fascist paper sale in Leeds. Please send letters of support to: Malachie Nichols, JN4126, HMP Wealstun, Weatherby, W Yorkshire, LS23 7AJ.



...and finally...

SchNEWS has found a web site concerning genetically modified (GM) crops but this one won't tell you where the frankenstein 'food' is being grown - quite the opposite. This site was set up by a PR company who go by the name of the Centre for Food and Agricultural Research (CFFAR), a shadowy organisation who are funded by, amongst others, our old muckers Monsanto, the bio tech multinational. With their liberal usage of terms like "terrorism" "violence" and "acts of terror" the real purpose of this site is to associate anti-GM activists with something like Al-Qaida.

In one ridiculous statement CFFAR likens people who pull up dodgy crops to rapists. While talking about newsletters like Genetix Update and how they write about actions on GM food, CFFAR says it's like them saying "I do not approve of rape but I'm going to give you some tips on how to find your victim and pin her to the ground. Then you can tell me about it and I'll tell the world". How sick is that? Surely pulling up GM crops is better than being on the pull. Anyway SchNEWS always thought that multinational corporations like Monsanto were the real earth rapists and just what are they pulling? The tossers. Check it out. www.cffar.org/vandalwatch

Psychedelic Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all greensies not to get browned off and feel blue when the future looks black and nothing's going white. If you're seeing red about the grey monotone around you, don't be yellow - be purple with rage. It's crystal-clear. Honest.

CARRY ON Bombing



ER TONY IT'S THAT MYSTERIOUS AMERICAN CALLING AGAIN

GET ME THE PRIME MINISTER



YEERRS

REMEMBER WHAT WE AGREED MY FRIEND - WE WILL COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT

AS LONG AS OUR TROOPS ONLY HAVE TO BRING IT UP THE REAR.

YOUR NEXT JOB IS TO MAKE EVERYONE THINK THAT SADDAM HAS GOT A BIG WEAPON UP HIS SLEEVE

I THOUGHT IT ALL GOT SHOT OFF LAST TIME

Prime Minister Thhonny Blair

MEANWHILE IN THE WHITE HOUSE...

GREAT NEWS CONDALEEZZA - WE'RE GONNA INVADE AND OCCUPY IRAQ FINALLY

AREN'T YOU COMING PREMATURELY TO THIS DECISION MR PRESIDENT?

COMING PRE-MATURELY? I'D CALL IT THE LONGEST COITUS INTERRUPTUS IN HISTORY - TWELVE YEARS.

THE ONLY CONDITION IS THAT WE SEND IN ANOTHER WEAPONS INSPECTOR... AND I'VE GOT JUST THE MAN



Regardless of what the United Nations did, a deranged meglomaniac (more about him later) and his rascally associates in their underground lair had already decided to invade Iraq to gain control of its oil. Now nothing could prevent the unswerving march towards war - neither the distinct lack of evidence of Iraqi weapons nor the moral fibre of the chief weapons inspector...

ARE YOU GOING TO DO A FULL INSPECTION MR BLIX?

WELL THEY DON'T CALL ME HANS FOR NOTHING YOU KNOW



TONY - WE NEED YOU TO PUBLISH A DOSSIER SHOWING THAT SADDAM'S GOT THE WEAPONS. BUT THE CATCH IS YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE ALL OF IT UP... AND... 'SEX IT UP' A LITTLE WILL YOU

TELEPHONE

To write the dossier Downing Street brought in the expert research of 16 year old Tammy from Croydon and borrowed heavily from the contents of one of her human biology projects...



Blair's Dossier

Weapons of Mass Destruction In Iraq



...and ended up with something which was suitably sexed up - but didn't contain anything in particular about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction

Meanwhile Tony paced about his office, taking calls from Dubya and his mysterious henchman, bossing his minions around, organising press releases with his spin doctors and rubber stamping extra funding for the department of defence. Occasionally he would look outside his window to see how many hundred thousand were protesting against his policies.

I NEED ANOTHER STIFF ONE



TORQUAY SUMMIT

On the brink of war, the leaders of the two countries leading the euphemistically titled 'coalition' met at Torquay for a war summit, hosted by Manuel Aznar, the leader of Torquay. The main thing the three leaders had in common was that the populations in their countries had turned out in record numbers to oppose their war.

I'LL BE LUCKY TO COME OUT OF THIS WITH MY JOB. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ME IS AT 41%

HIN HMY HCOUNTRY HWE HAVE THE HBIGGEST PROTESTS HIN THE HWORLD
HHI HAM HVERY PROUD

YOU'RE LUCKY - WE'RE DOWN TO 35%

DON'T YOU THINK THIS WAR ON TERRORISM HAS SENT US ALL BACK 40 YEARS?



Every opportunity for a contrived display of public unity was seize upon...



TONY - THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP DOESN'T GO AS FAR AS HOLDING HANDS

While the mysterious phone calls continued...

DON'T GO SOFT ON US NOW, TONY. FORGET THE FRENCH - THEY'RE JUST SORE LOSERS. TELL JACK HE'S DOING FINE - THE LISP MAKES HIM SOUND SINCERE AND GENUINE.



Tony Blair and Jack Straw put the full neo - labour spin machine behind the war

YOU LYING SLIMEBALL TONY - HOW ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THIS UP?

SCOUT'S HONOUR THAT SADDAM HAS THE WEAPONS AND WE ARE RIGHT TO SUPPORT A GENOCIDAL ATTACK

YOU KNOW HOW LARGE MY MAJORITY IS DON'T YOU...



I LONG FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS... OF THE COLD WAR WHEN YOU KNEW WHO THE ENEMY WERE, WHEN OIL SUPPLIES WERE MORE CERTAIN, AND IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BE A SEXIST CREEP AND GET AWAY WITH IT

GO AND BE USEFUL AZNAR AND MAKE ME A CUP OF TEA

HANYTHING TO HELP THE HWAR START HMISTER BLAIR. I HLEARN HABOUT HIRAQ. I HREAD HIT HIN HA BOOK.

YOU LOOK SMASHING IN A UNIFORM GEORGE - SHAME YOU NEVER SHOWED UP FOR DUTY WHEN YOU WERE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS YOU WEREN'T BORN AN OVERPRIVILEGED BRAT LIKE ME COLIN. AND ANYWAY - I ALWAYS END UP GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY WHEN I DRESS UP LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF THE TROOPS.

As the American war machine built up on the perimeters of the Middle East, the British committed as many troops as it could to the invasion - but kept a few back to cover for the firefighters who were on strike.

NOW GENTLEMEN - WE ARE STANDING IN FOR STRIKING FIREMEN SO WE WILL BE MANNING THE GREEN GODDESSES. THE CATCH IS THAT THEY'RE OLDER THAN MOST OF YOU ARE.

The mysterious man known only as Dr Evil continued calling, but the deals Blair was making with him were really beginning to stretch Tony's thin morals to the limit...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT PUBLIC OPINION TONY - I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH RUPERT FOR YOU

Then one day he got fed up with the pressure coming from both sides and rang up Dubya wanting answers...

LOOK DUBYA YOU PROMISED I'D COME OUT LOOKING LIKE A CHURCHILL OR A THATCHER IF I DID YOUR BIDDING IN THE U.N. AND GOT COUNTRIES TO AGREE TO WAR. NOW YOU'RE SAYING THAT AFTER THE INVASION ALL THE CONTRACTS TO REBUILD IRAQ WILL GO TO AMERICANS.

YEP THAT'S RIGHT - DIDN'T I MENTION THAT? BUT THANKS VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE - COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU

EVERY DAY I GET TOLD WHAT TO DO OVER THE PHONE BY A MYSTERIOUS MAN WITH A HUSKY VOICE. AND THAT'S JUST MY SHRINK... BY THE WAY WHO IS DR EVIL?

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU MET THIS DR EVIL. I'LL ARRANGE A MEETING ON THE FRONT LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE FOR YOU...



So Tony and Jack flew over to Washington to pay a visit to the White House. At the designated time they crept around the lawns looking for signs of Dr Evil...

TONY, TONY, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

YERRS. IT LOOKS SOME SORT OF ORIFICE. I WONDER IF WE CAN GO DOWN INTO IT...



OOH HEAVEN FORBID WE'RE NOT HERE TO MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

MR BLAIR I SWEAR I CAN HEAR COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC THROUGH THIS WALL

"STAND BY YOUR MAN" - ONE OF MY FAVOURITES. THEY MUST KNOW I'M COMING

LOOK THERE'S A MAN COMING OUT POINTING HIS GUN. PERHAPS HE IS ONE OF DR EVIL'S HENCHMEN AND THE HOLE LEADS TO A SECRET UNDERGROUND LAIR. HOW EXCITING!

NOW LET'S SEE - THAT LAST TRAIN WAS THE NINE O'CLOCK FROM...



The intrepid Carry On Bombing team descend into the manhole and - predictably - are immediately in the corridors of an underground complex....



OOH I WONDER WHERE THIS TUNNEL LEADS TO... MAYBE WE'LL FIND SOME WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



JACK - WE AREN'T IN SADDAM'S PALACES YET
- THIS IS THE HIDE-OUT OF THE AMERICANS. IN FACT IF YOU SEE ANY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
- WHICH YOU MAY WELL DO
- LOOK THE OTHER WAY!

Eventually they are greeted by one of Dr Evil's assistants...

WELCOME MR BLAIR - DR EVIL HAS BEEN EXPECTING YOU - NOW GO DOWN THE CORRIDOR AND IT'S FIRST DOOR ON THE LEFT AFTER THE COLLECTION OF BODIES RECOVERED FROM ALIEN SPACECRAFT...

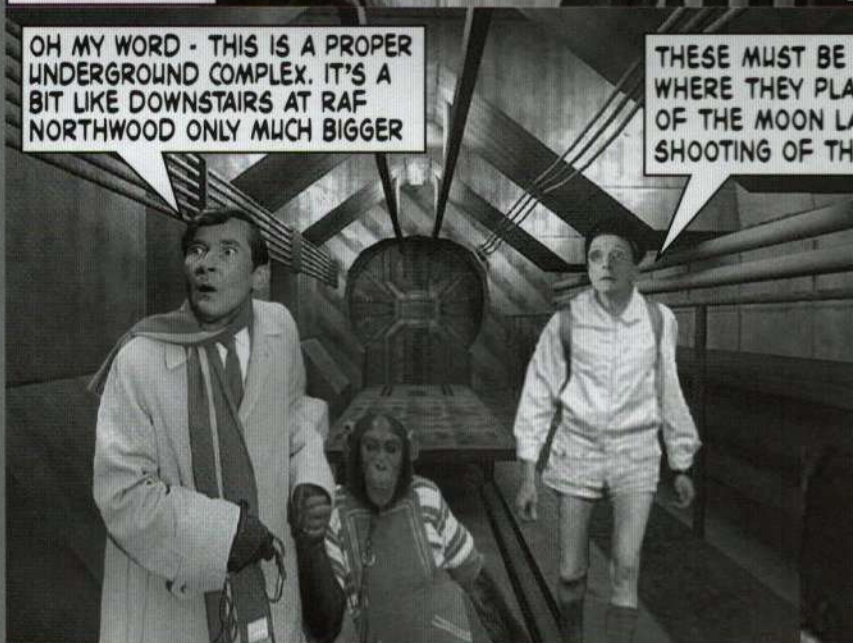


OOOH IS THAT YOU MONICA? - YOU'VE GROWN INTO SUCH A BIG GIRL. WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND BILL?

THE ORGANISATION NEEDED A SMOKE-SCREEN WHEN WE PLANNED THE BOMBING OF IRAQ IN 1998. AND THAT INVOLVED ME GOING DOWN ON THE PRESIDENT. BILL WAS A MAN WITH HIS WEAKNESSES.

OH MY WORD - THIS IS A PROPER UNDERGROUND COMPLEX. IT'S A BIT LIKE DOWNSTAIRS AT RAF NORTHWOOD ONLY MUCH BIGGER

THESE MUST BE THE VERY ROOMS WHERE THEY PLANNED THE FAKING OF THE MOON LANDING, THE SHOOTING OF THE KENNEDYS AND...



...AND THE SHOOTING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING: YUP. THE PLANE CRASHES ON SEPTEMBER 11 - PLUS ALL THE COUPS AND REGIME INSTALLATIONS. PROXY WARS AND COUNTLESS ASSASSINATIONS - ALL PLANNED RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM. BY MYSELF OR MY ESTEEMED PREDECESSORS. WELCOME BOYS - I AM THE CURRENT... DR EVIL



DR EVIL... IT'S
REALLY YOU.

I PREFER TO BE CALLED
DR EVILSFELD - AND
THIS HERE IS MY LITTLE
CLONE, DONALD W.
WELCOME TO MY LAIR.
YOU KNOW YOU GUYS
HAVE DONE BRILLIANTLY.
I COULDN'T HAVE
COMPLETED MY WARPED
PLANS FOR WORLD
DOMINATION WITHOUT
YOU. BUT FIRST - COME
AND MEET THE CHILDREN...

WE ARE CLONING OUR NEXT ADMINISTRATION.
ONE DAY THESE KIDS WILL RULE THE PLANET...
GEORGIE, DICKY, PERLY, WOLFY AND CONDY

*Usually when the meglomaniac reveals his mad plan,
the hero does something about it. Not this time...*

HELLO - AND
WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO BE
WHEN YOU
GROW UP THEN?

SIR I WANT TO
BE A GENOCIDAL
MEGLOMANIAC SIR
PERFECTLY
CHARMING BOY

THEY'RE ALL
VERY EXCITED
ABOUT THE
UP-COMING
INVASION OF
IRAQ YOU KNOW

TWO MONTHS LATER, after
the invasion of Iraq, the two
leaders met to discuss the
next stage of the war...


LOOK TONY - THANKS A LOT
TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE
HERE ARE SOME TREASURES
FROM THE IRAQI NATIONAL
MUSEUM FOR YOUR
MANTLEPIECE. AND WE CAN'T
OFFER YOUR COUNTRY ANY
OF THE CONTRACTS FOR THE
REBUILDING OF IRAQ BUT
WHAT WE CAN OFFER - AS A
PERSONAL REWARD FOR YOU
- IS A PROMISE THAT YOUR
PLACE IN HISTORY WILL BE
ASSURED - FOREVER.

OOOH GEORGE - I DON'T
ACTUALLY CARE WHAT
HAPPENS TO IRAQ NOW. I
JUST WANT TO GO DOWN
IN HISTORY AS A GREAT
PRIME MINISTER WHO
LED BRITAIN TO VICTORY
AGAINST A COUNTRY
WHICH HAD WEAPONS
OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
AND I WANT THIS STORY
TO BE REPEATED ON
TELEVISION EVERY
BOXING DAY FROM
NOW UNTIL ETERNITY.

THERE'S ALWAYS A GAP
AT 3AM BETWEEN 'DR
NO' AND 'ON THE BUSES'

ENTITLEMENT CARD

BLAIR, TONY
DOB: 6 May/Mai 1954
Nationality: GLOBAL CITIZEN
CRIMINAL RECORD:
 * War Crimes in Kosovo 1999
 * War Crimes in Afghanistan 2001
 * Fucked up transport, education, housing & health in UK 1997.
 * Knowingly sold arms to terrorists 1997.
 * and the rest...



IDENTITY CRISIS

"Since Labour came to power they have introduced draconian surveillance laws on email, the recent anti-terrorism legislation, new proposals to extend data-sharing between government departments and the "Snooper's Charter", abandoned two weeks ago. A worrying trend is emerging" - Karen Bartlett, Charter 88.

ID cards are back on the agenda - or as the government would like us to call them 'Entitlement Cards', which must mean the government and police are entitled to find out everything about you whenever they like.

On your funky new card will be your fingerprints, digital photo, name, address and an ID number. To make sure people are who they claim to be, the cards will probably incorporate a chip containing the "biometric" - a fingerprint, retina or hand scan of the holder. The card and the finger are placed into a reader, and the person is "validated".

The government argue that it won't be compulsory to carry a card but as it would be required for just about everything then not carrying it will be a major hassle.

Neo-Labour says the cards are needed in the fight against crime, terrorism, illegal immigration and dog fouling. Privacy International on the other hand reckon they will actually make some of these things worse. For the past 12 years the Big Brother busting watchdog has studied the world-wide implications of ID cards and concluded that they have no effect on the reduction of crime or fraud, and instead introduce additional problems of discrimination, criminal false identity and administrative chaos!

Their survey also found claims of abuse in virtually every country with the question of who is targeted for ID

checks left largely to the discretion of the police. And what happens if your card is lost or stolen? In nearly all countries with ID cards this causes immense problems with services and benefits being denied. So with all these problems and costs estimated to be up to £3 billion why the hell does the government want to carry on with this IDiocy?

Well Privacy International believes that the proposal has little to do with the government's stated objectives of reducing crime but part of a broader objective outlined in the Cabinet Office report "Privacy & Data Sharing". As Mark Littlewood from Liberty points out "Any form of ID card scheme would require a national database storing vast amounts of sensitive information on every one of us. You would have to be supremely uncynical or incredibly naïve to believe that the database will only be deployed in catching the guilty."

* For more on why ID cards are such a great idea see www.privacyinternational.org

* A report by the NACRO has found that CCTV only has a limited effect in cutting crime, and that other measures such as better street lighting, could be up to four times more effective. A Home Office evaluation of 24 CCTV schemes across the country showed that in four cases crime rates had risen significantly and in seven there was no effect at all. Yet this didn't stop Lord Falconer, the Home Office minister contradicting his own department's evidence and say "What the research indicates is that in every area there is a statistical reduction in crime." Now SchNEWS isn't surprised to hear politicians spin out lies, but we think that saying a success rate of marginally more than 50% is a total success really takes the piss.

* 11th September is International Day Against Video Surveillance. www.notbored.org

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For returning a library book late. 12-year-old Marisa Gohr must appear in an American court next Tuesday after failing to return one of the books she borrowed for a research project on dolphins. Her mum went to the original trial and told the court the book had now been taken back and a \$9 fine paid. But that wasn't good enough for the Judge who wants to see Marisa because its her who's named on the court summons.

INTERNAL STRUGGLE

"Internment is clearly intended to deter political activity and dissent by foreigners in the UK. It intimidates the prisoners, their families, associates and indeed, entire communities - who are left wondering who will be next." - Campaign Against Criminalising Communities.

Seven people have been interned (that's a sanitised way of saying banged up in prison without charge, something that isn't supposed to happen in democracies) in the UK thanks to the Anti-Terrorism Crime & Security Act 2001. We are not allowed to know who they are, they are not allowed to know what they are accused of - and have not been charged with any crime. The government does not have to offer any reasons to the prisoners or the public.

All of the prisoners are being held in maximum-security prisons with severe restrictions on space, sunlight, and visitors, described by lawyer Gareth Peirce as "concrete coffins". For those who have already been subjected to torture and imprisonment in their own countries, it will feel like a home from home.

Identity Crisis cont...

From the 17th to the 20th of July the Home Office will present secret evidence to keep the unnamed seven locked up without charge and still without giving them a chance to defend themselves in court. Anonymous, voiceless and unaware of what crime they are supposed to have committed, they could be sentenced in their absence to years in prison.

This treatment can be inflicted only on foreign nationals who are in danger in their own countries and so cannot be deported. It ignores not only the centuries old right to Habeas Corpus*, but also the Human Rights Act 2000 and international law like the European Convention on Human Rights. The government justifies this racist and illegal behaviour by claiming the UK is currently under a state of emergency, about to be blown up any second by terrorists.

Similar abuses were perpetrated in the past against black and Irish people in Britain, with similar justifications, and we have since learned that surprise, surprise many of those interned

were innocent. In Northern Ireland in August 1971, in an attempt to crush the IRA, the Army raided homes and abducted hundreds of Catholics, who were interned without trial. All were subjected to brutal treatment and 'ringleaders' were singled out, isolated and systematically tortured. In all 924 people were interned and the vast majority released without charge (see SchNEWS 331).

The same treatment is being directed at Muslims in Britain and the USA today. In America 325 Muslims have been interned since Sept 11th and only one has been charged with terrorism.

The Campaign Against Criminalising Communities have called for a protest on Wednesday, 17th at 9am at the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, 15-25 Field House, Breems Building, off Chancery Lane (nearest tube: Chancery Lane) 020-7586-5892 www.cacc.org.uk

* SchNEWS Vocab Watch: Habeas Corpus – the right to Habeas Corpus is the right not be imprisoned without appearing before a court.

SchNEWS in brief

Help! SchNEWS is always on the hunt for some people to help with the mail out on a Friday, but we're desperate for some volunteers over the next couple of weeks. Wanna DTP a copy? Give us a call for details ** **La Vielle Vallette** a French squatted eco-village is facing eviction at the end of month, and they desperately need help. There's plenty of space and even empty houses. The village is in the South of France near Nîmes-Ales. Tel: 00 334 66 25 32 62 <http://collectif.valette.free.fr>

** **The Future of Freedom** – have your say about the anarchist mag Saturday 6th 3pm at Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High St, London. 020-7247-9249 ** **The Bristolian**, Bristol's excellent weekly free paper is celebrating it's 50th issue. They're now trying to increase their circulation to an amazing 20,000. Check 'em out, send an SAE to Box 3, Green Leaf bookshop, 82 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5BB. www.bristolian.org.uk ** A Dutch Judge has ordered **Netherlands Indymedia** to remove links on their site to German magazine 'Radikal' which contains articles suggesting ways protesters might stop the transport of nuclear waste in Germany. They face a fine if they do not comply www.statewatch.org/news/2002/may/03dutch.htm ** **Cultureshop**

the online independent video store are looking for new political, social, independent videos to distribute on their site. If you have any contact them: ben@videonetwork.org ** Demonstration this Sat (6th) 1:30pm outside **Lewes Prison** in protest at restrictions on visiting times. Transport from St Peter's Church in Brighton at 12:30pm. ** A new 4-lane bypass is being built between Bilston and Penicuik, in Scotland, 8 miles south of Edinburgh This will involve the destruction of woods in Bilston and will also destroy sites of local historical interest. Construction has already begun, but it's not too late to show opposition: 07753 808709 spikesay.swoof@ihateclowns.com ** Gaelic language campaigners have been painting road signs in the Highlands with snappy slogans such as 'Ceartas dhan Ghàidhlig' (Justice for Gaelic) to protest at the authorities refusal to recognise the language. According to the powers that be Gaelic language signs are 'dangerous' to road-safety! http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lomairtean_Gaidhlig/ ** Just 2 hours before a High Court Judge in London was due to decide whether to allow a dangerous cargo of nuclear waste to be shipped back to the UK from Japan, the ships in defiance set sail anyway.

PIQUETEROS PICKED OFF

Last Thursday Dario Santillan and Maximiliano Costeki from the piqueteros (unemployed workers' movements) of Argentina became the latest casualties in the country's economic meltdown (SchNEWS 350) after taking part in a roadblock to demand food and jobs.

Two cops have been arrested and 100 more suspended, but while the government have blamed the police, it is the government who have been busy telling the piqueteros that their road blocking tactics will no longer be tolerated. This resulted in two people dead, 60 injured, four of them severely, and more than 150 arrested.

Dario was a 21 year old, who worked every day in a factory making bricks for a new community hall. He lived on land taken a few months ago, on a vacant farm.

On Wednesday 50,000 people gathered at the Plaza de Mayo in heavy rain to denounce the murders and state repression with banners such as 'Maxi, Dario, always present, your comrades won't forget you'. <http://argentina.indymedia.org/features/english/>

The two ships are now travelling half the way around the world with enough plutonium to make 50 nuclear bombs. www.greenpeace.org.uk ** **Survivors of the Bhopal disaster** in India, where poisonous gas from Union Carbide's pesticide factory has so far killed more than 20,000, and at least 150,000 continue to suffer serious health effects, (See SchNEWS 238), last week set up a permanent picket in New Delhi calling for the fair distribution of the compensation funds that Union Carbide have been ordered to pay. Find out more at Bhopal Express a film exploring the story of the disaster is showing 14th July, Duke of York's cinema, Preston Circus, Brighton, 2pm. ** Last week activists helped free 34 asylum seekers from the infamous Australian Concentration Camp, the Woomera detention centre, using a car to drag down fences. Next Wednesday (10th) there's a solidarity picket/fast outside Australia House in London. 5-9pm no food or drink apart from water. info@chilout.org.uk ** **God Save the Guillotine** 7 inchers out now by LSDS on Scrap Records www.dirtysquatters.com

PARTY ANIMALS?



Smeatharpe

Despite the best efforts of the cops backed up with roadblocks and the trusty old Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994), free parties just won't go away. Usually low key attracting a few hundred with no one taking much notice, over the past few months some have become festival size. The problem of trying to put on anything (ask the Welsh Green Gathering lot, SchNEWS 354) you've got to jump through a million licensing hoops, or like Glastonbury forced to work with corporate cock suckers like Mean Fiddler.

Take Stonehenge where for the past few summers people have tried to sort out a festival afterwards – last year the MOD pulled out at the last minute, this year there were rumours that farmers who were up for renting their land were warned off by the cops. So instead of free festivals being at least a bit planned, and stuff like provision of toilets and wood for fires, it becomes a game of cat and mouse with the cops, with the result that parties end up on sites that aren't always suited.

One local complained to SchNEWS about the festival in Steart over the Jubilee weekend "Over ten thousand of you arrived at a nature reserve and birdlife sanctuary - at the height of the wading birds nesting season. For three days, you terrorised the local inhabitants, and destroyed the nests and the fledglings." Guilfin responded "The site wasn't the one chosen, confusion, abounded, a few rigs took the previously used beach, then everybody else followed. It's not on to use somewhere like that, but if you're not aware of it's sensitivity, and the police are chasing down convoys, then it's not surprising someone made a snap decision to take the site. What we need is places to party safely and responsibly. Dancing shouldn't be an outlaw activity."

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So beyond the roadblocks the parties continue. Here's one report from someone outside The Great Wall of Glasto plc: "Several thousand people in a field, dancing to underground music from sound systems to live bands, taking whatever drugs they want as

the party continues 24 hours a day, and making new connections outside capitalism's reign of terror. Sound idyllic? This was the scene at Smeatharpe, a former airbase some twenty miles from Glastonbury last weekend. Worlds apart? Well actually maybe not.

Smeatharpe should be the ideal spot for a free party. It's in the middle of nowhere. The neighbouring farmer had no problem with the party as long as people showed him the basic respect of not using the fences for firewood (it's lambing season at the moment) or trashing his crops. Not so tricky really, but that, unfortunately, is what happened, as well as kids burning a car left behind 10 years ago and sending a smoke signal of filth over the surrounding countryside.

Free parties and festivals are great cos they rely on the people there to sort out everything themselves – there's no gap between organisers who sort out infrastructure and the punters. Everyone's on the same vibe - in theory. No one will look after your land for you, toilets and bins won't be provided. So it's best to take a shovel (or even a trowel if you're hitching), clear your rubbish and take it with you, and if there are people who don't know the score, let them benefit from your experience. Free events are a great opportunity for our culture to make the connections between free space and the environment we live in. Let's create the world we want to live in – all of us, together."

* Saturday 13th July Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Stonehenge, George Hotel, Amesbury 10am. 0117 9542273 www.greenleaf.demon.co.uk

* For more information about the Steart festival see www.squall.co.uk/squall.cfm?sq=2002061403&ct=9

* For free party hotlines, reports and pictures www.guilfin.net

Inside SchNEWS

5 anti-fascist activists have all been sentenced to 9 months in prison for affray. They were arrested when they tried to stop fascists from selling papers in Bristol. Letters of support appreciated to Michael Davison JN4124, Callum Currie JN4121, John Whinfrau JN4123, Malachi Nicholls JN4126 via the Prisoner Support Group, Bradford Art and Resource Centre, 17-21 Chapel St, Bradford, BD1 5DT. Please write your name and address on the envelope otherwise they won't be accepted at the prisons.

Positive SchNEWS

The newly elected President of Costa Rica, Dr. Abel Pacheco de la Espriella, has decided that he likes his country the way it is - with pristine coastlines, fragile coral reef systems and lush rainforests. He's banned all offshore oil explorations and large scale mining and vowed to ensure its "absolute protection" from the greedy claws of the oil and mining companies who are clambering to destroy it. Pacheco is continuing a Costa Rican tradition of making unconventional decisions as Costa Ricans take pride in being the only Central American nation without an army, and one of the most peaceful countries in the region. You can bet he will have to fight every inch as pressure is already mounting on him from the oil guzzling US. You can write and urge him to hold firm at casapres.go.cr or visit www.elaw.org/campaigns/info.asp?id=495

...and finally...

Anarchist librarians in America are fighting to ensure that the US doesn't become a nation of illiterates. Under the new USA Patriot Act, the FBI has been given rights to snoop on people's reading habits, under the pretence of fighting terrorism. SchNEWS can't help but wonder though whether the Act is just a ploy to bring everyone down to the same level of ignorance as George W.

Librarians around the USA are vowing to do all they can to make sure that people's reading habitats are kept secret. In the meantime they'd advise everybody to return that flying for beginners book as soon as possible. www.infoshop.org/library2/stories.php?topic=2

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers beware of unidentified flying entitlements.

QUICK -
CHANGE
CHANNELS-
THE FOOTY'S
STARTED



LAST SUPPER

"That there are, today, still 815 million hungry people in the world is truly a crime. That the proposals we made nearly six years ago are now even further from being achieved is [even more] shameful." - Sr. D. Felipe Pérez Roque, Cuban Foreign Minister.

In 1996 world leaders met at the World Food Summit to talk about how they might be able to reduce world hunger, a time when there were 800 million starving people. They made commitments to halve world hunger by 2015. Last month, nearly 6 years later, the follow on summit took place in Rome.

This year's summit was never going to get off to a good start, with the number of starving people in the world pretty much the same as at the time of the last Summit, and a massive famine looming in southern Africa. But rather than take the bull by the horns and do something for the poor, the leaders of the world's richest countries decided to stay at home and count their weapons. Only two managed to attend, and one of them Silvio Berlusconi - the Summit's host, even managed to wrap it up early so he could watch the footie.

This is in sharp contrast to the NATO- Russia Summit, also in Rome, five and a half weeks earlier, where 20 world leaders met and agreed effectively to sustain the \$800 billion a year global arms industry without a mention of the needs of the poor. In fact as Patrick Mulvany from Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) points out "Apart from Berlusconi and José Maria Aznar, the Spanish Premier,

the only common link between the two Summits was the military operation of 16,000 police, carabinieri and soldiers put in place to contain the politicians and exclude the people. Many people from Civil Society were unable to enter the exclusion zone of half a kilometre around the building, which kept away the 30,000 person 'March for Food Sovereignty: land and dignity'. [The Food Summit] became a military zone. And this emphasised the sense of oppression in the summit."

In the absence of world leaders the summit was gobbled up by corporations, who made sure they didn't leave it empty handed. The final declaration was extremely bad news for the poor with a US imposed acceptance of genetically modified (GM) crops as a solution to world hunger, and an abandonment of any reference to the precautionary principle when it comes to GM food. The declaration also deleted any reference to a legally binding code of conduct on the right to food (the right to produce and consume food), and watered down the call to ratify the International Seed Treaty (ITPGFRA - see SchNEWS 329), which should stop the patenting of crops, to something that countries "should consider".

So if you're starving from now on it seems that it's going to be the same but worse, with little hope for anything but GM food landing on your plate in the future. Food aid spiked with GM maize will now be dumped on the ravaged countries of southern Africa by Uncle Sam. This will cleverly pollute all the crops in the region, making any sustainable GM-free op-

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK For stealing 3 pence worth of paper!

Three people were last week beginning a year each in jail after taking part in an action as part of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign.

They were targeting one of Huntingdon's customers - Roche, who apparently weren't even aware anything had gone missing until it appeared on the Internet. The paper contained internal phone numbers and data on employees, the website has now been closed down.

Compare these sentences to Roche's proscribed acne drug Roaccutane. The International Roaccutane Action Group says the drug can cause depression and suicide. 15 people in Britain who were given it on prescription have committed suicide with 10 others attempting to take their life. Of course these side effects were not detected by animal testing, nobody from Roche has been prosecuted and Roaccutane is still being dished out in the UK! (Support the prisoners - see overleaf)

tion a dead duck - so much for the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg in August/September.

Meal Ticket

Six Hundred people took part in the Civil Society Forum for Food Sovereignty, also in Rome, at the same time as the official Food Summit. This Forum was attended by many that were excluded from the main Summit: farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, environmentalists, women's organizations, trade unions, and NGOs. They came up with their own 'Action Agenda' that totally rejected the declaration made at the formal summit. Instead they called for a radical change in ap-

proach to address the real cause of hunger – international trade rules. Their agenda calls for the removal of food and agriculture from the control of the World Trade Organisation, an end to dumping of cheap food in poor countries, the total rejection of GMOs and patents on life, and investment in more sustainable locally controlled small-scale agriculture (sustainable agriculture).

Part of their press release read: "The 1996 Plan of Action has not failed because of a lack of political will and resources, but rather it has failed because it supports policies that lead to hunger, policies that support economic liberalisation for the South and cultural homogeneity, which are backed by military force if the first wave of prescriptive actions fail. Only fundamentally different policies, which are based on the dignity and livelihoods of communities can end hunger. We affirm our belief that this is possible and urgently needed."

The fact that anybody is hungry in the world today is a scandal: there is no scarcity of food overall. In fact we've never grown so much food; and food has rarely been so cheap. But as trade liberalisation has increased there's been increasing levels of hunger amongst growing mounds of plenty, now spiked with GMOs. The bottom line has become that if you want to eat then you've got to pay, and that goes just as much for those in Europe and the USA as

in poorer countries. Unless the situation changes by 2015 it's predicted 122 million people will have died needlessly of hunger.

As Patrick Mulvany, from ITDG says "It is our Global Shame that nearly a quarter of the population goes to bed hungry in a world that has never before produced so much food. The sad reflection on the formal summit is that governments will do little to eradicate hunger and corporations will continue to be allowed to extend their control over who gets to eat. And there is little profit in providing for the poor."

* Check out the Forum for Food Sovereignty Action Agenda: www.forumfoodsovereignty.org

* For analysis of the summit and information on sustainable agriculture check out www.ukabc.org/wfs5+.htm or www.itdg.org

* For the low down on aid and food dumping check out www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/Poverty/FoodDumping.asp

* An Andean root crop has become the latest victim of biopiracy by a US corporation. Extracts of the Maca, a crop that has been grown

for centuries by indigenous people in the Puna highlands in Peru, have been patented for their viagra like (sexual potency) and natural fertility properties. Indigenous people's and farmers organisations are vowing to ignore the patent, and last month held a protest outside the offices of the Ecological Forum in Lima denouncing the biopiracy. Full story at www.etcgroup.org

* The 18 sites that will be used for the last 3 years of farm scale GM trials have just been announced. Check them out at www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites.

IRAQI SUV JUICE!
NOW ON SALE
CHEAP!

President Bush & Vice President Cheney are proud to offer land yacht-driving Americans a wonderful new brand of discount petroleum, freshly pumped from beneath the ashes of that bombed-out, Godless, formerly sovereign armpit called Iraq.



BLITZED

Blitz promises to be "a kick-ass anti-corporate extravaganza" to coincide with the Commonwealth Games being held in Manchester later this month.

Organised by NATO – that's Northern Arts Tactical Offensive, the festival covers a week of shows, actions and events kicking off on Sat 20th July with an open air music event, and the opening of two exhibitions. One is AgiTATE being held in a spanking new shopping mall who failed in their bid to ban it once they realised what was happening! Throughout the week there will be film and multimedia events organised by Beyond TV. The week will end with a skate attack and critical mass plus political street theatre on Saturday 27th. NATO has also produced a spoof guide to the city to guide tourists to their events.

During that week there will also be a GM trashing nearby, Manchester People's open seminar for the Anti Commonwealth Games Coalition and lots of anti sweatshop actions. For a full programme see www.nato.uk.net

Direct action magazine Loom-breaker reports "the Commonwealth Games are being used to launch a new Corporate Manchester - a posh apartment playground for coke-sniffing yuppies, The cost of the games are astronomical - the stadium alone accounts for a cool £120 million - but you won't hear too much about £80m of public money the council has committed to paying... So if you're wondering why there are cutbacks in schools and housing, or where your local swimming pools and other public amenities have all gone when your council rents and tax are rising, there's not much need to look any further really."

Inside SchNEWS

The 3p three (See Crap Arrest)

Sarah Gisborne HR4337 & Kate Simpson GN8957, HMP High Point, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 9YG

Madeline Buckler HR4338, YO Bullwood Hall, High Road, Hockley, Essex, SS5 4TE

GHOSTBUSTERS

Gabriel Nkwelle, a human rights activist and asylum seeker will be starting his appeal against his deportation on Monday 29th July at Bromley Magistrates Court. He is urging people to turn up and show some support. Gabriel arrived in Britain in May 2000 to claim asylum after exposing massive electoral fraud in his native Cameroon, but was promptly thrown in jail. Since then he has been 'ghosted' (moved) from prison to prison and detention centre to detention centre a total of ten times. While inside he was a tireless campaigner for other asylum seekers, a lot of whom couldn't speak very good English, and was a thorn in the side of the establishment, before being released late last year. So get down to Bromley at 10am on 29th July in the Immigration Appellate Authority Section, First Floor, 1 London Road, Bromley, Kent and make some noise.

*For the past 16 days the inmates at Woomera detention/concentration camp in the outback of Australia have been on hunger strike in protest at the appalling conditions they have to endure. In solidarity people have been fasting all over the world – Mexico, India, the U.S. and Israel outside their Australian embassies. On Wednesday in London around 100 people turned up for a rally in support of the detainees.

STOP PRESS –The hunger strike has now been called off because the authorities at Woomera stopped all medical treatment for the inmates and because of this all the solidarity fasts have now finished. For more info check out <http://autonomous.org/refugee/> or www.ran.dhs.org

BARON BOOKBURNER

A man who targeted a radical bookshop because it didn't like the material they stocked walked away from the High Court last week with just £14 in damages – but the case leaves two of London's last remaining radical bookshops facing potentially crippling legal bills.

The case was brought nearly 2 years ago against Housmans Bookshop by Alexander Baron, a right-wing anti-gay litigant who had been referred to as a plagiarist in one sentence in a 136-page pamphlet stocked in the shop. Baron decided not to sue the author or publisher, but the shop, at one point asking them to pay him £50,000 to drop the case.

This case is the first time the defence of "innocent dissemination" has been used, where it was argued that it is impossible for bookshops, particularly small independents, to check - and take responsibility - for the content of the thousands of publications in stock at any one time. As Albert Beale from Housmans said "We feel it is important to try to take a stand, otherwise there might be no end to this sort of legal intimidation."

This action against Housmans was one of a series, dating back to 1996, brought against them, Bookmarks (also in London) and others, by people criticised in Searchlight magazine. The next case is due in court this autumn and the bookshops need donations for legal costs. Send cheques (payable to the "Bookshop Libel Fund"), 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DX, 020 7278 4474 On-line donations at www.apoogee.com/Housmans



SchNEWS in brief

Albion Community Arts Trust have a two day festival fundraiser for a Norwich Free festival. Norwich Playhouse 19-20th July. 01603-717074 www.albionarts.org ** **Benefit for Walthamstow Anarchist Group** featuring Thatcher's Children plus others. 19th upstairs, Chestnut Tree, 757 Lea Bridge Rd, London E17. £3 info@walthamstownanarchy.org.uk ** If you've ever worked with **Veggies** catering campaign (even if it was just once) they want to speak to you for a book. Write to PO Box 2284, London, W1 5HU Or ronny.garlic@blueyonder.co.uk ** **Want some SchNEWS stickers?** Send the office an SAE to help spread the word. ** **Reclaim the Beach 9** - more urban free-party-in-posh-looking-venue-nonsense, Saturday 13th 8pm, Royal Festival Hall Beach south bank www.swarming.org.uk ** **No War But Class War** political discussion Saturday 13th 2-5pm Rutland Arms, Brown St, Sheffield (nr. Sheffield Railway Station) SheffieldNWBCW@aol.com ** **Interested in development of alternative education?** Meeting at the Brighthelm Centre, North Rd.,

Brighton 23rd July 7pm ** Campaign Against Arms Trade protest against **Farnborough Air Show**, 22nd-28th July. "Whilst the public days are championed as fun days out for all the family, the reality is very different. Farnborough is an arms fair and a very important date in the defence industry calendar." 020 7281 0297 www.caat.org.uk ** Brighton's **Radio4A** is back on the airwaves this weekend on 107.8 FM and www.piratetv.net ** **A protest camp has been set up near Edinburgh** to stop a bypass destroying an SSSI. Help urgently needed. 07753808709 ** **Woodside Traveller Site latest:** The Romany travellers at Woodside caravan park in Bedfordshire (see SchNEWS 360) have been given their eviction date, its 1st November, they want people to come down to resist. Tents, campfires, cups of tea and music will be provided. More info: Clifford Codona 01206 523528 (mornings only) ** **Protest against Working Links** exploitation of unemployed people. Meet 10am Wednesday 17th Pavillion Gardens Cafe, New Road, Brighton.

Positive SchNEWS

Vegan-organic gardening is organic gardening, which avoids the use of any animal products, such as manure and animal remains, which many people use to fertilise the soil. The advantage of this type of gardening is that there's no animal exploitation at all, instead you can enjoy piling your vegetable beds high with home made vegetable compost.

If you're interested in learning vegan-organic skills the Vegan Organic Network have a training weekend, 20-21st July in Bolton. Only £15 for a day, £25 for the whole weekend. Contact Jenny Hall, 20 Hawthorn Ave, Orrell, Wigan, WN5 8NQ. Phone 07855 392037 email jennymosscentre@hotmail.com www.veganorganic.net

...and finally...

"This is the first-ever in-depth research into the health risks of anorak wearing," Professor Philip Murray announced at a press conference at Birmingham City Hospital, "and the results are remarkable. Campaigns to reduce road traffic accidents have hitherto paid little attention to the subject, but our findings prove what many people have long suspected. Put simply, the wearing of anoraks can be dangerous, and injurious to health.

"Our researchers measured the binocular visual field of healthy volunteers while they were wearing four different styles of anorak. Most wearers habitually pull the hood over their head, and our ophthalmologists discovered that, with the hood up, the field of vision is more than halved. The biggest danger comes when an anorak wearer tries to cross the road, because their vision is severely impaired, and they simply cannot see as well as other people. Our results prove beyond doubt that people need to be far more careful in their choice of headgear. And quite apart from that, they look ridiculous." (*Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 2002.)

Shamelessly stolen from Private Eye.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all greedy pigs we'll huff and puff on puff till yer Tower of Babylon falls down. Honest.

PIPING HOT NEWS

A consortium of oil companies led by BP has big plans to build a 1,777km long oil pipeline from Baku in Azerbaijan, to Ceyhan, Turkey via Georgia, so that Caspian Sea oil can be exported to the US. BP, the world's third largest oil company, are begging the World Bank and other national export credit departments to provide them with credit for this environmentally disastrous scheme.

Campaigners against the pipeline are pressing these institutions to refuse credit, cos' apart from the obvious pollution the oil will cause when burned, they believe the pipeline may well exacerbate tension in a region recovering from conflict, and will provide no benefit to local people. The pipeline passes through several Kurdish regions in Turkey, according to Kerim Yildiz of the Kurdish Human Rights Project

"This pipeline would militarise a corridor running from the Caspian to the Mediterranean. This could threaten the fragile cease fire in the Kurdish region through which the pipeline will pass." For more information see www.bankwatch.org

* **Rising Tide weekend summer school on climate change** 26-28th July. Booking a space essential: 01865 554331 george@risingtide.org.uk

* **Climate Criminals Critical Mass** will pay a visit to the perpetrators of the pipeline on 15th July. Meet 2pm outside the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London.

* **The Ecotopia Biketour** is coming to the UK this summer along their route they will be doing actions and giving workshops. www.thebiketour.net

SEE ARTICLE IN THIS BOOK

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The Anus

If it's happening...
it's up The Anus!

Free Friday, July 19, 2002

www.brightonsucks.com

Beach Bummers Boozy Bottleneck

REVELLERS partied the night away on Brighton seafront last Saturday to the sound of overhead police helicopter display teams, traffic chaos, stranded emergency vehicles and the ecstatic screams of a quarter of a million happily crushed ravers.

The event, hosted by the Big Beached Buttock, featured the huge talent of disk jockey Fate By Slime who played some records to approximately 3000 people in front of Brighton West Pier. Meanwhile the remaining 247,000 party-goers looked on in awe and jubilation, but couldn't hear a bloody thing.

Party animals had been bussed in from as far afield as the Highlands of Scotland where whole hillsides had been cleared of trees and vegetation to make way for huge billboard posters for the event of the century. Welsh revellers talked of sheep that had been used as walking adverts for the gig with directions written in Welsh and English branded onto their once snow white bodies. Council 'helper' Simone Franchise stated that the massive advertising campaign had been essential in order to make the Flat Boy Scam gig the huge success that it was: "Everyone knows that an event of this magnitude has to be hugely over-attended. Some people have moaned about litter and broken glass on the beach but let's face it, where do you think all that rubbish came from? Mostly from our shops and therefore using our beach as a landfill site is good for business and good for everyone in Brighton."

Life's a Beach

Despite a handful of tragedies relating to the event, the police immediately ruled out any talk of an enquiry into the fantastically financially successful maritime pop show. Police spokesman Superintended Death Ray stated that the problems relating to the salty extravaganza were 'fairly obvious' and an inquiry would tell organisers nothing they did not already know about the event. Luckily there had been only one death relating directly to the event

and a mere 160 injuries during the night and as such the event had been 'as safe as houses.' Death added that having 250,000 drunk people and children trapped on a darkened Brighton beach in dangerously overcrowded conditions surrounded by broken glass and urine and unattended by emergency services was 'character building', creating a sense of community and togetherness reminiscent of the Blitz. Eyewitness reports that anarchy broke out as revellers threw bottles into the crowd and at emergency personnel have been dismissed as 'unproductive' criticism. As a result of the spectacular safety record and outstanding organisational skills displayed throughout Saturday evening by the police, officials felt questions raised by a handful of moaning locals were largely irrelevant. Brighton and Hove Council agreed whole-heartedly as did event organisers Big Beached Blunder.

Free for all party

Event Organisers The Big Blunder joined forces with the council and police to stress that in no way should the Filled By Slime gig be confused with the illegal free parties that have historically occurred on Brighton and Shoreham beaches. "We have gone to great lengths to stamp out the scourge that is the local free party scene; that cancerous rash that blights our cultural landscape should in no way be confused with legitimate council-backed beach-trashing events, all of which are wonderful and never go wrong". Council spokeshing Simian Fanfare added that "The council only supports events that are much, much larger and more corporate than free parties and therefore better. More mindless consumers visiting Brighton means more beer and chips being sold everywhere, as well as silly hats, sales of which have gone through the roof, and that's very important for our City of Culture Bid." Mr Fiasco also pointed out that the costs of policing this particular event as well as the impact of a quarter of a million guests descending on the city meant the event was far from free to local residents - unlike the vast ma-

jority of free parties which have done nothing to improve the corporate worth of Brand Brighton.

Meanwhile free party organisers are said to be fleeing the country in fear of their lives as Brighton Council death squads are being mobilised to further enforce their 'say no to unlicensed fun' campaign. One free party organiser who prefers to remain nameless stated that: "We're being persecuted because we keep throwing underground free parties for a few hundred locals without adequate advertising. Several of our crew were arrested last weekend for picking up litter and giving away free water to party-goers at an unlicensed free party. When they were eventually released, all they could do was dribble while reciting the Brighton and Hove mission statement over and over again." The drugged up squat rave organiser later added that "Finding sites with adequate parking well away from the public scrutiny has just got us in the worst kind of trouble - maybe in future we should just organise Dresden style leaflet drops and invite everyone to come and piss on our beach; it seems to work OK for the council."

After the unmitigated success of the gig on the beach, DJ Fete Boy (real name Naomi Coke) spent the remainder of the night guzzling Champagne and playing even more records for all of his celebrity friends in an exclusive Brighton nightspot. In the small hours, the exhausted DJ and his beautiful wife were whisked away in a limousine to their sparkling luxury condominium love pad with its private beach, which remains, as ever, beautifully clean.

Meanwhile, some people in our lovely new broken-glass-sparkly City, the ones who actually do useful jobs like clean the litter and look after sick people, have complained that they can't actually afford to live here anymore. Some even joined the nationwide strike on Wednesday, complaining, "It's time they (the Council) decided whether this is a playground for Londoners or a city for its own people." Council spokesperson Simpering Fanatic told the Anus "Why don't the poor people all just fuck off to Hastings?"

SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 19th July 2002 Free/Donation Issue 365

UNCORPORATION

Hundreds of angry Nigerian women have pulled off something we here in the West can only dream of - they've managed to shut down a huge multinational oil company's operations for nearly two weeks, armed with nothing but their bare hands. On Monday, July 8th, a band of women from the Ugborodo and Arutan tribes in southern Nigeria pirated a ChevronTexaco staff ferry to sneak into the company's Escravos pipeline terminal. The unarmed women have occupied the terminal ever since, stopping exports and trapping about 700 workers, including Americans, Britons, Canadians and Nigerians, inside.

The women are demanding that ChevronTexaco hire more local workers, and provide water, electricity, schools and clinics for their villages, some of which are less than 100 yards from the terminal. They are angered that previous company promises to transform the villages surrounding the facility into modern towns have not been realized.

On Wednesday (10th), about 100 police and soldiers armed with assault rifles were sent to the terminal to protect the facility, but Anunu Uwawah, one of the women occupying the building, said the women weren't intimidated by security forces. "If we die, Chevron will die with us," she said. The women began talks with senior ChevronTexaco management in Nigeria on Friday (12th) after days of false starts, but Uwawah and other leaders in the group say they wouldn't leave the terminal until the company commits to hiring people from the neighbouring villages and helps them build better infrastructure.

* As of Wednesday, July 17th, various newsgroups are reporting that women from the Ijaw tribe have now occupied four ChevronTexaco oil facilities in the same area as the

Escravos oil terminal, which is still occupied by the same kick-ass group of Ugborodo and Arutan women.

* In Mexico, hundreds of irate farmers armed with machetes and petrol bombs and holding 10 hostages are protesting against plans to build a new international airport outside of Mexico City. Why do the farmers feel so strongly about the new airport? Because it just so happens that its scheduled location is smack in the middle of their land. In return for the hostages, protestors are demanding that they be allowed to keep their land. Sounds reasonable enough to us, but the pro-business government of Mexican President Vicente Fox has ruled out any changes to its plans to build the £1.3 billion airport.

Positive SchNEWS

At the end of May, a Football Association Commission granted the owners of Wimbledon FC permission to relocate to Milton Keynes. Wimbledon, the fairy tale football club that had gone from non-league to FA Cup winners, had been without a home for years and was now being moved lock stock and barrel to a site 70 miles away. Six weeks later, disgruntled fans set up a new club called AFC Wimbledon, found a new place to ground share and a new league to play in, had 230 hopefuls turning up for trials on Wimbledon Common, sold 600 season tickets and had nearly 5,000 fans cheering them on at their first match, a friendly against Sutton. One fan commented "This is something very special here; A cottage industry in the middle of a globalised trading estate. A corner shop perched between hypermarkets. A community football club in the midst of greed and desperation." The new AFC Wimbledon will be kicking off a season-long boycott of their old club with a human chain round Selhurst Park on the first game against Gillingham. www.afcwimbledon.co.uk

Not This Time - the Story of the Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, film showing in Brighton this Sunday as part of a nationwide tour. The film will be followed by a discussion with members of the Memorial Campaign and the film 'Globalisation and The Media' by Undercurrents. 7.30pm, Sussex Arts Club, Ship Street. Entrance is free.

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For having the wrong views

Late last year, American high school student Katie Sierra was suspended for 3 days after she tried to start an anarchy club. Now a jury has decided that the school was wrong to ban an anarchy club, but right to suspend her for proposing it in the wake of the September 11th attacks! The jury also sided with the school's ban on some of Katie's homemade T-shirts, one of which read, "When I saw the dead and dying Afghani children on TV, I felt a newly recovered sense of national security. God Bless America." The jury apparently felt that such messages "disrupted" other students' patriotic brainwashing, er, education - although students are routinely allowed to wear shirts that blatantly display corporate logos, slogans, and messages.

SICK AS A PARAGUAY

The people of Paraguay, pissed off with their corrupt government and their collapsing economy, took to the streets last week calling for the President to resign. (see pic right) Protected by the army and police officers with water cannons, the president responded on Monday by declaring a 5-day state of emergency which allowed the government to ban demonstrations, search homes and arrest hundreds of individuals. At least 2 people have been killed.

Paraguay is the latest of the South American countries to be crumbling under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, who've been telling them to privatise their public services in order to make their loan repayments. Massive opposition to such tactics has meant that privatisation plans have been put on the back burner. Instead the government are now turning to the World Bank for a loan which will plunge them even further into debt. Check out the latest at <http://argentina.indymedia.org/>

SchNEWS in brief

The Community Activism Workshop takes place Saturday 27th with a wide range of speakers from NoBorders to the Social Centres Network. The day is "an opportunity to share practical skills gained through community struggles - to learn from the experiences of others in organising grassroots campaigns and developing effective community activity." At the Radical Dairy, 47 Kynaston Road, London N16. from 2pm. 07944 586416 www.temporary.org.uk

**** Plans for a second nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point** (site of the Jubilee free festival on Steart Beach-see SchNews 359) rumble on despite a recent survey conducted by concerned parents which found rates of cancer in the area were four times the national average. There's a public meeting 'Stopping the drive for New Nuclear Power Stations', 7.30pm 25th July, Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff 01984 632109 stophinkley@aol.com

**** No to GM Crop Commercialisation, protest outside DEFRA.** Wednesday 24th 12 noon for a Picnic at Victoria Tower gardens then 2pm demo on the steps of DEFRA, Smiths Sq, Westminster. 020 7272 1586 www.geneticsaction.org.uk

**** Genoa - Red Zone anniversary film screenings** happening in London (24th July, Ritzy Cinema, Brixton £5), and Glasgow (28th July - Glasgow Film Theatre). Copies will soon be avail-

able through www.cultureshop.org

**** Local campaigners desperately need help to take direct action to stop a mobile phone mast and access road** being erected in Maple, Cheshire. Info 0161 427 7789

**** Ecotopia 2002** the annual European environmental festival takes place this year in County Clare, Ireland 10th-24th August. Info 00 353 86 3097622 www.ecotopia2002.org

**** For the first time since the Foot and Mouth crisis last year, live animal exports have resumed from UK ports.** Protests are being organised. 24 hour hotline live export hotline 01730 237379 www.ciwf.org.uk

**** Want to check out what happens at Fylingdales** - which could soon be home to Star Wars II? Check out www.fylingdales.ukf.net

**** Ladyfest London** (August 1st-4th) is a celebration of the achievements of women, primarily in music and the arts. With the exception of some workshops, the festival is open to women and men alike, with highlights including performances by The Gossip, The Haggard, Gertrude, and Sara Dougher. www.ladyfestlondon.org

**** The trial of campaigners arrested at Simon Jones Memorial Campaign** occupation of Euromin Docks in December last year takes place 29th-31st July in Worthing. The protesters who are accused of "besetting" would like support and are asking campaigners to meet at 8am at Brighton Station at the start of each day to travel together to Worthing

Court. www.simonjones.org.uk

**** The Americans are coming!!** Okay, just one. A surprisingly anti-American one. On July 30th, political artist Seth Tobocman will visit Brighton to do a slide show of his work and talk about his life and times as a New York squatter. His kick-ass books include "War in the Neighbourhood" and "You Don't Have to Fuck People Over to Survive." For venue info (still being sorted out), contact sethtobocmaninbrighton@hotmail.com

BLANC CHEQUE

After a three year ban, lorries are once again being allowed to wreak their noxious fumes in the Mont Blanc tunnel. Many lorries ignore posted speed limits, but local police argue they don't have enough personnel to police speeding vehicles, although they were mysteriously able to rally more than a hundred riot cops to harass a peaceful anti-lorry protest held near the tunnel on June 25th. If you're interested in getting involved with the anti-truckers, contact noragallieni@mac.com, or info@arsmb.com

...and finally...

Corrupt, lying, dodgy Freemasons deserve human rights too! That's the claim made by the United Grand Lodge, the London headquarters of the secret brotherhood. With no apparent sense of irony the funny hand shake brigade is planning on using the Human Rights Act to stop the government making freemasons in public office declare that they are on the 'square' - or is that the make. Here at SchNEWS we had this strange idea that the Human Rights Act might give people a bit of leverage against the powers that run our lives and NOT be used by pro-establishment secret societies to cover up their shady deals-especially ones with initiation rituals pretty similar to the Cosa Nostra. So don't go kissing any freemasons as ya don't know what their hands have been shaking.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers listening to repetitive bleats that they can make you sheepish. Honest. There's not going to be SchNEWS next week 'cos we'll all be at the Big Green Gathering.



Paraguay, July 15th: Boot boys attack people who have blocked major roads around the country calling for the president to resign.

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IT'S YER SCHNEWS PARTY AND PROTEST GUIDE

AUGUST

1-4 Cambridge Folk Festival. Weekend tickets £62, plus camping at £27 or £18. www.cam-folkfest.co.uk **2 No Sweat benefit** to raise funds for Dita Sari and the Indonesian union federation that organises clothing workers Manchester Met Students Union. 0161-861-7160 manchester@nosweat.org **2-4 Essential Music Festival,** Hackney Marshes, London www.essentialfestival.com **2-4 The Big Weekend,** Cardiff. FREE www.cardiff.gov.uk **2-5 Healingfield Gathering** "our vision now is to bring the Healing Field to a beautiful secluded Somerset location" www.healingfield.btinter.net.co.uk **2-9 Devon Sidmouth Festival** www.sidmouthfestival.com **3 March and rally in support of sweatshop workers around the world,** demanding the Commonwealth Games organisers in Manchester make a stand against exploitation. 11.30am All Saints' Park, Oxford Road. 0161-861-7160 manchester@nosweat.org **3 Stanmer Organics Open Day,** Stanmer Park, Brighton 11am-4.00pm 01273-620486 info@stanmerorganics.org.uk **3-4 Nottingham Riverside Festival** www.nottinghamevents.org **3-17 Vegan Camp,** Park Foot caravan and camping park, Howtown Rd., Pooley Bridge, Penrith, Cumbria. www.vegancamp.org **3-11 Crossover Summer Camp.** Camp to bring people together from a variety of backgrounds to find intersections and make new alliances. Event will take place near Cottbus, Germany. www.summertimecamp.squat.net **4-11 Ealing Jazz Festival,** Walpole Park, Ealing. www.ealing.gov.uk **4-19 Trident Ploughshares Disarmament camp** at Peaton Glen Wood, near Coulport, Scotland. Fifteen days of direct disarmament action and campaign workshops at the Faslane and Coulport nuclear weapon bases. 0845-4588366 www.tridentploughshares.org **8-11 Welsh Green Gathering,** Margham Country Park, near Port Talbot. www.big-green-gathering.com/wgg **CANCELLED** cos the Welsh Police don't like wind turbines and recycling, see SchNEWS 354. **8-11 Cropredy Festival** nr Banbury, Oxfordshire. Fun with Fairport Convention. £55 for the weekend but bikers and backpackers go free. www.fairportconvention.co.uk **9 International Day of Indigenous People** www.ifad.org/media/events/indigenous **9-12 Shambala Festival,** mystery countryside location, revealed with ticket purchase £30 www.shambalafestival.org **9-16 Broadstairs Folk Week,** Kent www.broadstairsfolkweek.com **10 Gay Pride festival,** Preston Park, Brighton. Parade begins at 11am. www.prideinbrightonandhove.com **10-11 Eden Festival,** Arrowe Park, Wirral FREE "Indie / Rock festival with an environmental theme, a northern Glastonbury, held on behalf of Wirral Green Alliance and Friends of the Earth. An estimated 60,000 plus crowd is expected." www.wga.merseyside.org **10-24 Ecotopia 2002** two-week environmental festival, Glenties, Co. Kerry, Ireland. 00 353 86 3097622 www.ecotopia2002.org Also an "Eco-topia" biketour, crossing England and Wales. 07870-467231 www.thebiketour.net **15-30 Earth Activ-**



ist Training Ragmans Lane Farm, Gloucestershire, with Starhawk & Penny Livingston-Stark. A permaculture design course for visionary activists. £400 waged £200 low income £100 unwaged c/o 3 Yew Tree Cottages Pitt Court North Nibley Glos GL11 6EB earthactuk@yahoo.com **16-18 Big Chill festival,** Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire "Cinema, cafe culture, poetry recitals and performance art blend with the cool vibe music." www.bigchill.net **17-18 Swaines Green Festival.** A green event powered by solar energy, with music, sundials, workshops and poetry. The aim of the festival is to help save the meadows and woodland which lies adjacent to the festival fields. The festival will take place in Epping. Further details from Paul Flack, 56 St Johns Rd, Epping Essex CM16 5DP **20-26 Tribe of Doris,** Blackdown Hill, Somerset. "We use the arts of music, dance, song and ceremony to bring people together, to raise awareness and to encourage respect and understanding of different cultures and musical origins." Everything from Animal Spirit Dance to Ghanaian Zylophone, Brazilian Samba, tablas and Inuit Throat Singing! 0845-4580190 www.tribeofdoris.co.uk **21-24 Boom Festival,** Portugal. If you like psychedelic trance... www.boomfestival2000.com **22-26 Sustain Up North! - Northern Green Gathering.** West Yorkshire. www.ngg.org.uk **22-26 Samothraki Dance Festival,** Greece. Featuring 35 Live Acts and 60 Djs on 3 Stages. www.samothrakidancefestival.com **23 Canterbury Festival,** Mount Ephraim Gardens, Hernhill, Kent The Strangers, The Damned, Rick Wakeman, Pretty Things, 21st Century Schizoid Band £80 (children under 14 free), including camping, no day tickets available www.canterburyfestival.com **24 Creamfields,** Old Liverpool Airfield 2pm-6am £46 plus booking fee. www.cream.co.uk **24-25 Deepdale Jazz Festival** 01485-210404 www.deepdalejazzfestival.co.uk **24-26 Notting Hill Carnival.** Second largest carnival in the world after Rio - and it's all FREE. www.rbkc.gov.uk/NottingHill **25-26 The Big Green Road Show.** Displays of sustainable woodland craft, renewable energy sources and elements of sustainable living. South of England Rare Breeds Centre, Ashford, Kent. 01233 861493, ext.224. visit@rarebreeds.org.uk **26 Colchester Free Festival,** massive free community arts festival held in Castle Park, Colchester 10.30am-7pm 01206 531185 www.colchesterfreefestival.co.uk **29-31 Eastern Green Gathering** near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk 01284 728253 www.easterngreengathering.com **30-1 Sept Off The Tracks Festival,** Donnington Park. Folk, roots, dance and fusion 01332-384518 www.offthetracks.co.uk **31 Global Day of Action against a corporate influence on our lives** www.aseed.net/un-corporated **31 Edinburgh Mela,** Pilrig Park, Edinburgh. Free. www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk **31-4 Sept 2nd European Conference of the Peoples' Global Action** network in Leiden, the Netherlands. www.pgaconference.org

2 Countryside Alliance will be marching in London - counter demonstrations planned **6-9 Centre for Alternative Technology Conference**. "A climate for change: effective strategies for building a more sustainable and secure world - and one that is based on principles of universal human values and mutual support - could not be more urgent." 01654 705950 www.cat.org.uk **11 Second International Day Against Video Surveillance**. More details at www.notbored.org **20 Car Free Day** www.carbusters.ecn.cz **20-21 Diaries of Despair** protests mark the second anniversary of the still-injuncted Diaries of Despair report into Imutran's pig-to-primate organ transplant experiments at Huntingdon Life Sciences. www.xenodiaries.org 0114 2722220 **21 Peace One Day**. Idea for one-day truce in all armed conflicts on UN's International Day of Peace, plus celebratory events. 020-7456-9181 info@peaceoneday.org **21 London Peace Trail**. Includes Mystery Walk for children - get your peace passport stamped at eight sites, learning about our peace heritage. 020-7609-2777 twallis@mail.com **23 Autumn Equinox** - for the next six months days will be shorter than nights, don't get too depressed. **28 International Rabbit Day** 020-8888-0001 info@bunny.org.uk **28 Demo against Bush and Blair's proposed war against Iraq**, ending in Trafalgar Square (for a change) Organised by Stop the War Coalition. **29 National Vegan Festival**, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London 020-8670-9585

Despite the best attempts of the authorities free parties still happen up and down the country every week. Here's a few quick dos and don'ts:

- Be prepared to be self sufficient, facilities could be minimal
- Park sensibly, keep site roads clear
- Don't be a dirty scumbag - bury your shit and don't drop litter
- Fires - use dead wood, not green (which won't burn anyway)
- Make a donation - if someone passes round a bucket don't be sick in it, but hand over some cash. It costs money to put on free parties.

More helpful tips www.schnews.org.uk/diyguide/howtohaveafreeparty.htm

To get in touch with free party systems around the country see www.guilfin.net/extra/freeparties.php3

SchNEWS OF THE WORLD

The new SchNEWS book will be out in a few weeks, featuring SchNEWS issues 301-350, and 200 more pages of good news from all round the world about how well the plan to sell off the whole planet to big business is going. Read about... Genoa, Argentina, Palestine, September 11 and loads more global and local stuff. Plus loadsa photos, graphics, cartoons, subverts, and a newly updated contacts database. Order yours for £8.50 (p&p included) now from SchNEWS.

REPETITIVE BEATS

From Bristle www.bristle.org.uk

Who says that police are petty minded and violent? Last year the free party massive had one over on Avon and Somerset constabulary when they were forced to let a massive 5-day teknival go ahead on their doorstep (See Common Ground). Pissed off at being made to look stupid by a bunch of cheesy quavers the boys in blue decided to crack down heavily on the 'people having fun' menace when Mutant Dance put on a party in Cumberland Basin, Bristol, in July. This report comes from Bristle magazine.

The party began just after midnight. As people arrived there was no sign of trouble. The site has been used for years without any problems. Half a dozen cops stood by, watching the partygoers arrive. The crowd quickly grew and the atmosphere was friendly.

At around 1am at least 10 riot vans appeared and hordes of cops began putting on riot gear as a police helicopter circled overhead. Attempts were made by several partygoers to communicate with the police and to prevent any agro. One organiser offered to move the party elsewhere if there was a problem with the site. He was subsequently arrested for 'conspiracy to cause a public nuisance' (charges later dropped). There was no attempt by officers to address the crowd and at no point did they make it clear that the party was illegal. Instead, at 2am, around 30 officers came to attack the party.

By this time word had gone around and many people formed a human chain around the DJs and sound

systems to protect them. Many officers wore masks and no ID numbers. They drew batons and assaulted a few people but didn't break the lines of people standing their ground. The strength and unity of the crowd was impressive, but one person was dragged away under a rain of baton blows. After a stand-off the order was given to withdraw. People were shaken but the party continued until sunrise.

And then the police came back, en masse and with dogs. This is when the worst attack began. Cops came from both sides of the party and began trashing the sound system and indiscriminately beating people. One eyewitness recounts, "The police charged at everyone, hitting them with truncheons and trampling anyone in their way. I saw at least 15 people being hit, some were young women doing absolutely nothing. I saw one woman around 18 years old being hit while on the floor by at least five police officers." Injuries ranged from bruises and bleeding noses to neck injuries, fractured wrists and broken arms.

Most of those on the receiving end were young women.

A benefit night in October raised enough money to replace the damaged sound kit. Clearly, people refuse to be intimidated and will carry on partying. The party crews will continue to regularly organise unlicensed, free gatherings. Bristol has a strong network of sound systems up for organising entertainment on our own terms, without profit and controls.

WORST BRITONS



Irritated to the point of violence by the BBC's Great Britons wankathon, SchNews decided to let our readers compile their own 'Worst Britons' list. Then, just after we'd put our poll on-line we found that Channel 4 were doing the same thing - and even using the same name (the only difference was that their Britons had to still be alive). We thought that had blown our idea, and let it slide. It was when Channel 4 broadcast their list

- which was a totally piss-weak load of spurious TV distractions (Jordan at no. 2? Never heard of her) - that we dusted off our results to find our readers had been busy giving it their sarcastic best about the Brits they loved to hate - and it packed a punch! Basically Blair and Thatch predictably stole the best of it, with Churchill getting a good few kneejerks to the groin too. But there were some surprise choices. Here's the top twenty...



20. Lord Elgin (1766-1841)

"Partly responsible for the Opium Wars in China. The Chinese didn't want opium grown in their country but the Brits wanted it for trading (surprise, surprise) so on a diplomatic visit to the Chinese palace, he started a fire, which burnt it down and sent out the poppy planters anyway. What a selfish cunt, statesmen never change, do they?"

He's also the bloke responsible for 'finding' the famous 'Elgin' marbles in Greece, which he promptly stole. Those once beautifully carved stones were rediscovered by the Greeks a couple of years ago, rotting in a cellar of the 'British' museum. This clearly came as a huge embarrassment to the BM who usually argue that they can't return treasures stolen during the British colonial rampage 'cos foreigners don't have the proper facilities to look after them. They still have the cheek to call it the 'British' museum.



19. 'Hanging' Judge Jeffreys (1648-1689)

Made a name for himself by hanging most of the rebels who'd fought against the reign of James II in the 17th century.



18. Captain Cook (1728-1779)

More than just hoisting the jolly roger for British imperialism, he was also possibly the first person to use biological weapons for genocidal purposes: He gave clothes to Australian Aborigines deliberately contaminated with smallpox, with catastrophic consequences.



17. Matthew Hopkins (1620's-1647)

Perhaps the most famous witch hunter of 17th century Britain. During his short career he had between 200 and 400 people executed for witchcraft. *"Roamed southern England fingering hundreds of people as witches, tortured the hell (sic) out of them, hanged the lucky ones"*



16. Oswald Mosely (1896-1980)

Upper class playboy and leader of the failed British Union of Fascists party. Youngest MP in his day, and you thought Blair was as right wing as the Labour party had ever got...okay maybe he is. But, Mosely's anti-semitic, anti commonwealth-immigration rants and private army of bonehead thugs came close. We can thank him for instigating 1936 public order act and the 'battle of Cable Street'.

"Oswald Mosely. Maybe more representative of British thinking of the day than many would admit to once the tanks started rolling over Poland. An ugly national characteristic - good to see them getting the shit kicked out of them by the East London working class of the day."



15. George Granville Leveson-Gower 1st Duke of Sutherland (1758-1833)

A dead cert winner as worst Scot, he symbolises the highland clearances, perhaps the most devastating case of ethnic cleansing Britain has seen. Tens of thousands of Scots were driven from their homes by agents of the Duke of Sutherland in the early years of the 19th century, often by the burning down of their houses, to make way for sheep - an ecological and social disaster whose impact is still being felt.



14. Julie Burchill (1959-)

"For being a stupid, shallow, self-aggrandising, opinionated no-body. It's time the Guardian stopped giving her the Alf Garnet ironic humour platform because unlike him she appears not to be acting".



13. Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902)

Tricked and connived his way into power in Southern Africa in the late 19th Century - and set about stealing the continents natural resources "for

his health"... no shit. Surrounded himself with strapping bodyguards in order to while away the hot afternoons and keep the natives at bay. Sparked a chain of events of theft and bloodshed that can be traced to the bloody mess that is present day Zimbabwe.

"For his involvement in colonial expansionist terror and the unbelievable arrogance to name an entire African country after himself."



12. William the Conqueror (1027-1087)

[er, French ain't he?] "He and his descendents stole the 'common land' from the people of England. The ruling classes are still Normans with names such as Bowes-Lyons."



11. Peter Stringfellow (1940 -)

"For giving wankers a bad name."



10. General Dyer (1864-1927)

"Monster of the British Raj who, on April 13th, 1919, ordered his troops to open fire on thousands of unarmed, peaceful Indians in Amritsar. For 10 to

15 minutes 1,650 rounds of ammunition were unloaded into the screaming, terrified crowd, who were desperately trying to escape (Dyer had blocked the only exit). Dyer admitted that the firing would have continued had more ammunition been available, and said he would have used his machine guns if he could have got them into the enclosure, but these were mounted on armoured cars. He returned a hero to many in Britain, especially conservatives, who presented him with a jewelled sword inscribed 'Saviour of the Punjab.' Though his actions have obviously been imitated plenty of times since by British army personnel, from Ulster, to Iraq, Dyer set a precedent for the rest to follow."



9. Richard Littlejohn (1954-)

Captain reactionary. Tenth rate Sun columnist. Dislikes: foreigners, lefties, tree-huggers, asylum seekers, poor people, the unemployed,

blacks, Asians, northerners, Scottish people... Likes: big tits and football.

"Littlejohn constantly emits huge waves of conformist bile towards anyone who doesn't proscribe to the Sun's blend of cutting-edge, unbiased reportage."

"Why does Five Live insist on having these wankers introduce 6.06. Bring back Danny Baker...shit, did I really say that?"



8. Oliver Cromwell (1649-1658)

"Puritan, tyrant and killer of people. Possibly indirectly responsible for the emergence of capitalism (the protestant ethic or something). Invaded Ireland and

responsible for much of the conflict today. Banned Christmas!!! Redeeming feature: killed monarch."

"I know it's pointless voting for him but well, I'd at least like the chance for a no holds barred match with him as long as I could wear my steel toes - because, well, I'm from Connaught - nuff said!"



7. Paul Dacre (1949-)

"I'd have to say Paul Dacre is the worst Briton, cos he's partly responsible for the increasing level of racial tension in this country and making the right-wing petty bourgeoisie think that they actually have

an intelligent viewpoint, which they obviously don't. Oh yeah, and my mum reads the fucking mail and I have to listen to the shit she reads in that rag, so hang the bastard! And get Titchmarsh to dig his grave and throw him in after... Sorry, I've had a boring day!!"

"He wins because, unlike the other two, he's still alive - for the time being..."



6. Robert Peel (1788-1850)

"For creating The Old Bill, and for causing the deaths of millions of Irish during the potato famine by refusing to repeal the Corn Laws, and insisting any aid offered to the starving had to be earned

by hard physical work because the Irish were well known for being lazy scroungers (first 'workfare?') Didn't work and thousands starved."





5. Ian Paisley (1926-)

"Has encouraged sectarian gangs to torture and murder, earned a fortune for his misdeeds and has been protected in his crimes by the British state. If he were a Muslim the British Propaganda machine would have torn his character

apart before imprisoning him and he would've been tortured in Cuba by now."



4. The Queen (1926-)

Okay we're just using her as a figurehead here for all royalty before and since. While the pack of French, Danish, Russian and German parasites that have installed themselves on Britain/England/Scotland's thrones

over the years don't really fit the worst 'Briton' criteria - they could all do with a slating: Henry VIII, Charles I, 'Bloody' Mary and Victoria, to name but a few.

"The queen for being an outstanding reminder that class is still a very important issue, bitch."

"The Queen, Charles, Camilla and the rest of the family. Bring back the fucking guillotine!"



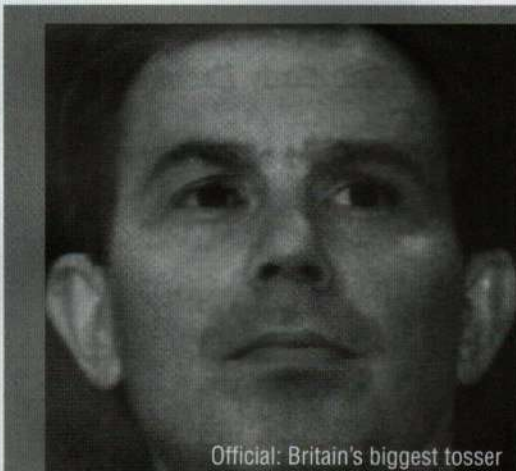
3. Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Big Fat Havana chuffing Tory Freemason credited with winning World War II everywhere outside of Russia. Expanded British Empire throughout Middle East and beyond. The first to

gas the Kurds and the last to get a drink in. Sometimes seen sporting a grass Mohawk.

"He was a member of the eugenics society, and probably aware that he agreed with Hitler on that score, was friends with the international bankers that funded both sides of WWII"

"Because he was voted 'Greatest Briton' by a BBC TV audience I would like to nominate the British TV viewer for ignorance and bigotry beyond the call of duty. Churchill also fought in the Boer War 1899-1902 where he helped round up the Boer population and put 'em in concentration camps. Britain's final solution to its own Vietnam."



Official: Britain's biggest tosser



2. Margaret Thatcher (1925-)

What can you say? No society, no jobs, no future, no fun. Gave us: the poll tax, yuppies, the 'it's okay to

shit on anyone in order to get rich mentality', sink estates and punk rock. Credited with politicising more young people than Crass, Class War or the entire Chomsky back catalogue put together.

"The worst Prime Minister we've ever had she was responsible for the unnecessary Falklands War and saw working class people as scum."

"School milk, YOP, YTS, anti union laws, Poll tax, council tax, Pinochet, Falklands, Northern Ireland. Classic sociopath."

"Don't you remember the day she left office - it was a great day - after 12 years of job loses, miners strikes, destruction of the UK industry and giving away national assets to the Tory's friends." [er... bit like the next 12 then...]

"Thatcher's the worst - for destroying the idea of communities and throwing away coal and squandering money from North Sea oil - on tax cuts for the rich."

SchNEWS WORST BRITON NUMBER 1

Tony Blair (1953-)

Planted in the Labour party by the CIA while still at university, given long hair and dubious rock guitar tuition at School of the Americas. Kept lowish profile until Tories displayed imminent-implosion status. Old skool Labour predecessor John Smith is offed by the Pentagon in pseudo heart-attack scenario - Blair slides into the limelight. Despite obvious corporate/right wing fundamentalism of "New" Labour, old left sheepishly elect said tosspot, not once but twice. Last vestige of hope for a working class/labour electoral alternative to hit-and-run capitalism is extinguished. As true blue blend of his blood is exposed, Blair does no-return sale of UK and all who sail in her to Washington. History may judge him, but then again, his mates are writing the history books...

"Blair's the worst...what a cunt!"

"A lickspittle and congenital liar. A phoney Christian who purports to pray to the Prince of Peace whilst showering innocent civilians with cluster bombs."

"Oooh. It's almost impossible to choose but given the present climate and that he is unfortunately still breathing our valuable Oxygen. I would have to vote for the Right Arseonable Satan Blair."

"Not in my name, you fascist, capitalist, war-mongering git!"

"Tony Blair for being a cunt and licking any arse he can reach plus following on from Thatcher."

"Iraq War, Afgan War, PFI, Foundation Hospitals, Tuition Fees, US Poodle, Sainsbury, Straw, Blunkett, BAE, Fox Hunting goes on, Right to roam forgotten, Fear Mongerer, Single Mother Benefit Cuts, Welfare to Work, God Fearing Facist!"

Disclaimer

The comments here come from SchNEWS readers, and all this libellous slander is nothing to do with us. Honest.



BORDERLINE CASE

"War, environmental exploitation, poverty, economic conditions, dictatorships, all of these situations create refugees. The cause of refugees, whether it is economic reasons or war, is capitalism."
 – Osaren, The Voice Refugee Forum, Germany.

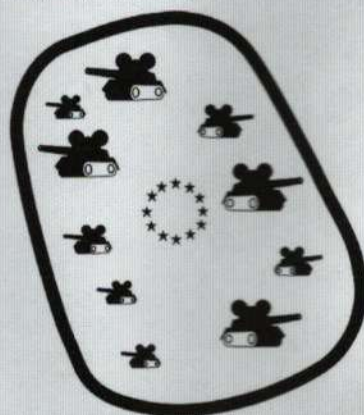
In a group of actions spanning ten days (19-28 July), people from all over Europe hooked up with migrants without papers to reclaim the city of Strasbourg, on the French/German border for a No Border action camp. The focus was a resistance to Europe's draconian policy of treating refugees as criminals. Home to the European Parliament and the European Court of Human Rights as well as the Schengen Information System, or SIS, (SchNEWS 312) as well as its very own detention centre, Strasbourg truly represents failed democracy. People were spoilt for choice. Amongst chosen targets was the Accor hotel group who own detention centres in France and supermarkets in migrant 'zones' in Germany. They up the prices in their supermarkets so that migrants, who have to shop there, get even less for their 40 Euros a month (£27). A large part of their workforce is made up of undocumented migrants, on strike since March about low pay and bad conditions. Other actions included the usual trashings of institutions and corporations as well as cyberactivism, where hackers broke into the SIS.

The camp was based on self-organisation. People sorted out kitchens, showers and toilets as well as going on daily skipping runs to feed the camp. "I like it that people are so open here and that it's well organised. It's decentralised and provides a platform for resistance

and engagement in Europe" Gaston, an asylum seeker, told SchNEWS. Everyone got together in their immediate areas to form barrios, which centred around a kitchen/meeting area. Someone from each barrio could then go to an inter-barrio meeting to make more general decisions about the camp, actions and broader political aims.

ALIENATED

One of the biggest, fattest, most vicious lies we've been told is that asylum seekers are stealing our jobs and invading our lives out of choice. The opposite is true: they don't want to die, it's as simple as that. There are an estimated 22 million refugees worldwide, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in May 2002 and the situation most refugees find themselves in is desperate. As Osaren told SchNEWS, "They borrow money, sell things, cars, homes if they have them before they leave to seek asylum in another country. If they are lucky they get a bad job and can start to pay back the money they have borrowed."



CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For calling someone Mister.

A Turkish economist has been charged with spreading separatist propaganda after referring to the imprisoned Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan as "Mr." It's against Turkish law to show support for Ocalan or his organisation the Kurdistan Workers Party. Calling someone Mr (or 'sayin' in Turkish) is used to show respect, so he could now face three years in prison.

In Germany, people who've been granted asylum are restricted to a specific area or part of town. In some cases they're tagged but usually they're just monitored to make sure they don't nip across a boundary to make a phone call or go to the supermarket or something. So far this system of separation where refugees are kept in isolation and require special permission to leave their 'area' is unique to Germany. Children have no right to education and there's no right to healthcare or work. "All we can do is sit, maybe eat something, and think. Those of us who can go home will probably have to in a year or two if we don't get any chances to live here. Those who cannot return will just self-destruct. Their strategy is to separate and persecute us." – Abdul, asylum seeker in Germany.

As the WTO (World Trade Organisation) threatens to have a scrap with anyone blocking free trade and the 'free movement' of money, people find themselves confined to ever smaller areas, watched for their every move. For these reasons the No Bor-

Alienated cont...

ders network are demanding the right to freedom of movement without any limitations for all the people of the world. At the heart of the problem is SIS - a centralised database used to collate info on Europe's unwanted. At the same time as the action camp in Strasbourg an Afgani family in the UK who had been sheltering in a Mosque were violently removed by riot cops and banged up in a detention centre. This was because their asylum application in Germany had been turned down - information that the UK got from their finger prints.

Germany is the model for Fortress Europe and Britain is trying to push through tougher laws this autumn to keep up with their fascist policy. The government's latest white paper 'Secure Borders, Safe Haven' states that the already racist border controls are to be tightened using the SIS database, iris

recognition, ID checks and increased powers to screen passengers. It doesn't take a genius to guess the colour of the skin of people most likely to be harassed by immigration cops. The Secure Borders white paper states that the govt target is to deport 30,000 refugees by spring 2003 - that's 2,500 a month. All new asylum seekers are to be housed in four planned accommodation centres to further segregate them from our society.

Talking about his experience of the camp, Osaren from the self-organised migrants Voice Refugee Forum told us, "The distance between the activists and refugees is very wide. Very few activists engage with refugees on a daily



basis. My advice would be for activists to get closer to the most repressed people in society, find out where they are and support them from below. The struggle can't have a base unless this has happened. We need to re-evaluate support and resistance from the base."

Here's some of that resistance ...

* **Italy:** "We have occupied houses with Italian activists and migrants working together, we are now 500 people strong and have 10 houses with 100 migrants and people without papers. Last Tuesday the Italian military sank a ship carrying 60 Albanian migrants. There will be no investigation.

* **Lyons, France** "Despite police repression we have been fighting for a year, occupying buildings and organising demonstrations."

* **Seville, Spain:** "We come from a place where 7,000 migrants live and work with no water, no food, no medicine - we are living in plastic shelters. Because of these conditions we decided to organise ourselves. We have occupied the Seville University for the last 2 months. Info: solidarity@hotmail.com

* **Belgium:** "Over 25 people are occupying the ex-Somalian embassy in the capital Bruges.

* **Germany:** From 17 Aug - 21 Sept there will be a caravan tour of Germany campaigning for the rights of refugees and immigrants. To find out dates and places check www.humanrights.de/caravan/index_de.html.

* **Britain:** Shut the Dover removals centre picket on Sat Oct 19th. Meet 10am Western Heights, Dover and move on to Sangatte Red Cross Centre. - contact Kent Committee to defend asylum seekers.

For more about actions and camps around the world www.noborder.org or info on prison building contact: CAGE 07931 401962



GENOA G8: One Year On...

It's a year since the G8 summit in Genoa (See SchNEWS 314/5), when the Italian city became a militarised zone, with police cruising round in armoured cars and the city centre ringed with a 15ft steel fence. The 250,000 people who marched through the streets opposing the eight most powerful leaders in the world faced massive police repression, with over 6,000 tear gas canisters fired by cops who also used live ammunition with which they killed Carlo Giuliani.

One year on, up to 100,000 took the streets of Genoa on Saturday 20th to remember Carlo Giuliani - much more than the 30-40,000 expected, which shows the anti-capitalist movement is still alive and well after September 11th. At 5:27 p.m., the time that Giuliani was shot by a young police trainee (Officer Plannica) trapped in a paramilitary police jeep, the crowds broke into a prolonged cheer and released hundreds of coloured balloons into the sky. "This is not a funeral. We wanted to have a celebration of life, of the right to live and of so many rights that are denied in the world and in Italy," said Giuliani's father in the piazza where his son was shot.

But as a final sickening note to Carlo's murder, Officer Plannica sold his story for 30,000 euros (£20,000) to one of Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi's TV channels, claiming he was not guilty of murder or manslaughter.

The worst aspect of pre-meditated police violence a year ago was a raid on the Indymedia Centre and Diaz

School where some protestors were staying. During the raid 93 people were arrested with 63 put in hospital, but none of those arrested have been charged with any offence. This year a press conference by many people beaten and arrested at the Diaz School called for deputy prime minister Gianfranco Fini, leader of the fascist National Alliance party, to be held accountable for the brutal raid. During the raid police produced two molotov cocktails as evidence that the School was a base for violent protestors. Since then it has emerged that these molotovs were in fact recovered seven hours earlier hidden in Genoa city centre, with a policeman confessing that he planted the explosives: "I brought the molotov cocktail to the Diaz school. I obeyed the order of one of my superiors." His superior, Pietro Troiani, from a mobile police unit in Rome, is already being investigated after another colleague accused him of providing false information to justify the raids.

The Italian Government has come under fire for failing to prosecute those responsible for police brutality against demonstrators and Amnesty International has criticised the police. MPs in Rome are calling for another enquiry. 77 police officers are under investigation, including the one who shot Carlo Giuliani. Genoa police chief Gianni De Gennaro was demoted after admitting some of his men might have used "excessive force."



In Italy the cops may be blatantly fascist, but in Britain the situation isn't much different. Two people arrested at a demo outside the London Italian Embassy last February recently had their charges dropped. Police at the demo had punched and kicked protestors and one cop (PC D343) was heard to say "I don't give a fuck about the law". That's because, like in Italy, the police can get away with being violent towards protestors and never get punished.

* Indymedia have produced a video, Genoa Red Zone. Copies from www.cultureshop.org

* Read "On Fire: Genoa and the Anti-Capitalist Movement" published by AK Press for £3 a go. www.akuk.com.

SchNEWS in brief

This Saturday sees the beginning of the **National Week of Action Against War and Sanctions on Iraq**. Info 0845 458 2564 www.vi.wuk.freemove.co.uk ** Last Saturday over 150 people demonstrated outside the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in London calling for the government to abandon the testing and possible future commercialisation of **GM crops**. 17 bags of crops from GM test sites that have been destroyed this year were dumped on the steps of the building. www.geneticsaction.org.uk ** **Direct Action Against War Now** are organising a demo and occu-

pation of Oxford Street Selfridges who sell products produced in illegal Israeli settlements. Sat 3rd, 1pm at the entrance - or dress as shoppers and do what you have to do once you're inside. 07817 061 183 stopselfridges@soon.com ** There's a Justice for Mark Barnsley national meeting and social this Saturday (3rd) to discuss the future of the campaign. 1.30pm, at The 1in12 Club, 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford. www.freemarkbarnsley.com ** A **new protest camp** set up to protect Bilston Woods, Penicuik, near Edinburgh from being destroyed to make way for a bypass is now up and running and urgently needs

people and tat. 07753 808709 ** **Trident Ploughshares** have a two week (4th-19th August) disarmament camp at Coulport, near to the Trident nuclear warhead depot on Loch Long. Info: 0870 4583117 www.tridentploughshares.org ** Demonstration against the **Draft Mental Health Bill**, noon 12th August at the Department of Health, Richmond House, Whitehall. ** The Nigerian Women occupying a **Chevron oil pipeline terminal** (see last week's SchNEWS) have ended their occupation after reaching an agreement with the company <http://nigeria.indymedia.org>

APPEALING

Nine unnamed prisoners who have been locked up in the high security Belmarsh Prison, without trial since September 2001 have won an appeal against their imprisonment. They were interned under the knee-jerk Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act (see Schnews 363). The Act makes it legal for the government to imprison non-UK nationals who they believe to be involved in 'terrorist activities' and whom they are unable to deport – because for example, they could face degrading treatment or death. Those detained are not given a reason for their internment, and they can't defend themselves in court. The appeal was upheld because the Act breaches the European Convention on Human Rights. Unfortunately the ruling does not make the detention unlawful, and the nine individuals are still behind bars. The Foreign Office will appeal against the verdict on Oct 7th. www.blagged.freeseve.co.uk/ta2000/index.htm

Positive SchNEWS

England's first ever earthship is to be built in Brighton. An earthship is a building made of rammed earth and used car tyres and solar energy and rain provide heat, power and water. They also have their own sewage systems. Not only do they help solve the problem of a growing tyre mountain, but provide low cost homes as they are cheaper to build than conventional houses. The earthship will be built in Stanmer Park as part of the Stanmer Organics project and it will be a meeting place for groups and a model for future houses. There's an open day at Stanmer Organics this Saturday (3) where you can see the earthship site, learn about permaculture techniques, organic food and green-recycling as well as crafts and music. 11 – 4pm 01273 620486. E-mail: info@stanmerorganic.org.uk For more about earthships: www.lowcarbon.co.uk

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

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BRISTOL FASHION

People are considering legal action against Avon and Somerset Constabulary after 50 officers in full riot gear broke up a free dance party at Cumberland Basin, near Bristol a couple of weekends back, seriously injuring at least nine people. Cops made no attempt to negotiate with party-goers, telling them "If you're down there, you're going to get hurt." The police had even thoughtfully brought an ambulance with them just in case they kicked anyone's head in - which they did. Police blamed party-goers for the injuries commenting "It was clear a rave at this location would put a risk of harm to those attending." The 'location' was under a motorway flyover, far away from residential housing, which had been used as a party site on numerous occasions before. Avon and Somerset Police seriously got their fingers burnt over the massive Steart beach party over the Jubilee weekend (SchNEWS 363) and local media have been busy whipping up a frenzy as "hooligan ravers" descend on the countryside to have fun. One party organiser told SchNEWS "We reckon the cops decided it was pay-back time."

The Free Party Defence Collective is now appealing for witnesses to mount legal action 07810 601703 www.guilfin.net

* Four Brighton based sound systems have finally been charged after having rigs seized from a Shoreham warehouse during Easter bank holiday. Despite never getting to turn on sound systems, attract a crowd or actually disturb anyone other than local plod, party organisers have been charged with 'Conspiracy to cause public nuisance' - and all for not quite getting to throw a free party.

* Thanks to the cops and the local council this year's Welsh Green Gathering was cancelled, and so a Greenwar Gathering is being organised. It's on an urban common in Glamorgan starting 8th August. For details of how to find it see the environment pages on www.protest.net or email: Plebs.Col@ntlworld.com

Inside SchNEWS

A 22 year old man from Stockholm has received 5 years prison for actions at the EU Summit in Gothenburg last year. Five others are still in prison. Send letters of support and money to: Solidarity Group GBG, c/o Syndikalistiskt forum, Box 7267, SE-402 35 Gothenburg, Sweden. e-mail: solidaritetsgruppen@hotmail.com



...and finally...

So what is it with asylum seekers that make them want to come to our shores? The hospitality and all year sunshine? Our generous benefits system and friendly immigration officials?

Er, no. According to research after interviewing 65 asylum seekers, the main reasons people come here include: Margaret Thatcher, because the old bag gave the impression of the UK being a powerful country; Manchester United football club as evidence that Britain is loaded; and the Beatles and the Spice Girls contributing to the idea that this is a progressive and tolerant place.

The authors also mentioned that many of the asylum seekers they interviewed were fleeing persecution and were more concerned about escaping their own country than about where they would end up, and get this, few knew much about British asylum policy or had any detailed knowledge of benefit levels they might receive, let alone how they compared with other European countries. Funny that, SchNEWS always had the impression that before coming here refugees would be surfing the Net trying to find out the best location to come and sponge off taxpayers, before legging it out the backdoor just in time to escape torture and death.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all asylum seekers you would be bordering on the insane to think there is any refuge in this country. Honest.