

# SICK PAY

**With all the hassle these pesky fire fighters are giving our Neo-Labour boys, it's a wonder that they don't just privatise them.** Surely there's nothing like bringing a private contractor in to stop all this nonsense about essential workers demanding decent pay. A company that has years of experience in driving down wages in the public sector and has been doing extremely well out of Neo Labour's drive to privatise and 'modernise' the public sector is Sodexho, a French multinational private service provider. The company has its fingers in lots of pies - defence, schools and colleges, asylum detention centres and prisons.

Sodexho is a perfect example of the private sector's drive to suppress wages in order to cut costs, win contracts and ultimately line their own pockets. The company has come under fire from labour groups and government bodies in nearly every country it operates

in, having been involved in labour disputes and court actions from Australia to the US. Now it's UK workers who are biting back.

Hospital service workers at Glasgow Royal Infirmary were the first to decide that they were worth more than the miserable £4.15 an hour Sodexho were forking out for their services. In August, around 300 staff won increased pay and conditions despite Sodexho's attempts to draft in scabs from Liverpool to break the picket lines.

Service staff at Liverpool Royal Infirmary, also on Sodexho's generous £4.15 an hour, followed Glasgow's success. They took strike action last Friday, during which a Sodexho manager on £70,000 a year showed his solidarity by helping to give out tea to patients (presumably not at £4.15 hour). Negotiations are underway, but threat of further action still looms over Sodexho.

The porters, cleaners and caterers of Glasgow and Liverpool may not be in the business of saving lives. But their success has shown that col-



lective action by workers getting shat on by the privatisation of essential services in 'New Britain' has still got teeth. As Caroline Leckie, UNISON's branch secretary said, "We won because we organised. We set our own agenda, we did not work to management's agenda." More on Sodexho disputes - [www.labournet.net/default.asp#sodexho](http://www.labournet.net/default.asp#sodexho)

Excellent articles on privatisation - [www.monbiot.com](http://www.monbiot.com)

The number of Firefighters working the night shift is to be reduced, which is when most deaths occur.

\*The disputes mechanism is to be reformed so the union will not be able to embark on any dispute without the management first agreeing on the form the dispute is to take. The ban on overtime is to be rescinded and there will be a blurring of the distinctions between full-time and retained firefighters: in effect they'll all become retained.

\*Emergency Fire Control Rooms will be amalgamated with those of other Emergency Services and farmed out to Call-Centres. Section 19 of the 1947 Fire Services Act, which ensures that local communities are consulted about the closure of fire-stations, will be repealed. The Report envisages job-losses due to 'natural wastage', a point clarified by the Deputy Prime-Minister, when he said that the next wave of retiring firefighters simply would not be replaced.

It all looks and smells very much like the usual localisation and compartmentalisation, in preparation for privatisation, seen elsewhere. They tried privatising the fire-service in Northern Ireland last year. The attempt was scuppered, but it's unlikely to be the last. Northern Ireland is the traditional testing ground for projects like this.

So far there have been five official strike actions, one of 24 hours, three of 48 hours and eight one-day actions. Six strike actions have been cancelled, including three planned eight-day strikes. The FBU has been eager to demonstrate its reasonability, preferring to continue negotiations with the employers via the

conciliation service ACAS rather than pursue open conflict. This is perhaps not surprising, given the press campaign against them, but it is strategically suspect. On the other hand, open conflict seems exactly what the government wants. In December a deal, involving a 16% pay rise, had been struck hours before the planned eight-day strike was due to start. In an extraordinary turn of events, the Deputy Prime-Minister instructed the Employers not to accept the deal, thus ensuring the strike went ahead. At the time of writing (April) it seems that little progress has been made through the time and energy consuming recourse to negotiations via ACAS. The government still insists on any pay deal (and talk is now of a maximal rise of 16% by November) being directly linked to implementation of proposals in the Bain report. So far this has been rejected by the FBU membership.

After a pledge not to strike during the war on Iraq, which disappointed anti-war activists, given that the FBU has consistently taken an anti-war stance and been prominent on anti-war demonstrations, preparations are now afoot for further industrial action. You can support any further strikes by joining or forming Strike Support Groups to collect money for the FBU hardship fund or produce counter-propaganda. Raise the issue of safety at work during a firefighter strike in your work-place and try to spread the economic damage. If the firefighter's strike starts affecting other areas of the economy, they have a real chance of winning. We all do.



# SCHOOL OF THE ASSASSINS



"I'll get you over the fence for a dollar" - breaking into Fort Benning, Nov 16th. Pic: Greg Roberts

"The order was to take everyone: parents, grandparents, kids, wives, everyone. It was very rare that anyone survived after being taken by my battalion. At first the children were abandoned in the park or the marketplace. But then General Alvarez Martinez said 'These seeds will eventually bear fruit'. So we had to eliminate the children as well." - School of the Americas (SOA) graduate who was once a member of Battalion 3-16, a secret death squad in Honduras. Gen. Alvarez Martinez was also trained at the SOA.

"If any government sponsors the outlaws and killers of innocents, they have become outlaws and murderers themselves." - George Bush on the day he began bombing Afghanistan.

This past weekend, nearly 10,000 people marched to shut down the US's number one terrorist training camp, the School of the Americas. Located in Fort Benning, Georgia, the US-Army-operated SOA has been around for the last 56 years, training Latin American paramilitaries whose victims total tens of thousands. As of January 2001, the SOA officially closed its doors and reopened almost immediately as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Co-operation, or WHISC - an attempt by school and military officials to confuse public criticism and distance the school from its violent past. Nice try, guys, but did you really think we were that thick? The name may have changed, but the underlying purpose of the school remains the same - to control the economic and political systems of Latin

America by aiding and influencing Latin American militaries. Or put another way, to make Central and South America "safe" for US interests by supporting the rape, torture, and genocide of so-called dissidents.

Since 1946, the School of the Americas has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers

and policemen. Among its graduates are many of South and Central America's most notorious torturers, mass murderers, dictators and state terrorists. In 1996, the Pentagon was forced to release SOA training manuals which included top tips on the use of torture, blackmail and execution. As hundreds of pages of documentation compiled by the pressure group SOA Watch shows, groups trained by the SOA have ripped Latin America apart. Here are just a few highlights from some of the SOA's former students:

**\*\*In Chile, SOA graduates ran both Augusto Pinochet's secret police and his three principal concentration camps.**

**\*\*Former SOA student Colonel Byron Lima Estrada ran the D-2 military intelligence agency in Guatemala with the help of two other SOA graduates. Throughout the 1980's, D-2 coordinated an "anti-insurgency" campaign which obliterated 448 Mayan Indian villages and murdered thousands of innocent people..**

**\*\*The list of atrocities committed during El Salvador's civil war is long and bloody, but none is more horrifying than the massacre in El Mazote, where in 1981, members of the Atlacatl Battalion murdered more than 900 villagers including women, children and the elderly. At least nine of the Atlacatl Battalion were former SOA graduates. In 1993, the United Nations Truth Commission on El Salvador named the army officers who had committed the worst atrocities of the civil war. Two-thirds**

of those named had been trained at the School of the Americas.

And the list goes on and on... As one Brazilian human rights group said, "The mark of the School of the Americas is engraved in the minds and bodies and in the histories of the families of the tortured, killed, and disappeared."

Meanwhile, protesters who dare to speak out against their government's support and orchestration of such acts are promptly arrested and jailed. Last week's demo in Georgia saw the arrest of 90 protesters, including a 12-year-old who we're quite sure posed a grave threat to the State. One man was arrested when he refused to submit to a police metal detector scan and bag search. Later, in a court hearing to determine the legality of searching protesters, police officers testified that they had never experienced a single act of violence or even the threat of violence in the past 13 years of protests against the SOA. They justified the searches, however, by saying they felt that hostility had been growing with the increase in numbers of anarchists and "bare breasted women". Bare-breasted women being decidedly more dangerous than military death squads trained and armed to the teeth by the US government, of course. For more info on the SOA's dirty dealings, check out the excellent website [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) Protest info at: [http://indymedia.org/front.php3?article\\_id=217835](http://indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=217835)



One of the 90 arrested breaking into Fort Benning. Nov 16th Pic: Greg Roberts



**STOP  
THE  
WAR**

## NO GLO-BALONEY

Last Friday, Italian police raided the homes of members of the Italian social movement **No Global**. 20 were arrested, denied access to lawyers, and held in solitary confinement, while another 22 have been placed under house arrest. The arrest warrants declared **No Global** "a subversive association" with intentions to "conspire against the Italian State" – proof of the intensification of the Berlusconi government's attempts to suppress the vibrant Italian social movement.

This comes after the success of the European Social Forum in Florence, attended by 40,000 delegates, with nearly 1 million people taking to the streets for Europe's largest ever anti-war demonstration (see last weeks SchNEWS). The harmony of the week-long Social Forum and the demonstration was the polar opposite of the 'terror' and 'violence' that Berlusconi and his media mouthpieces claimed the event would bring. So 'repressione' it is and even though the powers-that-be can't find anything horribly criminal to charge **No Global** with, they've decided to hit them with "political conspiracy" and "subversive propaganda." Protests have been called in solidarity with those arrested and over the weekend 30,000 people took to the streets of Rome and thousands more marched in Naples, Genoa, Florence and Milan. [www.resist.org.uk](http://www.resist.org.uk)



Press photographers gather around a papier-mache tank left by protestors near riot police outside the NATO Summit, Prague, Czech Rep. Nov 22nd Pic: Alec Smart

## IN THE VANGUARD

While Blair is threatening Iraq with war if they don't grant access to weapons inspectors and has warned Britain to be on high alert for terrorist attacks, last Friday two people broke through totally non-existent security and spent thirty unhindered minutes inspecting one of Britain's illegal weapons of mass-destruction – a Trident nuclear submarine. They were eventually arrested after several attempts to set off faulty fire alarms to let security know they were there! The HMS Vanguard is one of four subs set to be refitted at Devonport Royal Navy dockyard in Plymouth, joining the 12 already there. More

info phone 0845-458-8366 or see [www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org).

\* On 14<sup>th</sup> Dec there's plans for a **mass weapons inspection of US airforce base Fairford** in Gloucestershire, at the same time as US stealth bombers are due to arrive at the base. Transport is being organised from Bristol.

Info: <http://bristol.indymedia.org>

\* Next **Sussex Action for Peace** meeting is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm the Brighthelm Centre, North Street, Brighton. To join a discussion of **anti-war activities in Brighton** go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonagainstarwar>

## STOP LAUDA AIR!







"I'm just not cut out for this type of work" - WTO delegate, Sydney Nov 22nd

## It Just Ain't Cricket

Sydney residents unsure about the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting in their city were enlightened last Friday by the Institute For Applied Piracy, who jammed a commercial radio station for ten minutes, replacing the broadcast with a message about the dodgy dealings of the WTO. They explained to listeners how the WTO are an unelected body who represent corporate interests and promote free trade – never mind human rights, workers rights, the environment or anything else which is a 'barrier to trade'.

Meanwhile, the first meeting of the WTO since Doha focussed discussing the use of cheap AIDS drugs to bully developing countries into free trade. And outside the guarded fence, another festival of

anti-capitalism kicked off. Streets were occupied in central Sydney last Thursday and even featured a padded up, all-white, Cricket Bloc.

On Friday, 2000 protesters hit the conference centre at Olympic Park where the fence was breached several times and 35 were arrested. Aboriginals re-occupied the 'tent embassy' site they created during the Olympics at Victoria Park, re-lighting the peace fire they'd started there during the Games. <http://sydney.indymedia.org>

\* Britain has signed a trade agreement with Thailand promising to increase imports of farm produce and find new markets for Thai goods in return for supplying weapons to the Thailand military. That's good old free trade for ya.

## No Purchase Necessary

With Christmas fast approaching, advertisers are stepping up their usual hype – "Buy, buy, buy! You're inadequate if you don't possess the latest gadget/colour/label/toy".

But why not take a day (or preferably the rest of your life) off from this consumer bullshit and join in on **Buy Nothing Day**. The message is simple. Shop less – live more. Spend time with family and friends, rather than spending money on them.

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...and finally...

SchNEWS has scoured the high street to find you the most ridiculous bit of consumer crap available for the holiday season—one apple for the price of five. For 49p (the price of a whole pound of apples), Sainsbury's is offering just one ready sliced apple, with the perfect added preservative—a plastic bag. What a bargain! What's next? Pre-peeled bananas? Ready chewed food? "If you are not entirely satisfied with this product, please let Sainsbury's know on 0800 636262"

And if that's not enough to make you sick, then why not join in on mass vomiting actions planned for Buy Nothing Day? A group of anti-consumers are looking for people to join them in taking a Brazilian plant which induces vomiting. After taking the plant, the group plans to visit local consumerist meccas en masse for spectacular puking sessions. Sound appealing? If so contact them at [mongrelart@yahoo.com](mailto:mongrelart@yahoo.com) [www.fanclubbers.org](http://www.fanclubbers.org)

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers after a hard day fanning the flames of resistance over burning issues we always need a little hosing down. Honest.





BOOM  
BOOM!

# GONE TO THE DOGS

**"This case is an attempt by the state to stop any demos other than those organised with the co-operation of the police - with routes, times etc. all on their terms. Anyone demonstrating now risks arrest and a charge of conspiracy." - Sue, Shoreham Protester.**

In September 2000, hunt saboteur Steve Christmas was deliberately run-down by a Land Rover driven by Old Surrey and Burstow hunt supporter Martin Maynard. Steve had to be airlifted to hospital with four broken ribs, a crushed pelvis, a damaged lung and severe internal bleeding (See SchNEWS 274). The following day whilst he was fighting for his life, a group of nearly 60 protesters went to pay their respects at the local hunt kennels. Upon arriving at the kennel, the group was met by two friendly hunt supporters wielding pickaxe handles. The two men taunted the group about Steve and a scuffle broke out in which some windows were broken. Police, who had been observing the whole thing, did little to prevent a confrontation and made no arrests at the time. Instead, the powers-that-be decided to use the corruption of our legal system to bring us their very own version of justice.

Here's how it works - see if you can spot the bias. Martin Maynard, the guy who ran over and nearly killed Steve Christmas, had his charge of 'grievous bodily harm with intent' dropped, and instead paid a piddling £75 fine for not having any insurance or licence when he ran Steve down. Maynard also failed to turn up in court four times but of course was never punished for this. And to top it all

off, the violent thugs who provoked the protesters at the kennels were never arrested.

Contrast this to the treatment received by anti-hunt protesters. A few weeks after the incident at the kennels, 26 of them (who had been identified from CCTV footage) had their homes raided. They were arrested for 'violent disorder', but then the story suddenly changed and 18 were charged with 'conspiracy to commit violent disorder' as there was no proof who did the damage.

After three trials lasting months, with costs running at £8,000 per day, five of those arrested have been found guilty and are due to be sentenced today at Guildford Crown Court. It is expected that they will be sent to prison for the hideous crime of breaking a few windows, even though there is no suggestion that these five are actually the ones that caused any of the damage! The Crown Prosecution Service alleges that those convicted were part of a wider conspiracy. But according to the prosecution, this so-called conspiracy happened in the few short seconds in which the group walked up the lane to the kennels. And the damning evidence the prosecution produced to prove this conspiracy? The fact that most people were wearing black hooded tops (which is what most sabs wear all the time, even down the pub!) and that the protesters weren't carrying placards (cos' that's the only way you're allowed to protest nowadays).

While the CPS were scraping the bottom of the barrel to prove their pet conspiracy theory, they presented as evidence a leaflet

## CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK For Doing A Stall!

Two people from Dorset Animal Action were doing a stall in Bourne-mouth when police asked for their details. The activists had the cheek to ask if they were being nicked or issued with a summons, which led to their arrest for deception. After being strip-searched and kept at the station for 8 hours, the activists were released without charge, but not before the greedy coppers stole all the money that had been collected by the stall.

produced AFTER the incident happened and a t-shirt found at the home of one of the protesters which had a caricature of a fox with a shot-gun saying "I'll give you bloodsports pal".

## A BREED APART

This sort of pro-hunt bias is of course nothing new, hunt supporters magically seem to have a whole set of laws to themselves. In 1991, Mark Bycroft, who is one of the main men at the Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt, was ordered to do community service after being found guilty of assaulting a hunt sab. Old Surrey and Burstow later promoted him to Huntsman. Last year, rider Joseph Wilkinson was convicted of Criminal Damage & Causing Actual Bodily Harm to a 58 year-old woman who he'd punched to the ground, busting her lip and trashing her camera in the process. His sentence? A slap on the wrist Conditional Discharge!

Justice like this had nothing at all to do with having friends in high places. In the Steve Christmas case,



## Gone to the Dogs cont...

the MP for Mid-Sussex, Nicholas lardarse Soames, who rides with another hunt, arranged a meeting with himself and the Huntsman of the Old Surrey and Burstow hunt to discuss matters with the then Home Secretary Jack Straw. Shame no one ever rang up Steve to see if HE wanted to have a chat with Straw. One of the protesters arrested over the kennel incident told SchNEWS, "It's obvious that the order to proceed with this trial came from very high up".

## ARNIMATED

The animal rights movement in this country has definitely proved that it is a force to be reckoned with. The movement is unlike any other with the wide range of people and tactics involved. There is also a unity not seen in many other movements, those writing letters are not dismissed as wet-liberals and people who take direct action are not condemned as mindless yobs. This combination has enabled activists to set their sights on specific targets and in many cases win. Recent years have seen vivisection breeders such as Hillgrove and Shamrock

Farms bite the dust, a ban on the testing of cosmetics on animals, as well as the start of serious debate about fox hunting. This success, however, has come at the high cost of serious harassment, grief, and bullying from the media and the state. As surveillance expert Alan Lodge, says "Large scale news manufacturers have helped engineer an image of prevalent animal rights terrorism, whilst constructed charges worse than the actual crime have also ensured long prison sentences. The whole animal rights movement has been manoeuvred into the category of potential terrorism." This terrorism label means that animal rights activism has its own Special Branch unit accumulating information for the Animal Rights National Index (ARNI).

The real motivation behind the prosecutions in the kennel incident is likely to have been the further intimidation of those involved in the animal rights movement. Seems the State wants to send a message out that if you support animal rights activism in any way, you are not safe. The verdict could have serious implications for anyone involved in any sort of

protest that extends beyond banner waving behind a police barrier. Full updates on the outcome of the trial at [www.sahc.org.uk](http://www.sahc.org.uk) or [www.huntsabs.org.uk](http://www.huntsabs.org.uk)

\* The hunting season resumed at the beginning of this month. There are local hunt saboteur groups all over the UK who take direct action each week to save the lives of animals. Hunt Saboteurs Association - 0845 4500727

\* Marsh UK, the insurance brokers for vivisectors Huntingdon Life Sciences, are spending £103,000 per week on security. Since February this year they have received 4718 emails, 324 faxes, 1198 letters and on occasions up to 400 telephone calls per hour! All of their 36 offices have been "visited" a total of 244 times. More info [www.shac.net](http://www.shac.net). Phone messages of condolence to Marsh on 020 7357 1000, calls may be monitored for "quality control" purposes!

\* Huntingdon Life Sciences "celebrates" its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 1<sup>st</sup> December. [www.december1.net](http://www.december1.net)

\* A Public Enquiry about a potential primate lab in Cambridge started on Tuesday. Cambridge Against Primate Experiments: 01223 311828 [www.x-cape.org.uk](http://www.x-cape.org.uk)

## President Blair speaks...



It is ten years since the battle of Twyford Down, the beginning of the UK anti-roads movement, and there's a camp to 'Remember, Rejoice, and Resist!' 8-9 Dec, St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester. [www.roadalert.org.uk](http://www.roadalert.org.uk) \*\* Manchester has another **Radical Bookfair** next Saturday (7 Dec) Find out about radical activity in Manchester - stalls, workshops, and veggie food, 1-5pm, Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick Street, Ancoats. [www.radicalbookfair.org.uk](http://www.radicalbookfair.org.uk) \*\* Privacy International host a public meeting on the government's proposal for an **Entitlement (identity) Card**. 11 Dec, 2-4.30pm, Old Theatre, London School of Economics. [www.privacyinternational.org](http://www.privacyinternational.org) 07960 523679 \*\* Defy-ID is "an adhoc network of groups and individuals prepared for **active resistance to increasing surveillance and the introduction**

of identity or 'entitlement' cards in the UK" [www.defy-id.org.uk](http://www.defy-id.org.uk)

\*\* A book about the proposed **Baku-Ceyhan pipeline** is now available entitled 'Some Common Concerns - Imagining BP's Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey Pipelines System'. BP intends to begin construction on its proposed pipelines system in spring 2003, a system that would run from Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea to the southern shores of Turkey via Georgia. Copies of the book for £11.50 made out to 'The Ilisu Dam Campaign', to: Baku-Ceyhan Campaign, c/o Ilisu Dam Campaign, Box 210, 266 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DL. 01865 200 550 [baku@gn.apc.org](mailto:baku@gn.apc.org)

\*\* **Public meeting about the Baku-Ceyhan Pipeline**. 5 Dec. 7.30-8.30pm, London School of Economics, St Clements building, Room S75, Claremarket St., London. 01865-241097/200550.



## POSITIVE SchNEWS

In the seemingly gloomy soil of Argentina, something positive is taking root. In this country, where over 6 million people now live below the poverty line and 20 percent of children suffer from malnutrition, people are re-taking control of their lives. Since the financial crisis last December, when Argentines saw most of their savings wiped out, disillusionment with the corrupt state and greedy capitalism has led to the creation of neighbourhood assemblies and worker-controlled factories. Communities meet weekly in 'asambleas' to decide on what is vitally necessary for the community and then communicate their needs to one of the 100 worker-controlled factories.

Grissinopoli, a bread stick factory, is one example. When it was still under capitalist control, workers saw their weekly salary decline from 150 to 40 pesos in under a year. Finally in June their generous boss offered the workers 10 pesos (2 quid) and encouraged them to get lost. Fed up, they began a battle for their jobs. They took turns guarding the closed factory, making sure no equipment was removed, until the city council expropriated the factory and handed it over to the workers in October. Now the bread sticks are rolling out again.

Grissinopoli is just one factory amongst dozens of others that have seen workers taking control. Such factories are self-managed by workers' councils which means each worker has an equal say in how the factory should be run. Of course it's not easy work, as many workers in such factories are working longer hours as they balance labouring with admin tasks. But they're in control and because of this wages and productivity have risen in many factories.

With 17 factory expropriations in the Buenos Aires province in the past two years, capitalist forces have put pressure on the local government. Because of this, state repression is increasing, and just last March riot police attempted to 'reclaim' the worker-run Brukman factory but were chased off by hundreds of irate community members. [www.ainfos.ca](http://www.ainfos.ca)

\*Days of civil disobedience are planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December in solidarity with the Argentinian people's social rebellion. [www.ainfos.ca](http://www.ainfos.ca)  
[www.uk.indymedia.org](http://www.uk.indymedia.org)



Umbrella of Mass Destruction: Weapon Inspectors approach Fairford December 14th

## TO B-2 OR NOT TO B-2

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon, Gloucestershire Weapons Inspectors and Bristol Stop-the-War coalition will hold a "citizens inspection" of US airforce base RAF Fairford.

This sleepy home of good old unsinkable aircraft carrier HMS Britain hosts the largest US bomber base in Europe, refurbished earlier this year at a cost of one hundred million pounds—the largest single NATO expenditure since the end of the cold war. The B-2 bombers at Fairford are thought to already be carrying the new generation of "more useable" nuclear weapons designed to attack deep bunkers and other super secret evil guy hideouts. These weapons will be fully involved in any attack on Iraq. "We want all weapons of mass destruction to be open to inspection," says Grace Trevett, one of the citizen inspectors. "The US is tearing up treaty after treaty and

they act as if they have the right to do whatever they like. But rights are universal and apply equally everywhere. Iraq is prepared to allow weapons inspections, let us see if USAF Fairford can do the same."

Fairford is on the A417, 10 miles north of Swindon & 20 miles west of Oxford. Coaches are going from Brighton (details - [brightonagainstwar@hotmail.com](mailto:brightonagainstwar@hotmail.com) or 01273 298 192) and Bristol (0117 9211369: [james@venables.plus.com](mailto:james@venables.plus.com)) <http://bristol.indymedia.org/> and [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk)

\* Next Wed (4), the Easton Community Centre, Bristol & i-Contact Video Network are showing the films 'Not In My Name' and 'Proud Arabs and Texas Oilmen' followed by a debate /plan of action to stop the city on the outbreak of war with Iraq. The Centre is at Kilburn Street, Easton, Bristol. Kick off is at 7.30pm and its all for free.





## LEED STORY

Late last Saturday night, 100 tooled up riot cops used a battering ram to gain access to a building and randomly sprayed people with CS gas. So what provoked such a heavy police response? Er, a party in Leeds at the A-Spire squatted social centre. Once again the dance-police have been out in force, executing a pre-planned operation against unlicensed fun. Fortunately no one was injured in the panic, thanks to safety procedures put in place by the organisers, but 20 people were arrested and 4 have been charged with affray.

The A-Spire squat had been used for housing homeless people, hosting workshops, talks, film shows, a vegan café and children's area. SchNEWS reckons that Leeds Council and local police didn't like that the A-Spire crew had been providing free space, outside the confines of consumer culture.

As SchNEWS went to press on Thursday, it became apparent just how far Leeds Council and police will go to protect their new yuppie-friendly image. On Thursday afternoon, police apparently stormed two squatted buildings connected to the long-running Leeds housing co-op, Cornerstone. When alarmed activists arrived on the scene, they found both buildings boarded up and many of the squatters missing. It still remains unclear exactly what happened and or how many people have been nicked, but there's one thing for sure—Leeds police are on an arsehole roll!

\* A group of party goers who were attacked by riot police at a rave in the Cumberland Basin, Bristol, back in July are looking to sue the police. They want witnesses of the night's events to come forward and write a statement of what they saw. If you can help email disruptive@dangerous-minds.com. The attack seems prompted by the massive rave that took place on Steart beach over the Jubilee Weekend (SchNEWS 363). The cops came under a lot of flack for not stopping the Steart beach party and afterwards promised to do better next time. To see the letter from the cops [www.guilfin.net/reports/?id=rwINET1494](http://www.guilfin.net/reports/?id=rwINET1494)

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turn opinion into action

STOP THE WAR ON IRAQ

End

WAR BRIEFS

CND are taking the Labour Government to the International Criminal Court over their plans to attack Iraq. The CND are being represented by the law firm Matrix Chambers, who just happen to be the firm that Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife, works for! 020 7700 2393 [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) \*\*

Benefit gig, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to raise funds to pay for the CND court case. With Mark Thomas, Jeremy Hardy, Ahmid Dhijhi and Michael Moore. Bloomsbury Theatre, London W1. Call 020 7388 8822 for tickets. \*\*

Warzone Whitehall, a nonviolent die-in against war and sanctions on Iraq next Monday (2), 10.30am, Whitehall Place, London SW1. Prop-making, nonviolent direct action workshop & teach-in, the day before (1 Dec) 11am-5pm, Kingsley Hall, Powis Road, London E3. Accommodation available Sunday night. 0845 4582564. [www.j-n-v.org/warzone.htm](http://www.j-n-v.org/warzone.htm). \*\*

Witnesses are needed for arrests in London during the Halloween anti-war demo. People are facing ridiculous charges of Violent Disorder for the privilege of getting shoved around by the police! Any information contact Moss and Co. Solicitors on 020-8986-8336 \*\*

Norwich Critical Mass this Saturday (30), meet midday outside the Forum (the new library). All non-motor wheels, pedestrians, and saucians needed. "Stop the City, Stop the War" is the theme.

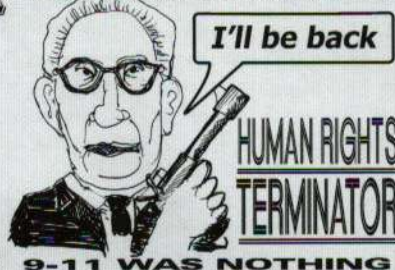
Two people on a demo in Germany got whacked on the head by police recently. Er, not exactly major news, except the two injured people were actually undercover cops! The two had been monitoring a rally of 3000 people protesting against the demolition of a trailer site in Hamburg called 'Bambule' (an old fashioned German word for riot!) when violence broke out. Apparently, the undercover cops tend to communicate their real identity to the riot police by using a secret code word - but in the chaos, no one took notice of this and the plainclothes ended up experiencing the blunt end of the justice system just like everyone else! The local police say that the incident is in no way "evidence of more widespread aggression within the police force", but the undercover police officers are still taking legal action over their injuries. But SchNEWS reckons that since riot police NEVER harm peaceful protesters, it only follows that the undercover cops must have been violent anarchist thugs who were really asking for it!

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers if you don't believe Santa Claus exists here's something for yer granny's stocking or that anarchist who hasn't got everything... As a Xmas offer we're flogging from our grotto the new SchNEWS Of The World - issues 301-350 for £5!! Past books are also goin' cheap... SchNEWSround issues 51-100 - nearly sold out - £5; SchNEWS annual issues 101-150 - going for £3!! Survival Handbook issues 151-200 - also at £3; SchQUALL issues 201-250 - almost sold out - £7; Yearbook 2001 issues 251-300 - bargain £5. Add £1.50 p&p for each book, cheques to Justice? Honest!

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Friday 6th December 2002

Free/Donation

Issue 384

9-11 WAS NOTHING

# KISSINGER OF DEATH

Next Tuesday is International Human Rights Day - 54 years since the signing of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which amongst other things declared, 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.'

Apparently the British government decided to get in on the celebrations a bit early this year by releasing a 23-page dossier on Iraqi human rights abuses, with foreign secretary, Jack Straw, telling the world, "It is important that people understand the comprehensive evil which is Saddam Hussein."

SchNEWS has no problem with spelling out the fact that Saddam is a torturing evil scumbag, but as Richard Bunting of Amnesty International pointed out, "Iraq's human rights record is appalling, but we have been saying this for years. The British and US are being selective, conveniently ignoring other countries and using this record to drive forward foreign and military goals."

Even the Iraqi dissident that Neo-Labour dragged out to support the dossier said he was "opposed to a war that may cause the Iraqi people a great loss of life and infrastructure." Hussain al-Shahristani, a former nuclear scientist, was tortured and jailed for 11 years for refusing to work on Saddam's secret nuclear programme, and is now head of the Iraqi Refugee Aid Council. "When I was in jail," he added, "I was held with British-made handcuffs. In the cells next door, I could hear the screams of people who were having holes drilled into their bones. Those drills were made in Britain... The dossier about human rights abuses is correct. Each of the

events took place. But I am critical of the silence of Britain and other European countries for over two decades about these abuses."

That's because when it comes to human rights abuses, governments seem to have selective amnesia about just who are the world's bad guys.

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait, the UK government supported President Saddam and British companies helped arm him. After the gassing of the Kurds at Halabja, British ministers and officials tried to blame the chemical attack on Iran. Human Rights Watch said that when it collected evidence of Saddam's abuses at Halabja and elsewhere in the Kurdish area of Iraq, the Foreign Office ignored it.

Or what about Turkey, who've been busy repressing the Kurdish people without anyone so much as batting an eyelid. Arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, disappearances, extra-judicial killings, the banning of political opposition and harassment of human rights groups are just some of the treats in store for you if you're Kurdish. Add to that the fact that Kurdish language, names, music, culture, and clothing are outlawed. Conservative

## CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For sending an e-mail!

When veteran Icelandic peacenik Asthor Magnusson warned fellow citizens that their government was allocating £3m of their money to transport US weapons and using troops to murder the people of Iraq, he found himself in solitary confinement! He now faces a possible 3-year sentence. [www.peace2000.org](http://www.peace2000.org)

estimates reckon that in the past 15 years, Turkish Security Forces have destroyed 4000 Kurdish villages - leaving 30,000 dead and 3 million driven from their homes

So Kurds fighting Iraq are good, but Kurds fighting against Turkey are bad because Turkey is a member of NATO and an important ally of the United States thanks to its strategically placed air bases.

## A Right Carry On

And now the American public can rest easy knowing that human rights champion Henry Kissinger is to head an 'independent' commission to investigate the attacks on America on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Who better to investigate 9/11 than Kissinger, the man behind untold amounts of state-sponsored terrorism and wanted

## SURROUND RAF FAIRFORD!

A national demonstration and weapons inspection on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. US stealth bombers are being deployed at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire on their way to carpet bomb Iraq. We want these weapons of mass destruction removed. Transport from across the country. More info: <http://bristol.indymedia.org>

\* Brighton coach leaves St Peters Church at 8.30am Tickets £6 from The Druids Pub, Ditchling Rise, or from the Sussex Action for Peace stall, Gardner St, Saturday 2-4pm. 01273 298192 [www.safp.org.uk](http://www.safp.org.uk)

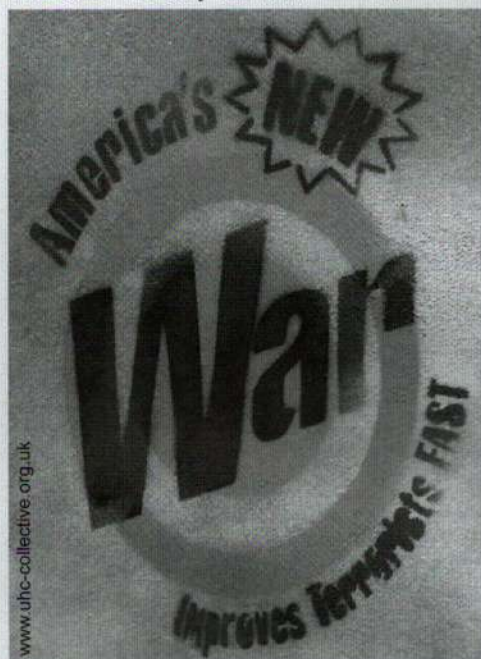


## Kissenger of Death cont...

across the world as a war criminal! A proven liar has been assigned the task of finding the truth. Brilliant!

As war criminals go, Kissinger is in the premier league. During the Vietnam War he was co-architect with Nixon in the secret bombing campaign of Cambodia, which is estimated to have claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians.

In 1971, Pakistani General Yahya Khan, armed with U.S. weaponry, overthrew a democratically elected government in Bangladesh — an action that led to a massive civilian bloodbath. Kissinger blocked U.S. condemnation of Khan and instead noted the General's "delicacy and tact."



In the early 1970s, Kissinger masterminded the CIA's \$8 million campaign to overthrow the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende in Chile. When Allende won power, all US aid was cut and Kissinger announced, "The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves." So in came the murderous military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. On June 8, 1976, at the height of Pinochet's repression, Kissinger had a meeting with the dictator, telling him, "We are sympathetic to what you are trying to do here."

In 1975, President Gerald Ford and Kissinger offered advance approval of Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor, where tens of thousands of East Timorese were killed.

In 1976, as the Argentinian military junta was beginning its so-called "dirty war" against supposed subversives — between 9,000 and 30,000 people would be "disappeared" by the military over the next seven years — Argentina's foreign minister met with Kissinger and received what he believed was encouragement for his government's violent efforts. A few years later Kissinger travelled to Buenos Aires as the guest of dictator General Jorge Rafael Videla and praised the junta for having done, "an outstanding job in wiping out terrorist forces."

As journalist David Corn points out, "For many in the world, Kissinger is a symbol of U.S. arrogance and the misuse of American might. In power, he cared more for U.S. credibility and geostrategic advantage than for human rights and open government."

As the declaration goes 'All human beings are born free and equal', it just seems that some are a lot more free and a lot more equal than others.

\* Check out all yer favourite war criminals [www.icaonline.org](http://www.icaonline.org)

\* There are lots of actions planned on Tues-

day to support refugees, including a demonstration outside the Crown Prosecution Service organised by the Justice In the Yarl's Wood Trial Campaign, 5-6pm, 50 Ludgate Hill, London. EC4M 7EX (more info 07786 517379 [ginn\\_emma@hotmail.com](mailto:ginn_emma@hotmail.com)). Human Rights are Human Rights — Public meeting, Room 3c, University of London Union, Malet Street, W1 7.30pm. Speakers include Civil rights lawyer Louise Christian, and Emma Ginn, Campaign for Justice In the Yarl's Wood Trial ([info@defend-asylum.org](mailto:info@defend-asylum.org)). For other events, check out SchNEWS Party and Protest guide on our website.

## GREEDY BASTARDS!

18 years after one of the worst chemical leaks in history, the people of Bhopal are still waiting for justice in the wake of the Union Carbide disaster. Proving how little the powers that be actually care about people's suffering, Dow Chemicals (who now own Union Carbide) have told the people of Bhopal that there'll be no compensation or clean-up because it would piss off shareholders and fellow Multinationals.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, a group of survivors of Union Carbide and supporters of the Campaign for Justice in Bhopal tried to clean up some of the toxic waste that's still poisoning their land and water supplies. Police waded in and 100 were arrested.

Neither the government nor Dow have done anything to protect the health of the people living round the factory site. More than 20,000 have now died as a direct result of the disastrous pesticide leak at the Union Carbide factory on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1984. And a further 150 000 have been left chronically ill. Unsurprisingly, Dow hasn't paid a cent towards the victims' often massive medical bills.

Though every single legal investigation has found Union Carbide guilty of criminal negligence, both Union Carbide and Dow have consistently denied these findings. "We understand the anger and hurt," said Dow Spokesperson Bob Questra. "But Dow does not and cannot acknowledge responsibility. Our responsibility is to our shareholders. If we accepted responsibility we would be required to expend many billions of dollars on cleanup and compensation — much worse, the public could then point to Dow as a precedent in other big cases. We are unable to set this precedent for ourselves and the industry, much as we would like to see the issue resolved in a humane and satisfying way."

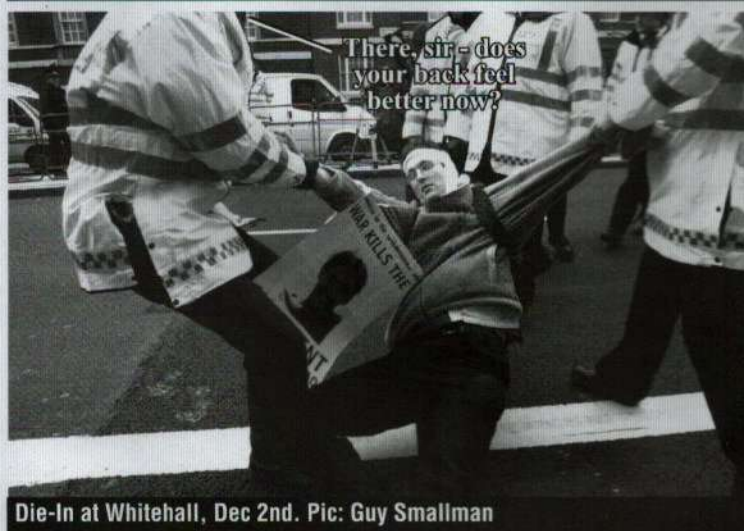
Shareholders are delighted. One said, "Bhopal is a recurrent problem that's clogging our value chain and ultimately keeping the share price from expressing its full potential. This has cleared the way." [www.bhopal.net](http://www.bhopal.net)



## SchNEWS in brief

Stingy Brighton Council want to **evict a group of Irish Travellers** from a derelict site at Preston Barracks. The site's been abandoned for years, but the Council has suddenly decided they need it for "development". Planning permission couldn't go through before the end of 2003 at the earliest and the travellers say they only want to stay 'til January anyway. Nevertheless, the Council are considering sending in their heavies to evict the site. Why not ring the council and give your support to the travellers. Pat Foster 01273-290000 or Heather James 01273-291142 \*\* An **Italian priest** from a small town near Naples was last week sacked because, according to his superiors, his behaviour is 'scandalous to the faithful'. His crimes were to speak at a **Gay Pride march** and join anti-capitalist protesters at the **Genoa G8** summit. The priest's faithful local parishioners are furious at the decision and are planning the biggest march in the town's recent history to demand he's reinstated. \*\* This Sat (7) **March with the Firefighters**. Noon, Cleopatra's needle, Embankment, London. [www.fp4f.com](http://www.fp4f.com) \*\* Also this weekend, **Youth & Student CND National Gathering** with workshops, talks, and video screenings. LARC, 62 Fieldgate St, Whitechapel, London. Contact in advance if you need accommodation 020 7607 3616 [info@youthstudentcnd.org.uk](mailto:info@youthstudentcnd.org.uk) \*\* **'How UK Foreign Investment Creates Asylum Seekers'** seminar

and launch of new Ilisu Dam Campaign Project. This Sat (8) 1-6pm, at the Kurdish Community Centre, 11 Portland Gardens, London N4. 0787 6771576 [rochelle.harris@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:rochelle.harris@ukonline.co.uk) \*\* Brighton Council will decide on the controversial **Brighton Station development**, which includes another Sainsbury's store and posh hotels. Noon, 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, Hove Town Hall. 01273 681166 [www.buddbrighton.org](http://www.buddbrighton.org) \*\* Xmas Benefit night for the **Simon Jones Memorial Campaign** and **Mosaic Mixed and Black Parentage Family Group**, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 11pm-3am, Concorde 2, Madeira Drive, Brighton. \*\* **If you didn't vote at the last election**, feel good about it and check out [www.vetothevote.com](http://www.vetothevote.com) for more about our so-called democracy. \*\* Sub-Cultural Radikal Arts Productions presents **Wreck n' Roll Cirkus**, Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, loadsa musik and subversion. 9.30pm- 6am, The Imperial Gardens, 199 Camberwell New Road, London. £7 b4 11pm, £10 after. 077731334958 \*\* **Workers Left Unity - Iran** meeting in solidarity with the growing protest movement and in support of Iranian students, journalists, writers and workers. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 6pm. NUJ Building 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1 [web@etehadchap.com](mailto:web@etehadchap.com) \*\* **West Papua Solidarity** Fri 20<sup>th</sup> 'The Wick' 25 Whitepost Rd, Hackney Wick (Bus 276) after 8pm £3/2- Disruptive Element + support



Die-In at Whitehall, Dec 2nd. Pic: Guy Smallman

## WAR BRIEFS

A coalition of Canadian peace groups is sending an international team of volunteer weapons inspectors to the US this winter. **"Rooting Out Evil"** are sending inspectors to the US and want unhindered access to all sites including presidential compounds. A spokesperson said "On the basis of Bush's guidelines, it is clear that the current U.S. administration poses a great threat to global security." See [www.rootingoutevil.org](http://www.rootingoutevil.org) \*\* Two day **'training' event in Oxford** this weekend (7-8) in preparation for next weekend's weapons inspection at Fairford airbase. 01865 794 504 [greening\\_paul@hotmail.com](mailto:greening_paul@hotmail.com) \*\* It is **twenty years since 30,000 women demonstrated against the US's nuclear cruise missiles at Greenham Common** and this is being celebrated at Women's with Hill Women's Peace Camp next Thursday (12), Embrace the Base: 10 am - 4 pm. The next day, Blockade the Base: Non-violent direct action. Info: 01943 468593 [flossiemintballs@aol.com](mailto:flossiemintballs@aol.com) \*\* Last Monday 250 people staged a **'die in' in Whitehall**. Part of the road was blocked for 5 hours in protest against the war. 35 people were arrested for obstruction of the highway. [www.viwuk.freemove.co.uk](http://www.viwuk.freemove.co.uk) \*\* Make a pledge to engage in civil disobedience if war starts at [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org) \*\* **'The Fire this Time'** a CD by Grant Wakefield which charts the history of the West's manipulation of the political landscape in the Middle East with background tunes from the Aphex and Orbital, is out now. [www.firethistime.org](http://www.firethistime.org) \*\* Stop the War have just released **'Peace Not War'** benefit CD compilation including tracks from Public Enemy, Fun-da-mental, Massive Attack, Billy Bragg and even Crass. Available in most record shops [www.peace-not-war.org](http://www.peace-not-war.org)





Rising Tide at the office of ERM, Dec 2nd

## "Erm..."

On Monday morning, protestors from Rising Tide, who campaign for climate change justice, performed an environmental and social impact assessment of the London office of Environmental Resource Management (ERM), with some barricading themselves in the directors office and hanging out a banner 'Oil Makes War.' ERM has been carrying out research work for oil giant BP on the proposed 1,770-km pipeline from Baku in Azerbaijan through Georgia to the port of Ceyhan in Turkey. ERM's role is to greenwash the whole project—it plays a crucial role in convincing public funders to give financial backing to the scheme. [www.ermconcerns.com](http://www.ermconcerns.com)

## DISCONNECTED

Workers in Ozarow Poland have been rioting against the closure of their telephone cable factory. They rejected the measly payoff they were offered, and instead started a 219 day occupation of the factory which ended abruptly two weeks ago when several buses of security guards violently evicted the protesters. There's been mass solidarity with the workers and small groups of anarchists from around Poland have joined them in helping with blockades around the factory and organising various ambushes on trucks

Meanwhile, last week in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, a group of people paid a friendly visit to the office of the Georgian International Oil Company, one of BP's partners in the pipeline project. The protest came in response to the Georgian Government's decision to issue permission for construction of the pipeline by November 30<sup>th</sup>. The decision violates Georgian environmental legislation, as it allows the pipeline to pass through protected areas and water sanctuary zones in the sensitive Borjomi Gorge. The decision, the Government says, was made to meet the project timeline and thus fulfil BP's requirements.

Rising Tide network 01865 241097, [www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk).

leaving the site.

As one Polish anarchist said, "As soon as we started harassing security guards in a more organised way, they started living in a state of permanent siege, hiding inside the factory behind barricades they built to be protected from us. All day and night black bloc, workers, and small group of local hooligans attacked them. Lots of workers were amazed by our way of fighting." This pressure has triggered new negotiations, but across Poland the number of strikes are growing because of worsening economic conditions.

## Inside SchNEWS

The five animal rights activists who were facing jail sentences for "conspiracy to hold a protest" at the Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt Kennels (see last week's SchNEWS) have all escaped prison sentences. Instead, thanks to the judge reading last week's SchNEWS of course, they were sentenced to do community service of between 200 and 240 hours, plus court costs.

In a further blow for the Hunt, a protester had his conviction for Harassment overturned. The judge ruled that the charge was an abuse of the Protection from Harassment Act (originally introduced to prevent stalking of women). He cited a case in the High Court where it was ruled that the Act should not be used to prevent political protest. [www.shoreham-protester.org.uk](http://www.shoreham-protester.org.uk)

## ...and finally...

Some passionate Sydney activists puckered up for a mass game of "Spin the Bottle" outside the New South Wales State Parliament last month and managed to tally up a smouldering 154 kisses between them. Apart from giving themselves severely chapped lips, they were protesting against the confiscation of the Spin the Bottle Bloc's six-foot papier mache bottle at the anti-World Trade Organisation demos which took place in Sydney last month.

The confiscation of the bottle was "justified" by the Sydney police because they believed protestors were planning a violent confrontation, as proved by the Spin the Bottle Bloc's own communication, which read, "We invite you to join us for the most militant game of spin the bottle ever attempted - turning up the heat until every kiss becomes a molotov." The police, who obviously don't know much about the power of love or the classic teenage party game, have refused to return the bottle, though they obviously won't have much use for it themselves <http://sydney.indymedia.org>

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all right on readers we print the right stuff not out right lies. In our right old carry on there's no rights left out despite writers cramp. Honest.

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SchNEWS

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Friday 13th December 2002

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Issue 385

# WIDE-BOYS

As protesters braved the cold last weekend to set up camp at St Catherine's Hill, Twyford Down, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the road protest movement, the government were finalising their own plans to celebrate with the biggest road building programme in a decade. So as well as reminiscing about the good ol' times, the camp had future plans to chew over. As one protester told SchNEWS, "This government is just going back to the old model of predict-and-provide, which will see more of our countryside being trashed to make way for 'economically necessary' roads and airports"

When the Labour Government first came to power, fat controller John (two jags) Prescott blubbered "I will have failed ...if in five years there are not many more people using public transport and far fewer journeys by car. It is a tall order but I want you to hold me to it." Well Fat Boy, you've drowned in your own exhaust fumes. The new chiefs at the Department of Transport have decided that they like concrete and this week gave the green light to £5.5 billion of new transport schemes. £2 billion of which is going towards major road construction and widening schemes.

But the joke will soon be back on them, as the failure of previous road widening schemes has shown. As Professor David Begg, Chair of the government's Commission for Integrated Transport pointed out, "On the M25, when it went from three to four lanes, within one year traffic increased by one third, negating the benefits." Considering that the number of vehicles on our roads has already increased by 7% since 1997, this new roads programme is exactly the opposite of what's needed to stop

total gridlock. But that doesn't appear to bother Neo Labour, whose mates at the Confederation of British Industry have given them more than a gentle push to do something about congestion, which they believe is costing the country £20 billion a year, money which instead should be lining shareholders' pockets.

## NO U-TURN

"This is a binge of road building with virtually nothing safe from the bulldozer. The Government is trying to build its way out of congestion but it won't work. All that it will do is lead to bigger, wider traffic jams. It seems that the Government aims to keep the UK the most car-dependent country in Europe." Stephen Joseph, Transport 2000

So how come roads are once again on top of the agenda? Well in 1997-8 the Government conducted a review of transport policy. One of the results of this review was to set in motion 23 Multi-Modal Studies. These studies were designed to examine some of the key transport problems and look at a full range of solutions for the next 30 years, rather than just the road schemes previously suggested. The outcome of the studies have been varied, with most suggesting mixed packages of new roads, new/reopened railway lines, and improvements to local transport. Unfortunately, the end result of many of the studies has been that the roads get built first, with public transport improvements following well behind, if ever. This is because main roads (being an 'investment') get allocated funds from central government coffers. On the other hand, local transport improvements, such as buses and trams, are paid for by often cash-strapped local councils.

## CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For being the 51st Protester!

Robin Webb, press officer for the UK ALF, was arrested last week in America at the national demonstration against Huntingdon Life Sciences. His crime? Laughably absurd he was supposedly the 51st person to enter the "50 person" protest zone at the lab! American authorities are intent on not letting this hardened criminal escape, his bail was a whopping \$10,000 and the judge in the case is holding Robin's passport so he can't escape!

[www.shacamerica.net](http://www.shacamerica.net)

And the railways (SchNEWS doesn't need to remind its readers here how well they've been performing since privatisation) only get a small amount of 'subsidy', so can't even afford to do the work they've already promised, let alone think about doing any extra improvements in the future.

So instead of more public transport, we can instead look forward to the widening or upgrading of more than a dozen motorways and trunk roads. One of the most destructive schemes given the green light is the widening of A303/A30 which runs down to the south-west ploughing through the Wiltshire Area of Outstanding National Beauty. Although the wide boys did steer clear of building the road above ground past Stonehenge, they forgot to promise to do anything about widening the rail line in this area from one to two lines, which would have helped to reduce congestion loads.

And if you think it sounds good when the government says "The World Heritage Site at Stonehenge will be enhanced and protected by putting the existing road in a bored tunnel", think again. The short tunnel they're proposing is dismissed by campaigners from the Save Stonehenge Campaign, who said, "The British government is



# ROAD PROTESTS IN BRITAIN



The hardy folk at the Bilston Glen protest camp during snow

**The Government has shown a dramatic turnaround in its attitude toward road schemes.** When Labour came to power in 1997 it promised a new direction on roads. It cancelled 42 road schemes inherited from the Conservative government and put other trunk schemes on hold while the alternatives could be assessed through Multi-Modal and Roads-Based Studies. The Transport White Paper in 1998 was emphatic about the need to protect environmentally important sites from road construction. Since then the Government has shifted ground in the face of opposition to sustainable transport from motoring groups and some newspapers.

In July 2000 £30 billion of road-building was announced as part of the Ten Year Transport Plan. Spread over a decade, this would pay for 360 miles of motorway and trunk road widening and over 100 trunk and local by-passes, with more money for local roads. In December that year the Government gave the green light to nearly all the road schemes put forward by local authorities through local transport plans, including 'litmus test' schemes that would be highly damaging at Salisbury, Weymouth, Barnstable in Devon, Camelford in Cornwall, Carlisle, Rugby and Glossop.

Here are but a few of the planned schemes and opposition to them...

## SCOTLAND

**A701 upgrade project between the Edinburgh bypass and Penicuik.**

Contrary to Scottish Office planning guidance on reducing the need for travel the A701 is to be "realigned" to triple its capacity. Midlothian Council has failed to conduct any meaningful strategic assessment of alternative options

that could address transport problems, this will be built under the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) and the council will pay a private company in "shadow tolls", which means the more cars use the road, the more they get paid, therefore there is no incentive to reduce traffic. This scheme will cost at least £10,000,000 per mile. The road will lead to more industrialisation and will destroy a local woodland, part of which is an SSSI. The woods contain many mature trees and a medieval bridge and tower. There is a protest camp up and running at Bilston Glen, visitors are welcome. Take the A701 (number 37/37a) towards Penicuik & you'll come to the village of Bilston (8 miles south of Edinburgh).

Just as you come into the village there is a metal gated footpath (opposite the large VW garage), go through this & down the path till you come to the bridge, & you'll see us. Site mobile: 07986632429 bilston.glen@dhmail.net

No-alignment action group: [www.spokes.org.uk/naag/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/naag/)

## NORTH ENGLAND

**A57/A628 Mottram and Tintwistle Bypass**

The proposal threatens a unique landscape that has been established over centuries. The area threatened encroaches on the Peak Park and includes the beautiful Longendale Valley. Traditional pastureland; a woodland nature reserve (Swallows Wood), and open moorland are all under threat, as is ultimately the whole of the Northern Peak Park.

[www.stopmottrambypass.tripod.com/now/start.html](http://www.stopmottrambypass.tripod.com/now/start.html)

**A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass**

There is a proposal to re-route the A69 Trunk Road around the southern edge of the town at a cost of £18 million. The route of the bypass passes through mainly agricultural grassland, and it will have a negative impact on protected species in Gees Wood and the South Tyne River. It will also have a major impact on the local landscape.

**Lancaster Western Bypass**

The road threatens a wide swathe of beautiful countryside, including the Lune Estuary with its Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), two branches of the Lancaster Canal, the Lancashire Coastal way, Freeman's Wood - and several other County Biological Sites - 8 farms and at least 20 public footpaths and country lanes.

[www.stophthelancasterbypass.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.stophthelancasterbypass.fsnet.co.uk)

## Wide-Boys cont...

pretending that its main concern is to do Stonehenge a favour. It isn't. The aim of this scheme is to build a new four-lane highway. Stonehenge is in the way. So the government is doing the cheapest thing it possibly can to make it politically acceptable to build a new highway through the World Heritage Site. It's pretending to go out of its way to protect Stonehenge, which has been there for 5000 years, by spending an extra £30 million pounds. But it has £5.5 billion to spend on transport. And it

spent £800 million pounds on London's Millennium Dome."

\* To check out if there's a new shiny road planned in your area and how you can get involved in stopping it, go to [www.roadalert.org.uk](http://www.roadalert.org.uk)

\* Countries clamouring to become part of the European Union are already adopting western Europe's unsustainable transport policies, according to a report by the European Environment Agency. Read it at [http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental\\_is](http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_is)

[sue\\_report\\_2002\\_24](http://sue_report_2002_24)

\* Last month the South East Regional Assembly gave their approval to a series of new and widened roads to form the 'South Coast Superhighway', cutting through some of the proposed South Downs National Park. Sound good? [www.scar-uk.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.scar-uk.fsnet.co.uk)

\* For top tips on wrecking road building check out [www.eco-action.org/rr/](http://www.eco-action.org/rr/)

\* Give yourself a Twyford Down history lesson [www.schnews.org.uk/sotw/twyford-down%2B10.htm](http://www.schnews.org.uk/sotw/twyford-down%2B10.htm)



## THE MIDLANDS

### Tunstall Northern Bypass

Under discussion for 25 years, work is due to start in January 2004. It will affect Heritage Valley, part of the Sustrans Cycle network, and the largest colony of Water Voles in Staffordshire. [www.actionnet-northstuffs.co.uk](http://www.actionnet-northstuffs.co.uk)

### Stourbridge, Wolverhampton and Southern Dudley Bypasses

The Anti Bypass Campaign is a self-funded, non-governmental organisation made up of people from Stourbridge and the surrounding area. It aims aiming to represent the concerns of many local people and conservation groups whose remit is in or adjacent to the Borough of Dudley, and areas that are likely to be affected by the proposed road. [www.antibypasscampaign.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk](http://www.antibypasscampaign.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk)

## LONDON

### M11 Link Road

Site of the infamous Claremont Road evictions, the M11 Link Road has run into problems. A section of the road may have to be expanded to three lanes and there may be the reintroduction of the second traffic lane on the slip road coming off the Redbridge Roundabout. So much for solving traffic problems - all it has done is to increase traffic!

## SOUTH ENGLAND

### SCAR (South Coast Against Roadbuilding)

South Coast Against Roadbuilding was formed in 1994, as an umbrella group to local groups fighting the threat of more road building. Many of the groups support non-violent direct action and were at Twyford Down, Newbury and the A30. [www.scar-uk.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.scar-uk.fsnet.co.uk)

### A21 South Pembury to Hastings

The existing A21 corridor passes through a very sensitive area in environmental terms with landscape, cultural heritage and ecological issues being particularly important. There is a consultation underway to widen the road to a dual carriageway. The A21 Lamberhurst Bypass is also to be built, and work will start in May 2003. It will cause temporary and permanent loss of habitat for protected species (bats, dormice, reptiles and great crested newts) and the loss of 265 metres of native hedgerow plus a loss of 3450 square metres of land south of the existing A21 not previously affected, and the partial loss of a recently planted tree belt. The bypass may make flooding worse as it will act as a dam to any floodwaters.

The section from Tonbridge to Pembury is proposed to cut into the Castle Hill scheduled ancient monument and cause the loss of semi-natural ancient woodland. There has been no archaeological investigation of Castle Hill. It is probably pre-Roman and is likely to be a Bronze Age settlement. There is evidence to suggest that the area was used in Arthurian times as a military settlement. The height of the road will be increased here, making it noisier.

### A27 Arundel bypass

Arundel got a bypass in 1970, but now they want another one! A 4 km stretch of dual carriageway at a cost of £25 million. The proposed bypass would be highly intrusive where it crosses the River Arun and surrounding water meadows, which are noted as a historical landscape in the Local Plan.

It would also damage ancient woodland (Binsted Woods), Tortington Common, Scotland Barn and many Roman remains.



### A24 Action Group

The newly formed action group called the 'A24 Alliance' is the latest in the ever-lengthening number of local groups formed to fight the threat of road building. In this case, local residents have become seriously concerned by the massive road building plans for the A24 from Worthing to Capel (nr Dorking).

### Hastings Bypass

The highly controversial Hastings Bypasses is a new £240 million, 21 km scheme around Hastings and Bexhill in East Sussex. The roads will damage three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); the Pevensey Levels wetlands, Combe Haven, and the Marline Valley Woods. A huge swathe of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the Upper Brede Valley, will also be damaged. [www.hastingsbypass.org.uk](http://www.hastingsbypass.org.uk)

### Protect Our Woodland! (POW!)

Formed by a group of Worthing residents concerned by the threat of a housing development damaging a local unique woodland, Titnore Woods, POW! has captured the mood of environmentalists up and down the country. Ancient woodland - some over 10,000 years old with origins in the last ice age - is being lost at an alarming rate. Whether through new housing developments or road building, this wanton destruction of what has been dubbed 'Britain's rain forest' must stop. [www.worthinga27.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.worthinga27.freeserve.co.uk)

### Priory Park Preservation Society

The fight to save Priory Park is far from over. Many groups are still involved and oppose Southend Borough Council (SBC) pushing the F5 road scheme through. Now we are planning a massive public show of opposition, to prove once again that we are not the noisy minority. SBC would like to see the issue quietly fade away, but we won't let it! [www.ppps.org.uk](http://www.ppps.org.uk)

### Stonehenge A303

In December 2002 a 2.1 km tunnel for the A303 at Stonehenge was proposed. Few support it, except English Heritage. About 16 known archaeological sites along the line of the road would be damaged or destroyed by the proposals. These include a round barrow in the side of King Barrow Hill, and the long barrow adjacent to the proposed western portal. Further damage may well be caused by proposals for a dual-carriageway split-level junction at Longbarrow Roundabout. The Stonehenge scheme is only part of a wider plan to create a continuous 4-lane dual carriageway from London to the South West via Exeter. An A303 Inquiry is expected towards the end of this year. More info see: [www.savestonehenge.org.uk](http://www.savestonehenge.org.uk)

### BNDR Opposition Committee

The BNDR, or Bridgwater Northern Distributor Road, is a proposed scheme for a 2.5 km road and 900 houses. The road threatens numerous wildlife habitats including badgers, water voles and great crested newts. It has not as yet been subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment. [www.bndro.ukf.net](http://www.bndro.ukf.net)

Road Alert is a multimedia direct action forum helping to co-ordinate a grassroots activist reaction to road-building schemes. The website gives access to streaming media, chatroom, forums and constantly updated news, press releases and contacts. [www.roadalert.org.uk](http://www.roadalert.org.uk)



## Cut-Throat Politik

**The topsy-turvy world of Venezuela continues.** Bosses and investors are on "general strike" while the masses take action in support of the leftist government of Hugo Chavez! As Western television stations show footage of many (rich) Venezuelans out on the streets in opposition to Chavez, different stories are coming from poorer quarters. On Monday night, groups of ordinary Venezuelans took over all the main TV stations in Caracas in support of the president and the country remains in turmoil.

The US has made no secret of the fact that it would like to see a regime change in Venezuela since the CIA-backed coup in April (SchNEWS 345). This instantly failed when it became apparent that no-one but the US would recognise the new leadership and Chavez was returned to power.

As in Iraq, the motivation for US interference is oil - Venezuela is the fifth largest oil exporter in the world and its main customer is the USA.

\* In London, two days of action are planned in solidarity with the first anniversary of the Argentinean popular rebellion when the Argentinean people kicked out the government (SchNEWS 350) **Night of Rage**, 20<sup>th</sup> December followed by **Day of Disobedience** chaotic mass proletarian shopping action on Oxford Street on the 21<sup>st</sup> Dress as Santa, steal from the rich & give presents to the kids. "Just nick it." [www.wombles.org.uk](http://www.wombles.org.uk)

\* The film "**Voces Argentinas**" was shot on the streets of Buenos Aires and shows how it felt to be Argentine as the country plunged quickly from the first world to the third. **Screenings:** 13<sup>th</sup>, Use Your Loaf, 227 Deptford High Street, London SE8. 7pm. 18<sup>th</sup>, Argentine Film Night & talk about the uprising, plus food & bar. 7.30pm, Union Tavern, Camberwell New Rd, London SE5. 18<sup>th</sup>, Junk TV Christmas party - Free showing, DJs, bar, cakes, more films. Sanctuary Cafe Cella, Brunswick St East, Hove, 8pm. 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Film Afternoon for Argentina** - The Other Cinema, Rupert St, London W1, from 1pm.

\* 21<sup>st</sup> is **McGo-Slow As Fuck! Day** - McDonalds workers are being encouraged to work slowly in solidarity with the Argentinean popular rebellion <http://mwr.org.uk>

## SchNEWS in brief

The SchNEWS of the World book is now available at the Punker Bunker (under Immediate clothes shop), Sydney Street, Brighton and in City Bookshop, Western Road, Hove. \*\* Doh! Last week SchNEWS fell for a spoof Dow Chemicals announcement that it basically didn't give a shit about the Bhopal gas leak in India which has killed 20,000 people and left thousands more ill. "Our responsibility is to our shareholders." etc. etc. We should have realised that a corporation would never be so honest! \*\* Tune in to **Radio 4A** in the Brighton area this weekend on 107.8FM or worldwide at [www.piratetv.net](http://www.piratetv.net)

\*\* **Injustice**, the film about black deaths in custody, Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, Brunei Gallery, 10 Thornhaugh Street, London, WC1H. 7pm. The police will even be there to take part in a Q&A session after the film! 020 8709 9777 [www.injusticefilm.co.uk](http://www.injusticefilm.co.uk) \*\* Don't forget the **Housmans 2003 Peace Diary** - now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year of printing. Listing nearly 2000 peace, human rights, and environmental organisations, covering 150 countries. To order one, send £7.95 (incl. P&P to any address in the world) to Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1 9DX 020 7837 4473 [www.apoogee.com/Housmans](http://www.apoogee.com/Housmans) \*\* **Sustainable Christmas** evening social, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30-10pm. Phoenix Community Centre, Brighton. 07811 443038 [alexp@cogs.susx.ac.uk](mailto:alexp@cogs.susx.ac.uk) \*\* Actions continue at the factory in **Ozarow, Poland** to stop it being closed (SchNEWS 384). With tem-

peratures at minus 20, sacked workers have been pouring water on the roads, turning them to ice and making it impossible for trucks to take out any equipment! [www.fko.prv.pl](http://www.fko.prv.pl) \*\* **The Advisory Service for Squatters** now has a new local rate phone number. 0845 644 5814, 2-6pm Monday to Friday. \*\* The **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** (the hot shots who hand out Oscar awards) has refused to allow a Palestinian-made film to enter its foreign film category because it does not accept Palestine as a 'nation'. Tell the Academy what you think of their decision email: [ampas@oscars.org](mailto:ampas@oscars.org) \*\* Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> **Cardiff Anarchist Network** hold a public meeting to discuss new forms of direct action. Cathays Community Centre, Cathays Terrace, Cardiff, 8pm. [bolshybo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bolshybo@yahoo.co.uk) \*\* **Thames Valley Anarchos** hope to establish a local network of activists in the region. First meeting this Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>) at the Herschel Arms Pub, Herschel Street, Slough, 7pm. \*\* **SCHWOOPS!** Two weeks ago, we printed a story about a raid at **Cornerstone Housing Co-op** in Leeds. The info was only a few hours old and we got a bit muddled. The facts: at 8:45am on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, Cornerstone houses were raided by Lincolnshire cops. The door was smashed in and after an hour or so of fruitless searching, the police arrested everyone who had slept in the houses that night and anyone who came home during the search (13 people in all) for burglary!

## Insainsbury's

**Neo Labour Brighton Council has approved the controversial development of the old Brighton Station goods yard site.** The scheme includes just what Brighton needs more of - two posh Hotels and a Sainsbury's supermarket providing crappy low paid jobs. The only reason that this scheme is going ahead is because Sainsbury's are prepared to bribe the council with "infrastructure improvements" (i.e. roads) which will increase traffic in an already congested area. The new Sainsbury's will be nearly twice the size of its current store in London Road, and despite the council planning department saying, "There is no quantitative need for additional

food retail in the area", they decided to give it the go-ahead anyway.

So a supermarket, some hotels, crap housing, no playing fields - SchNEWS just doesn't understand why Brighton Council, showing SUCH vision, failed in its bid to become city of culture!

\* BUDD, who have been opposing the development, are now trying to have the development called in to a Public Enquiry. If they fail, work on the new site will begin in May. 01273 681166 [www.buddbrighton.org](http://www.buddbrighton.org)

\* Check out Corporate Watch's 'What's Wrong with Supermarkets' Send £1 + 41p SAE to 16b Cherwell Rd., Oxford, OX4 1BG [www.corporatewatch.org.uk/profiles/food\\_supermarkets/supermarkets](http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/profiles/food_supermarkets/supermarkets)



## THOUGHT CRIMINALS

"It's clear that not only those who materially took part in the devastation should be prosecuted, but also those who facilitated the acts or gave strength to their purpose. These people should be prosecuted even if they didn't conduct any material act." - Italian judge, Elena D'Alosio.

Yep, you guessed it, Berlusconi's government have gone from bad to worse with reasons to arrest activists: two weeks ago it was for "subversive association" (SchNEWS 382) and now a new wave of arrests have occurred for "mental participation" in the Genoa demonstrations.

On the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> December, investigations against 23 people were started by magistrates and 45 houses were raided. The accusations range from devastation and depredation (crimes punishable with 8-15 years imprisonment) to possession of illegal weapons to, SchNEWS' favourite, "mental participation" and "psychological support" in the Genoa actions. The judge, D'Alosio, ordered preventative arrests for 9 of the 23 under investigation, four are under house arrest, six are obliged to remain at home and the remaining four have to present themselves at the police station. Interestingly, all of these arrests have been ordered one and a half years after the relevant events.

'Thoughtcrime' is now a punishable offence in Berlusconi's and Big Business' Italy as some of the No Global activists under investigation

but not in custody are suspected of having offered psychological support to violent demonstrations. The judge has said that those who must respond to the charges of 'devastation' are not just those who participated physically but those who encouraged the crime and whose mere presence in demonstrations provides moral support to the more violent demonstrators. In the wise words of D'Alosio "The behaviour of those who were on the scene of the riots, together with the most violent ones, gave strength to these people by their very presence. Their acts were not crimes in themselves, but aided the criminal intentions of the others with their moral support."

So basically Italian activists can now be legally nicked for being at a demo that turns violent or being part of an anti-capitalist collective. And even though the judge has admitted that such acts are not "fundamentally criminal" the activists are still under investigation.

The whole legal circus has seen arrests and detentions in over twenty Italian towns and this G8-related drive for justice coincides with an interesting case: magistrates are attempting to close the case against the carabinieri accused of shooting Carlo Giuliani during the G8 protests. It seems likely the carabinieri, Placencia, will be acquitted as Giuliani's killing was 'legitimate self-defence.' So the murderers run free while the thinkers get nicked.

## WAR BRIEFS

Members of **Voices in the Wilderness** in the US have been fined a total of \$50,000 for having the cheek to send medicine to Iraq without a permit. Since 1996, members have broken sanctions with over fifty delegations to Iraq, travelling on humanitarian, fact-finding, and rebuilding missions, and refusing to see the people of Iraq as enemies. The group aim to collect money for the fine - then use it to buy more medicine to send to Iraq! Don't they understand that if they had sent a bomb they would have got a pat on the back?? [www.nonviolence.org/vitw/](http://www.nonviolence.org/vitw/) \*\* **Disobedience** hold a Day School to discuss ways of uniting different London-based groups opposed to the war. Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Jan: 10am-6pm, London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, London E1 [www.disobedience.org.uk](http://www.disobedience.org.uk) \*\* Anti-war meeting followed by some peaceful protest and **civil disobedience in Brighton**, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, meet noon at Brighton Unemployed Centre, 6 Tilbury Place, just off Carlton Hill. \*\* Benefit in aid of **Hastings CND & Medical Aid for Palestine** this Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>) 2.30pm onwards at The Carlisle Pub, Hastings. \*\* **The United States are about to sell weapons to the Algerian government**, one American official said Washington "has much to learn from Algeria on ways to fight terrorism." According to Amnesty International around 4,000 people have "disappeared" in Algeria since 1993 after being arrested by the security forces.

## ...and finally...

If you're going to go on a consumer spending spree this Christmas, then it wouldn't be such a bad idea to make sure that some capitalist scum-bag is picking up the tab.

Which is just what a group calling themselves the **Guinea Pig Avengers** managed to do. When the group stumbled across the credit card details of two vivisectionists associated with the Newchurch Guinea Pig farm, they decided to make this the best Christmas ever, running up bills of £15,000 - not bad for an afternoon's work!

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers driven up the wall to enjoy this detour to major improvements ahead. Honest.

## Inside SchNEWS

**American Earth Liberation prisoner Jeff "Free" Luers**, sentenced to 22 years (longer than most rapists and murderers get) for setting fire to three cars, is to appeal against his conviction and sentence. Write to Hardy Myers, the Oregon State Attorney, calling for a lesser sentence. Sample letter at: [www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk](http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk) under the Urgent Updates section.

\* Chain Reaction's "**Unshackling Captive Minds**" is an anarchist zine produced by current and former Texas prisoners. Issue 9 is just out and is available free to prisoners and \$2 for others. CR Collective, P.O. Box 501, Whiteface, USA TX 79379-0501. [Texarchist1@wmconnect.com](mailto:Texarchist1@wmconnect.com).

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# Weekly SchNEWS

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## CHOM'PIN AT THE BIT

Noam Chomsky first gained academic acclaim in the 60s and 70s with his theories about how people learn language. He then studied the workings of the US government in all their gory detail, producing an avalanche of books, ranging from US foreign policy and imperialism to the brainwashing role of the corporate media. Chomsky is now known as one of America's leading voices of dissent. SchNEWS went to interview him on his recent trip to London, but we didn't know what to expect. *Condescending academic? Rabble-rousing revolutionary? What we found was neither of these, but simply an intelligent, honest man with a lot of knowledge about the rhetoric and motives fuelling Bush's America. It was like talking to your grandfather who just happens to have a dead-on critique of the American war machine. So here's a partial transcript of the interview that took place between Chomsky, SchNEWS, Comedian Mark Thomas (who set the whole thing up) and a collection of other British trouble makers.*

**Mark Thomas:** *If we can start with US foreign policy in relation to Iraq and the War on Terror, what do you think is going on at the moment?*

**Noam Chomsky:** First of all I think we ought to be very cautious about using the phrase 'War on Terror'. There can't be a War on Terror. It's a logical impossibility. The US is one of the leading terrorist states in the world. The guys who are in charge right now were all condemned for terrorism by the World Court. They would have been condemned by the U.N. Security Council except they vetoed the resolution, with Britain abstaining of course. These guys can't be conducting a war on terror. It's just out of the question. They declared a war on terror 20 years ago and we know what they did. They destroyed Central America. They killed a million and a half people in southern Africa. We can go on through the list. So there's no 'War on Terror'.

There was a terrorist act, September 11<sup>th</sup>, very unusual, a real historic event, the first time in history that the west received the kind of attack that it carries out routinely in the

rest of the world. September 11<sup>th</sup> did change policy undoubtedly, not just for the US, but across the board. Every government in the world saw it as an opportunity to intensify their own repression and atrocities, from Russia and Chechnya, to the West imposing more discipline on their populations.

This had big effects - for example take Iraq. Prior to September 11<sup>th</sup>, there was a longstanding concern of the US toward Iraq - that is it has the second largest oil reserves in the world. So one way or another the US was going to do something to get it, that's clear. September 11<sup>th</sup> gave the pretext. There's a change in the rhetoric concerning Iraq after September 11<sup>th</sup> - 'We now have an excuse to go ahead with what we're planning.'

It kinda stayed like that up to September of this year when Iraq suddenly shifted... to 'An imminent threat to our existence.' Condoleezza Rice [US National Security Advisor] came out with her warning that the next evidence of a nuclear weapon would be a mushroom cloud over New York. There was a big media campaign with political figures - we

### CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For making a joke down the pub! An American who made a remark about a "burning bush" was sentenced this month to 37 months in prison for "threatening to kill or harm the president." Richard Humphreys said he got into a barroom discussion with a truck driver in which he joked about the biblical expression "burning bush." A bartender who overheard the conversation knew that Bush was visiting the area the next day and so telephoned police. "I said God might speak to the world through a burning Bush," Humphreys testified during his trial. "I had said that before and I thought it was funny."

needed to destroy Saddam this winter or we'd all be dead. You've got to kind of admire the intellectual classes not to notice that the only people in the world who are afraid of Saddam Hussein are Americans. Everybody hates him and Iraqis are undoubtedly afraid of him, but outside of Iraq and the United States, no one's afraid of him. Not Kuwait, not Iran, not Israel, not Europe. They hate him, but they're not afraid of him.

In the United States people are very much afraid, there's no question about it. The support you see in US polls for the war is very thin, but it's based on fear. It's an old story in the United States. When my kids were in elementary school 40 years ago they were taught to hide under desks in case of an atom bomb attack. I'm not kidding. The country is always in fear of everything. Crime for example: Crime in the United States is roughly comparable with



other industrial societies, towards the high end of the spectrum. On the other hand, fear of crime is way beyond other industrial societies...

It's very consciously engendered. These guys now in office, remember they're almost entirely from the 1980s. They've been through it already and they know exactly how to play the game. Right through the 1980s they periodically had campaigns to terrify the population...

To create fear is not that hard, but this time the timing was so obviously for the Congressional campaign that even political commentators got the message. The presidential campaign is going to be starting in the middle of next year. They've got to have a victory under their belt. And on to the next adventure. Otherwise, the population's going to pay attention to what's happening to them, which is a big assault, a major assault on the population, just as in the 1980s. They're replaying the record almost exactly. First thing they did in the 1980s, in 1981, was drive the country into a big deficit. This time they did it with a tax cut for the rich and the biggest increase in federal spending in 20 years.

This happens to be an unusually corrupt administration, kind of like an Enron administration, so there's a tremendous amount of profit going into the hands of an unusually corrupt group of gangsters. You can't really have all this stuff on the front pages, so you have to push it off the front pages. You have to keep people from thinking about it. And there's only one way that anybody ever figured out to frighten people and they're good at it.

So there's domestic political factors that have to do with timing. September 11<sup>th</sup> gave the pretext and there's a long term, serious interest [in Iraq]. So they've gotta go to war... my speculation would be that they would like to have it over with before the presidential campaign.

The problem is that when you're in a war, you don't know what's going to happen. The chances are it'll be a pushover, it ought to be, there's no Iraqi army, the country will probably collapse in two minutes, but you can't be sure of that. If you take the CIA warnings seriously, they're

pretty straight about it. They're saying that if there's a war, Iraq may respond with terrorist acts...

US adventurism is just driving countries into developing weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent - they don't have any other deterrent. Conventional forces don't work obviously, there's no external deterrent. The only way anyone can defend themselves is with terror and weapons of mass destruction. So it's plausible to assume that they're doing it. I suppose that's the basis for the CIA analysis and I suppose the British intelligence are saying the same thing.

But you don't want to have that happen in the middle of a presidential campaign... There is the problem about what to do with the effects of the war, but that's easy. You count on journalists and intellectuals not to talk about it. How many people are talking about Afghanistan? Afghanistan's back where it was, run by warlords and gangsters and who's writing about it? Almost nobody. If it goes back to what it was no one cares, everyone's forgotten about it.

If Iraq turns into people slaughtering each other, I could write the articles right now. 'Backward people, we tried to save them but they want to murder each other because they're dirty Arabs.' By then, I presume, I'm just guessing, they [the US] will be onto the next war, which will probably be either Syria or Iran.

The fact is that war with Iran is probably underway. It's known that about 12% of the Israeli airforce is in south eastern Turkey. They're there because they're preparing for the war against Iran. They don't care about Iraq. Iraq they figure's a pushover, but Iran has always been a problem for Israel. It's the one country in the region that they can't handle and they've been after the US to take it on for years. According to one report, the Israeli airforce is now flying at the Iranian border for intelligence, provocation and so on. And it's not a small airforce. It's bigger than the British airforce, bigger than any NATO power other than the US. So it's probably underway. There are claims that there are efforts to stir up Asseri separatism, which makes some sense. It's what the Russians tried to do in 1946, and

that would separate Iran, or what's left of Iran, from the Caspian oil producing centres. Then you could partition it. That will probably be underway at the time and then there'll be a story about how Iran's going to kill us tomorrow, so we need to get rid of them today. At least that's been the pattern.

**Campaign Against Arms Trade:**  
*How far do you see the vast military production machine that is America requiring war as an advertisement for their equipment?*

**Chomsky:** You have to remember that what's called military industry is just hi-tech industry. The military is a kind of cover for the state sector in the economy. At MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] where I am, everybody knows this except the economists. Everybody else knows it because it pays their salaries. The money comes into places like MIT under military contract to produce the next generation of the hi-tech economy. If you take a look at what's called the new economy - computers, internet - it comes straight out of places like MIT under federal contracts for research and development under the cover of military production. Then it gets handed to IBM when you can sell something.

At MIT the surrounding area used to have small electronics firms. Now it has small biotech firms. The reason is that the next cutting edge of the economy is going to be biology based. So funding from the government for biology based research is vastly increasing. If you want to have a small start-up company that will make you a huge amount of money when somebody buys it someday, you do it in genetic engineering, biotechnology and so on. This goes right through history. It's usually a dynamic state sector that gets economies going.

One of the reasons the US wants to control the oil is because profits flow back, and they flow in a lot of ways. It's not just oil profits, it's also military sales. The biggest purchaser of US arms and probably British arms is either Saudi Arabia or United Arab Emirates, one of the rich oil producers. They take most of the arms and that's profits for hi-tech industry in



## Chomp'in at the Bit cont...

the United States. The money goes right back to the US treasury and treasury securities. In various ways, this helps prop up primarily the US and British economies.

I don't know if you've looked at the records, but in 1958 when Iraq broke the Anglo-American condominium on oil production, Britain went totally crazy. The British at that time were still very reliant on Kuwaiti profits. Britain needed the petrodollars for supporting the British economy and it looked as if what happened in Iraq might spread to Kuwait. So at that point Britain and the US decided to grant Kuwait nominal autonomy, up to then it was just a colony. They said you can run your own post office, pretend you have a flag, that sort of thing. The British said that if anything goes wrong with this we will ruthlessly intervene to ensure maintaining control and the US agreed to the same thing in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates.

**CAAT:** *There's also the suggestion that it's a way of America controlling Europe and the Pacific rim.*

**Chomsky:** Absolutely. The smarter guys like George Kennan were pointing out that control over the energy resources of the middle east gives the US what he called 'veto power' over other countries. He was thinking particularly of Japan. Now the Japanese know this perfectly well so they've been working very hard to try to gain independent access to oil, that's one of the reasons they've tried hard, and succeeded to an extent, to establish relations with Indonesia and Iran and others, to get out of the West-controlled system.

Actually one of the purposes of the [post World War II] Marshall Plan, this great benevolent plan, was to shift Europe and Japan from coal to oil. Europe and Japan both had indigenous coal resources but they switched to oil in order to give the US control. About £2bn out of the £13bn Marshall Plan dollars went straight to the oil companies to help convert Europe and Japan to oil based economies. For power, it's enormously significant to control the resources and oil's expected to be the main resource for the next couple of generations.

The National Intelligence Council, which is a collection of various intelligence agencies, published a projection in 2000 called 'Global Trends 2015.' They make the interesting prediction that terrorism is going to increase as a result of globalisation. They really say it straight. They say that what they call globalisation is going to lead to a widening economic divide, just the opposite of what economic theory predicts, but they're realists, and so they say that it's going to lead to increased disorder, tension and hostility and violence, a lot of it directed against the United States.

They also predict that Persian Gulf oil will be increasingly important for world energy and industrial systems but that the US won't rely on it. But it's got to control it. Controlling the oil resources is more of an issue than access. Because control equals power.

**MT:** *How do you think the current anti-war movement that's building up compares with Vietnam? What do you think we can achieve as people involved in direct action and protest? Do you think there's a possibility of preventing a war from occurring?*

**NC:** I think that's really hard because the timing is really short. You can make it costly, which is important. Even if it doesn't stop, it's important for the war to be costly to try to stop the next one.

Compared with the Vietnam War movement, this movement is just incomparably ahead now. People talk about the Vietnam War movement, but they forget or don't know what it was actually like. The war in Vietnam started in 1962, publicly, with a public attack on South Vietnam - air force, chemical warfare, concentration camps, the whole business. No protest... the protest that did build up four or five years later was mostly about the bombing of the North, which was terrible but was a side-show. The main attack was against South Vietnam and there was never any serious protest against that.

This time there's protest before the war has even got started. I can't think of an example in the entire history of Europe, including the

United States, when there was ever protest of any substantial level *before* a war. Here you've got massive protest before war's even started. It's a tremendous tribute to changes in popular culture that have taken place in Western countries in the last 30 or 40 years. It's just phenomenal.

**SchNEWS:** *It sometimes seems that as soon as protest breaks out of quite narrow confines, a march every six months maybe, you get attacked. People protesting against the war recently in Brighton were pepper sprayed and batoned for just sitting down in a street.*

**Chomsky:** The more protest there is the more tightening there's going to be, that's routine. When the Vietnam War protests really began to build up, so did the repression. I was very close to a long jail sentence myself and it was stopped by the Tet Offensive. After the Tet Offensive, the establishment turned against the war and they called off the trials. Right now a lot of people could end up in Guantanamo Bay and people are aware of it.

If there's protest in a country then there's going to be repression. Can they get away with it? - it depends a lot on the reaction. In the early 50s in the US, there was what was called MacCarthyism and the only reason it succeeded was that there was no resistance to it. When they tried the same thing in the 60s it instantly collapsed because people simply laughed at it so they couldn't do it. Even a dictatorship can't do everything it wants. It's got to have some degree of popular support. And in a more democratic country, there's a very fragile power system. There's nothing secret about this, it's history. The question in all of these things is how much popular resistance there's going to be.

\* This is an edited version. If you want to see the whole video, contact Undercurrents 01865 203661, [underc@gn.apc.org](mailto:underc@gn.apc.org).

\* For more Chomsky stuff (there's loads of it) visit [www.zmag.org/chomsky/index.cfm](http://www.zmag.org/chomsky/index.cfm) or get some of his books from AK Press: [www.akuk.com](http://www.akuk.com), 0131-5555615 for a catalogue.



MAN...  
I GET THESE  
ESSENTIAL OILS  
FROM IRAQ

# SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 10th January 2003

Free/Donation

Issue 387

DUBYA'S  
OILS & EXOTIC POTIONS

## OIL DRUMS OF WAR

Britons woke up to a planned terrorist attack on their shores this week. But any chemical attack using ricin produced in a north London flat is nothing compared to what's in store for the people of Iraq, with a leaked UN report saying that up to 500,000 Iraqi people could suffer serious injuries during the first phase of a terrorist attack.

That's state terrorism brought to you by America and Britain — so they can get their hands on Iraqi oil. Foreign secretary Jack Straw said as much on Monday when he told 150 British ambassadors at a meeting in London that one of the key priorities of British foreign policy was "to bolster the security of British and global energy supplies". It's just an amazing coincidence that Iraq has the second biggest known oil reserves in the world.

The US burns a quarter of all the oil consumed and is world champion at producing the greenhouse gases that are causing global warming. A study sponsored by the US Council on Foreign Relations says that "the American people continue to demand plentiful and cheap energy without sacrifice or inconvenience". Seeing as the world's oil reserves will begin to seriously decline within 5 to 10 years it's not surprising US Vice President Dick Cheney calls Iraq "the great prize".

In the National Security Strategy, a document in which each American administration outlines its approach to defending the country, Bush laid out his aggressive military and foreign policy, embracing pre-emptive attacks against perceived enemies. It speaks in

blunt terms of ignoring international opinion if it suits U.S. interests and lays out a plan for permanent U.S. military and economic domination of every region on the globe — which will come from the \$379 billion it's budgeting on the military.

The Strategy sounds very similar to a report issued in September 2000 by a bunch of conservative business leaders called the Project for the New American Century. This stated "At no time in history has the international security order been as conducive to American interests and ideals... The challenge of this coming century is to preserve and enhance this *American peace*." Written way before September 11<sup>th</sup>, the authors of the Project report included Paul Wolfowitz, now deputy defence secretary, John Bolton, undersecretary of state, Stephen Cambone, head of the Pentagon's Office of Program, Analysis and Evaluation, and Eliot Cohen and Devon Cross, members of the Defence Policy Board, which advises Secretary Of Defence Donald Rumsfeld.

The Project clearly identified Iran, Iraq and North Korea as primary short-term targets, well before 'elected' President Bush dubbed them as the Axis of Evil. It says U.S. forces will be required to perform "constabulary duties" — acting as policeman of the world — and says that such actions "demand American political leadership rather than that of the United Nations." To meet those responsibilities, and to ensure that no country dares to challenge the United States, the report ad-

### CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For hanging a placard on a statue! When a woman activist from d10 (antimilitarist, non-violent direct action collective) saw a statue outside the Ministry of Defence of "Boom" Trenchard (father of the Royal Air Force) she decided to hang a sign round his neck saying "Boom no more!" She was arrested, held face-down on the pavement and handcuffed with such force that she suffered serious injuries to her wrists. She was released seven hours later without charge. [www.northwood.cjb.net](http://www.northwood.cjb.net)

vocates a much larger military presence spread over more of the globe, in addition to the roughly 130 nations in which U.S. troops are already deployed. It wants permanent military bases in the Middle East, in Southeast Europe, in Latin America and in Southeast Asia.

### Spin-U-Like

While the 'weapons of mass destruction' façade has well and truly fallen off the oil war in Iraq, last year's oil war in Afghanistan was far better dressed up as something else, allowing the good work to go ahead...

The latest US ambassador to Afghanistan — a senior executive of US oil company Unocal — along with the current Afghani president Hamid Karzai (once employed by a Unocal subsidiary) — are oiling the wheels for a lucrative pipeline to carry oil and gas across the country from the Caspian sea. And who's building this pipeline? Er... Unocal.

As the BBC reported on September 18, 2001: "Niaz Niak, a former Pakistani foreign minister, was told



## Oil Drums of War cont...

by senior American officials in mid-July 2001 (pre 9-11) that military action against Afghanistan would go ahead by the middle of October. It was Naik's view that Washington would not drop its war against Afghanistan even if bin Laden were to be surrendered immediately by the Taliban." As journalist John Pilger puts it "One of the reasons the Americans attacked Afghanistan was not to liberate women but to liberate the pipeline deal."

Pilger continues, "This is the hidden agenda of the 'war on terrorism' - a term that is no more than a euphemism for the Bush administration's ex-

ploitation of the September 11 attacks and America's accelerating imperial ambitions. In the past 14 months, on the pretext of "fighting terror", US military bases have been established at the gateways to the greatest oil and gas fields on earth, especially in Central Asia, which is also coveted as a 'great prize.'"

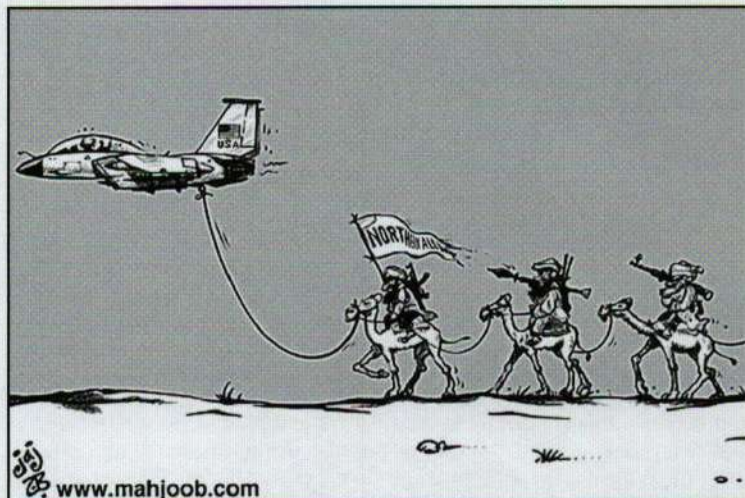
Meanwhile Donald Kagan, who served as co-chairman of the 2000 New American Century Project, embraces the idea that the United States should establish permanent military bases in a post-war Iraq. "We will probably need a major concentration of forces in the Middle East over a long period of time. That

will come at a price, but think of the price of not having it. When we have economic problems, it's been caused by disruptions in our oil supply. If we have a force in Iraq, there will be no disruption in oil supplies."

\* For the past 10 years one of the world's dirtiest wars has been fought out in Algeria, between "Islamists" and "security forces", in which almost 200,000 people - mostly civilians - have been killed. Groups such as Human Rights Watch have accused the Algerian Government of "arbitrary arrest, disappearances and torture" and even America has been critical of the country's human rights record. That criticism changed after September 11th, thanks to Algeria support for Americas so called 'war on terror' and as a thank you they got promises of increased military aid. US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns, during a visit to Algiers, even went as far to say "Washington has much to learn from Algeria on ways to fight terrorism." Incidentally, Algeria is the second biggest natural gas exporter in the world and ranks fourteenth in oil reserves.

\* To read more about the Project for the New American Century report visit: [www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/opinion/bookman/2002/092902.html](http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/opinion/bookman/2002/092902.html)

\* To see the leaked UN report [www.casi.org.uk](http://www.casi.org.uk)



## War Briefs

With even Neo Labour becoming shaky about the war, now's the time to step up the protests. There will be a meeting about taking direct action against the war in London this Saturday (11) after the **Stop the War Conference**. It's being hosted by our good selves 6.30pm in the Cock Tavern, on the corner of Phoenix Road and Eversholt Street, London, five minutes from Euston Station. \*\* **Two Scottish train drivers** yesterday refused to move a freight train carrying ammunition destined for the Glen Douglas base on Scotland's west coast, Europe's largest weapons store. Railway managers had to cancel the Ministry of Defence service after the crewmen, described as "conscientious objectors" by a supporter, said they opposed Tony Blair's threat to attack Iraq. \*\*

There will be another weapons inspection at **USAF Fairford** in Gloucestershire on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Fairford has just had a £100 million refit so it can house the "new" smaller bunker busting nuclear weapons firing B-2 bombers. Assemble in Fairford village 12 noon [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk) \*\* Get along to **Northwood** in London on the 18-19<sup>th</sup> January the command post for British rapid deployment forces. Northwood would play a key role in directing British forces in any attack on Iraq and officers from the base spent much of December in Qatar participating in a US wargame preparing for the invasion of Iraq. The weekend of action - Operation Internal Look (OIL) - coincides with the anniversary of the 1991 Gulf bombing and will include a tour of the base, a mass blockade, a mass breaching of the Official Secrets Act, non-violence

training and autonomous affinity group actions. To find out more call 0845 458 2564 [www.voicesuk.org](http://www.voicesuk.org)

\*\* Fancy going to Iraq as part of the '**Human Shield Convoy**'? It's leaving 25<sup>th</sup> January from London. [www.uksociety.org](http://www.uksociety.org) 07799 650 791 donations and help needed.\*\* Just before Christmas three people from **London Catholic Worker** were arrested and charged with criminal damage after pouring red paint from baby bottles (symbolising blood) on the two main gate signs at Northwood \*\* **15 anti-war protestors were arrested** by US military police at the US airforce base in **Mildenhall** on Sunday after cutting through the fence and getting onto the site. They were later released without charge.

To find out about planned protests if war starts visit... [www.schnews.org.uk/pap/ifwarbreaksout.htm](http://www.schnews.org.uk/pap/ifwarbreaksout.htm)



# Let Them Eat Soup

**'Inhuman', 'cruel', 'downright evil' ... and that's only what MPs have said about Blair and Blunkett's latest assault on the human rights of Asylum Seekers which came into force on the 8th January.**

Thousands of Asylum Seekers, including pregnant women and people with disabilities and special needs, will be forced to sleep rough under the draconian section 55 of the **Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act (NIAA)**.

This section states that if a refugee does not apply for Asylum immediately on arrival at the port of entry they will receive no support, no accommodation, no food... ever.

Statistically, 65% of Asylum Seekers (around a hundred a day) do not present themselves to immigration officials on arrival... for obvious reasons.

Many don't know who they can trust, typically being abused, often tortured, victims of 'the authorities'. Many are totally traumatised both by what they are fleeing (genocide for example) and the possibility of being put straight back on the next plane 'home'. Others do not speak a word of English.

Quite apart from the fact - as upheld in International Law - that many refugees are forced to travel clandestinely to avoid punishment by the regime they are fleeing.

But who cares about International Law, or Human Rights or the recently agreed EU minimum standards of support for Asylum Seekers? Not Tony and Dave.

Nor Peter Lilley (remember him, he was the 'right-wing' one) who introduced similar measures back in 1996. Appalled by the sight of

homeless, starving refugees, often inadequately dressed and begging on the streets, charities and support groups set up soup kitchens and emergency shelters. Lilley's policy was successfully challenged in the high court under the 1948 National Assistance Act and stopped.

But Neo-Labour have already thought of that - their new Act specifically debars refugee agencies from going to court and trying the same thing!

Nevertheless Liberty intend to press ahead with a Human Rights case against section 55, stating that the policy is "incompatible with our fundamental human right not to be subject to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment".

0207 654 7700  
[www.refugee-action.org](http://www.refugee-action.org)  
To check out the act visit:  
[www.asylumsupport.info](http://www.asylumsupport.info)

## Better Profits

**The Baku-Ceyhan pipeline is a BP led project to channel Caspian oil and gas reserves to western markets.** It is key for BP's growth, and for the strategic interests of the US who wish to secure non-OPEC oil supplies. Oil coming from the pipeline will also end up fuelling the key US Air Force base in Incirlik, Turkey. The pipeline would create a 1,750km militarised corridor through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. Under the BP-

Turkey host government agreement the consortium running the pipelines will have no liability whatsoever in the event of a spill or any other form of damage. What's more BP expects the pipeline to be largely financed by tax-payers money!

To find out more come to a teach-in Saturday 25th January, 10am - 5pm, London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate St, London, E1 contact [info@risingtide.org.uk](mailto:info@risingtide.org.uk) or tel 01865 241 097. [www.baku-ceyhan.org.uk](http://www.baku-ceyhan.org.uk)

**RIP PETE** This issue is dedicated to Pete Shaughnessy who died last weekend. Pete was one of the main instigators behind Reclaim Bedlam and Mad Pride. He helped out with SchNEWS and Worthing's Porkbolter. His funeral takes place at 9.30am on Christmas Eve, at St Thomas Moore Church, near the library in Lordship Lane, East Dulwich.





## SchNEWS in brief

**Cops in Genoa are in trouble** after admitting fabricating evidence against protestors including planting petrol bombs during investigations into the policing of the G8 summit last July. Italian media have been publishing transcripts of the inquiry. 77 officers are under investigation for alleged brutality and three police chiefs have been moved to other jobs \*\* Brighton's premier pirate station **Radio 4A** is on air again this weekend (9pm Friday till midnight Sunday) on a new frequency 101.4FM. For listing and audio-streams visit [www.radio4a.org.uk](http://www.radio4a.org.uk) \*\* Activist Allen O'Keefe couldn't believe his ears when magistrates in Newbury ordered him to pay £750 compensation for cutting a tiny piece of fence

at Aldermaston during the Trident Ploughshares disarmament camp there in May 2001. Courts have so far imposed fines and compensation orders totalling £52,000 on protestors but hardly anyone has paid up! 0845 4588366 [www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org) \*\* Check out a new **Legal issues website** for UK political activists (especially animal rights and environmentalists). [www.freebeagles.org](http://www.freebeagles.org) offers info on your rights re police tactics and intimidation. \*\* The **Radical Dairy social centre** is one year old next weekend and is celebrating with a birthday party next Friday 17th from 8pm onwards. There's music and food – and it will be probably be the last party as they've been served with eviction papers. They're at 47 Kynaston Road, Stoke

Newington, London N16 \*\* There's a meeting for people interested in restarting the campaign in the UK for the release of **Mumia Abu Jamal** after 21 years on Death Row. It's next Wednesday (15) 7-9pm. Somerstown Coffee House, 60 Chilton Street (off Euston Road) London NW1. [mumiauk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mumiauk@yahoo.co.uk) \*\* Yet again unaccountable, unelected representatives from the corporate world of industry and media moguls will mingle with political leaders and decide the future of the planet and its people at Davos, Switzerland. International demonstrations against the **World Economic Forum** take place 25 – 28 January. [www.antiwef.org](http://www.antiwef.org) \*\* Meanwhile in Brazil at the same time the **World Social Forum** meets to look at alternatives [www.worldsocialforum.org](http://www.worldsocialforum.org) Extensive reporting on [www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org) \*\* At least 15 000 people turned up for the **Asian Social Forum** in Hyderabad, India at the beginning of this year under the banner "another world is possible." [www.wsfindia.org](http://www.wsfindia.org) \*\* There's a call out for anarchists and anti-authoritarians to get involved in the **European Social Forum**. Read about it at [www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk). Get along to the next meeting this Wednesday (15) 6:30 pm at the University of London Union Student Union Building, Malet Street, London [www.mobilise.org.uk](http://www.mobilise.org.uk) \*\* **Injustice the film about deaths in police custody** is being shown in Hackney on Jan 18th, along with live music at a squatted venue (ex-community centre) on White Post Lane, just round the corner from Hackney Wick Station. 07770 432 439. The film is also now available for people to buy [www.injusticefilm.co.uk](http://www.injusticefilm.co.uk).

## Drop Us A Pipe-line

After years of human rights abuse in Turkey it looks like the EU are finally taking notice. By doing exactly the same! On December the 11<sup>th</sup> last year 7 activists were arrested in London and detained for five days before being charged under the 2000 terrorism act, not for doing anything, but with "membership and fundraising for a prescribed organisation". The protesters were supporting the DHKP (Turkish Peoples Revolutionary Front) led 'deathfast' in protest of human rights abuses in Turkish prisons.

So, as we suspected, people are already being arrested under the banner

of 'terrorism', not for doing anything, but for what they believe. According to Terry Harkin of the Irish solidarity group the IRSP "This is another example of how this war on terror is being used to tighten the control of America over the world". He also points out that "there is a direct correlation between Tony Blair's meeting with the Turkish premier and George Bush's pressure on Britain". Strange how we should be doing Turkey's dirty work right at the time we need their air bases!

There will be a picket outside Bow Street Magistrates Court on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am organised by People Against terrorism Act. For info call beth 07810 397268



## ...and finally...

**Jumping on the 'terror' bandwagon**, an enterprising London firm is offering specially designed gas masks for use by tube-travellers in the event of a chemical attack – a snip at just £188. Ozonelink also plan to offer the British public "chemihoods" and "polytection suits" in the near future.

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers when Bush talks about essential oils he ain't talking about aroma therapy. Honest.

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IT MUST BE  
MATING  
SEASON  
AGAIN



# SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 17th January 2003 Free/Donation Issue 388



## DIRECT ACTION STATIONS

"If you go to one demonstration and then go home, that's something, but the people in power can live with that. What they can't live with is sustained pressure that keeps building, organisations that keep doing things, people that keep learning lessons from the last time and doing it better the next time." - **Noam Chomsky**

Last Saturday around 50 people attended a meeting about taking direct action against the war. Hosted by SchNEWS it followed the Stop the War Coalition conference and there was general agreement that while large marches are important they are not enough and that direct action must form a major part of our activities if we are to be successful in stopping this war. People talked about a whole host of activities from disrupting cabinet ministers meetings, getting into American bases to becoming human shields in Iraq to try and protect essential services like water and sewage plants. One of those places where it was felt we could really make our presence felt was at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

Fairford has just had a brand spanking new £100 million pound refit so it can house the new bunker busting nuclear weapons firing B-2 bombers. This is the only airbase in Europe that these bombers can take off from to murder Iraqi civilians and so will play a crucial military role in the bombing and invasion of Iraq. Already two citizens weapons inspections have taken place with some people managing to break into the base briefly - so could Fairford become the next Greenham Common?

### FIGHT FAIRFORD

In 1981 Ann Pettitt organised a march from Cardiff to Greenham Common to protest against the siting of 96 cruise missiles at the US-controlled airbase and decided to stay. Within a few months the women's peace camp became a focus for

hundreds of thousands of peace activists across Britain. One mass demonstration there in December 1982 attracted 30,000 women. They repeatedly made a mockery of the high security by cutting through fences and stopping the movement of the missiles, and Greenham inspired similar actions took place up and down the country.

This year, on Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> Ann Pettitt and many of the Greenham women will be joining Gloucestershire Weapons Inspectors for another mass citizens weapons inspection at Fairford. "There are remarkable parallels between then and now and that's what caught my imagination," says Ann "Contemplating the use of weapons of mass destruction in a war that's supposed to be about eliminating such weapons is absurd... In 1981 we were told that theatre nuclear weapons, cruise missiles, at Greenham would make the world safer but we felt they edged us nearer to crossing the nuclear threshold. It took years to pull back from the threshold back then and yet we now find ourselves, once more, on the brink."

As that wise old owl Jo Makepeace said at the meeting "Marches every few months, however big, will not in themselves worry the warmongers - they are a start, not an end in themselves. We need to step things up, both locally and nationally. We need to turn people's anger into action by involving tens of thousands of people in blockading city centres, shutting military airbases, stopping 'normal' government activity and, well, you get the picture."

### BATTLE PLAN

If war breaks out - check the SchNEWS website to find out what's happening in your area.

\* Les Gibbons, wearing a shirt displaying the words "Dissent without civil disobedience is consent" pleaded guilty in court this week to "high quality intrusion" (whatever that means!).

### CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For taking a photo of a building!

After taking some snaps, amateur photographer Mike Maginnis was putting his camera away when he was approached by a Denver cop demanding his camera and film. He had unwittingly taken a picture of the hotel Vice President Cheney was staying in, so after refusing to hand over his kit Mike was pushed to the ground and arrested as a suspect terrorist under the USA Patriot act. After several hours interrogation by the secret service he used his one phone call to call the Denver Post - oops the phone was cut off and he was dragged off to a holding cell for a few more hours.

Les a former British marine, had attempted to blockade the gates to Portsmouth naval base on the day the Ark Royal left for the Gulf.

\* Five citizens weapons inspectors from Cambridge Students Against the War entered RAF Feltwell last week to confirm reports that the base forms part of a US Weapons of Mass Destruction development programme. They were eventually nicked but released without charge. [www.camsaw.org.uk](http://www.camsaw.org.uk)

\* Get along to RAF Northwood in London this weekend for some direct action against the war. Northwood will play a key role in directing British forces in any attack on Iraq. Operation Internal Look (OIL) - coincides with the anniversary of the 1991 Gulf bombing and will include a tour of the base, a mass blockade, mass breaching of the Official Secrets Act, non-violence training and autonomous affinity group actions. To find out more 0845 458 2564. [www.northwood.cjb.net](http://www.northwood.cjb.net). Transport from Brighton: 9am at St Peters Church.

\* Join the regular Menwith Women's Peace Camp this



## Direct Action Stations cont...

weekend 01943-468593 e-mail helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk to arrange lifts from Harrogate. And don't forget the regular demonstrations every Tuesday 7-9pm. 01943 466405 www.caab.org.uk

\* **Sussex Action for Peace** meeting this Tuesday 7.30pm, at the Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton.

\* **January 26th** is the day before Hans Blix reports to the UN Security Council. To mark the day thousands of citizens weapons inspectors are expected at Fairford. Meet noon in the village 07768 418960 www.gwi.org.uk

\* **Fancy going to Iraq** as part of the Human Shield Convoy? It's leaving 25<sup>th</sup> January from London. 07799 650 791 www.uksocty.org

\* **A women's peace camp** has been set up outside Shannon Airport, County Clare, Ireland to protest at it being used as a refueling point for the US military. More info, email: shannonpeacecamp@hotmail.com

\* **February 1st: Peace march/pedal for peace** 2pm outside Bath Abbey.

\* **February 8th: Mass die-in** 1pm Bournemouth Square. Dress in military uniform or white protective suits and gas masks. 07743 537043 www.alternativeanswer.co.uk/stopwar.htm

\* **February 8th, 1pm, anti-war gathering** in Montague Place, Worthing. worthingagainstarwar@yahoo.co.uk

\* **People from Faslane peace camp** blockaded British Aerospace in Edinburgh for 4 1/2 hours and on Wednesday one of them locked onto the gates at Glen Douglas Europe's largest weapons store for a few hours. Earlier in the day people used a car to block the gates to try and stop the Gulf-bound aircraft carrier Ark Royal loading munitions. Last week two train drivers refused to drive a freight train destined for there.

The peace camp have organised 'make love not war' actions from 14-18 February. This includes action against Labour Party war conference in Glasgow on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Tel 01436 820901 faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

\* **February 15th Massive demo against the war** Assemble 12 noon at Embankment, London 020 7053 2155 www.stopwar.org.uk

\* **Sign the pledge of resistance** to the "war on terrorism" 0207 607 2302 www.j-n-v.org

\* **There's a new direct action anti war email group** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/directactionagainstarwar>

\* Recommended reading **'Greenham Women are Everywhere'** by Alice Cook, Gwyn Kirk, Pluto Press.

## LICENCE TO KILLJOY

If you're planning a few celebratory late night drinks when the new Licensing Bill comes into effect just be careful you and your mates don't burst into song cos you might end up with six months in the nick and a £20 000 fine - the maximum penalty for performing "unlicensed live music".

The Licensing Bill, deregulates pub opening times but brings in draconian measures to clamp down on live music. Any music performed live in public will require a license to be obtained two weeks in advance by the proprietor of the venue. It's not only pubs and clubs that will be affected - also covered are buskers and a bunch of obvious threats to family values: carol singers, Morris men, bell-ringers and someone singing at a wedding. This is supposedly to tackle "anti-social behaviour" in the form of "noise", but is another crack down on civil liberties. The license won't be easy to get and will require approval from the police, environmental health (i.e. noise abatement) and local residents. Most complaints are about noise OUTSIDE pubs and clubs but rather than tackle the problem, the government are targeting musicians as an easy soft target.

But guess what? A suggestion that satellite TV (eg. MTV) being broadcast in public places should be similarly licensable was instantly thrown out with Kim Howells stating that such a move would be "resisted robustly by the Industry." That's alright then.

\* Meeting regarding action against the Public Entertainment Licence this Friday (17) 8pm @ Charles Dickens, Worthing 01903 522787 dickensclub@aol.com

\* 27 Jan Demo against License Bill Reforms 1pm Parliament Square, London.

\* Join the guerilla music action cell seferner@macmail.com.

\* To read the Bill see [www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/pabills.htm](http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/pabills.htm)

## Inside SchNEWS

Aliane Ahmed - who has been on remand for over a year on charges of arson relating to the fire at the Yarl's Wood detention centre - has had his charges dropped, and his supporters hope he will soon be released from prison. Two men however are still on remand for charges relating to the incident, one Klodjian Gaba would appreciate letters of support or visits, Klodjian Gaba EM9676 - HMP Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, Du Cane Road, Acton, London, W12 0AE.

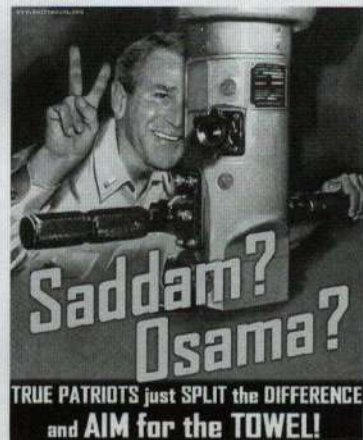
## MON-SATAN

If you worry about things like world hunger, habitat destruction or declining wildlife - chill out its all being sorted out by everyone's favourite agribiz multinational Monsanto.

On Wednesday a report published by the Royal Society said GM crops could be good for the environment! And guess who funded this research? Like a hyperactive superhero, one day they're solving world hunger by forcing their transgenic products on desperate African countries, and the next Monsanto are worried about starving wildlife. Their "scientific" experiment had two different management systems for conventional and GM crops, with the system for GM crops being impractical on a commercial basis. With these results they claimed GM crops were better for birds. But considering the two systems were different and the trial only ran for half a year the results are meaningless.

Friends of the Earth campaigner Pete Riley said "Sugar beet farmers were sold the idea of GM crops in the mid 1990s on the basis of that they were good for weed control. The techniques proposed are likely to be more costly and more trouble, it is hard to see what the appeal would be for the majority of farmers." Friends of the Earth: 02074901555 www.foe.co.uk

\* The Nelson family from North Dakota, America are currently fighting Monsanto through the courts after their corn cross-pollinated with GM RoundupReady thereby making it Monsanto property. This is similar to the case of Percy Schmeiser (see SchNEWS 346) a farmer from Canada who was fined £150,000 after his canola crops became contaminated by neighbours GM crops. [www.percyschmeiser.com](http://www.percyschmeiser.com)



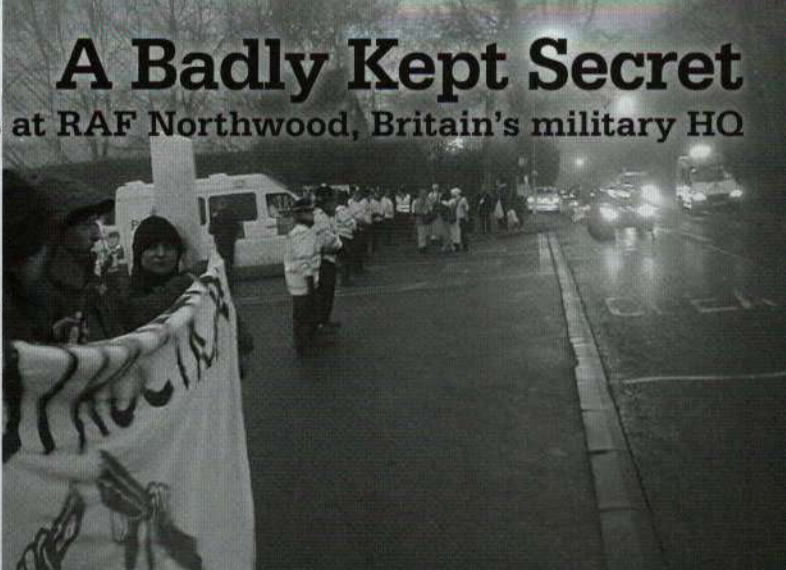


# A Badly Kept Secret

**A weekend of actions at RAF Northwood, Britain's military HQ**

**Saturday 18th January  
Mass Breach of the Official  
Secrets Act.**

Northwood is where much of the planning for the UK's military adventures happens, and its location is so 'sensitive' that it's not marked on street maps. Over 150 took part in 'Operation Official Look', treasonously pointing cameras, telescopes and giant binoculars at the secret site. Coming along for the ride was George W Bush, and the 'back half of his pantomime horse' Tony Blair (see pic below) [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org)



**Get off yer horse and milk it**



**Sunday 19th January**

Northwood Base, the Permanent Joint Headquarters of the British Armed Forces was blockaded for eight hours on Sunday 19th January by up to 400 protestors. At 9.15am six peace activists locked themselves together at the main gates of the base with steel tubes covered with giant purple pants, and the slogan "War is Pants". They were finally cut out of the lock-ons after several hours.

There were over 70 arrests during the blockade. The main bulk of the anti-war protestors marched from Northwood tube station towards the base with a samba band and a bicycle powered sound system. Police initially tried to funnel them into a fenced off area on the pavement opposite the main gate, but the crowd staged sit downs as soon as this became apparent. The police eventually allowed them right up to the main gates. There was music and speeches for several hours as people blockaded the gates. The police gave a deadline of 3pm before they would use force and make arrests, but after discussion people decided to remain and risk arrest. Supporters cheered on the blockaders for a couple of hours as around 150 police made arrests, carrying people away and using cutting equip-

ment to remove additional lock ons. The area was cleared by around 5.15pm. Earlier in the afternoon the secondary side gate was also blockaded by four women who locked themselves together in pairs. In contrast with the main gate lock-ons they were arrested and put into police vans while still locked together.

<http://uk.indymedia.org/archive/features/2003/01/2003-01.html>  
See [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org)





## SchNEWS in brief

The Manchester office of **Environmental Resource Management (ERM)** was occupied for over four hours this week as part of a campaign against their involvement in the green washing of the **Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan** oil pipeline (last weeks SchNEWS). The protesters got to talk to ERM's Director and BP's Regional Affairs Director for the Pipeline project who agreed to a meeting. Manchester **Earth First!** 0161-226 6814, [www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk)  
\*\* **Space Invaders a Festival of Arts and Resistance** will appear somewhere

in Brighton from the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It aims to inspire and excite with arts, live music, film, and space for direct action and campaigning workshops. 01273 672186 or [speakerpeople@hotmail.com](mailto:speakerpeople@hotmail.com) \*\* The threat of **identity cards** hasn't gone away, the government are consulting the public on the issue. **Privacy International** have set up two local rate numbers, and they will pass your opinions to the government. If you're against the ID Card call 0845 330 7246, or if you're in favour 0845 330 7245. Read about the issues at [www.stand.org.uk](http://www.stand.org.uk) \*\* **The Aspire collective in Leeds** whose house was raided and illegally evicted in

November are looking to pursue complaints and claims of damage against the police. If you were there and want to join in, contact [info@a-spire.org.uk](mailto:info@a-spire.org.uk). [www.a-spire.org.uk](http://www.a-spire.org.uk). \*\* **Earth First! Winter Moot** takes place in Nottingham 7-9 Feb. Discussions on how EF! operates - actions, tactics, gatherings, communication, and strategy. Open to anyone who identifies with the EF! Network. 07763 552627 [efmoot03@hotmail.com](mailto:efmoot03@hotmail.com) \*\* On Monday **Greenpeace** activists strolled past lax security at **Sizewell B nuclear powerstation** and occupied one of the sensitive control rooms. [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)

## OIL SEE YOU IN HELL

Last week, police stations throughout Caracas, Venezuela's capital, had their sub machine guns and other weapons confiscated. Complaining of the dawn raids, the police chief told Caracas' Union radio, "This leaves us at a tremendous disadvantage against criminals... It's outrageous." Hugo Chavez the President of Venezuela took over control of the Caracas Metropolitan Police from Caracas mayor Alfredo Pena of the opposition last November. Following reports of continued police violence against pro-Chavez protestors and poor folk, Chavez ordered that their weapons be taken last week too.

After six weeks of big business strikes, Venezuela is starting to feel the pinch as the battle continues between the elected socialist president Hugo Chavez and the right-wing opposition. On top of this the state oil company **Petroleos de Venezuela**, nationalised since the 1970s, is actually run by managers closely linked to the multinationals and the former governing party **Acción Democrática**. On December 4th these managers declared their support for the big business strike and were joined by the captains of Venezuelan oil tankers who dropped anchor and refused to move. Owners of fleets of road tankers also shut down and the result was the spectacle of a major oil-producing country paralysed through lack of petrol. The military were sent in to keep the oil refineries running, ship captains were dismissed and the navy took control. Fines were imposed on striking road hauliers and the top management of **Petroleos de Venezuela** was dismissed. Chavez also used the military to set up 'popular markets' to distribute cheap food in lower-class areas of the cities.

In a coup led by the opposition and assisted by the US last April (SchNEWS 345) 20 people were shot dead and as yet no-one has been tried for the deaths. The opposition hope that by destabilising the economy the US will step in again. As always the media propaganda wars are making it incredibly difficult for anyone to know exactly who or what to believe.

Chavez's government has a centralised socialist structure, while the main opposition group wants more links with big business and multinational corporations, aka the 'free' market. Both parties represent elitist capitalist or communist groups that haven't been able to attain social justice and freedom in any other country yet. Despite his dictatorial militant handling of opposition, Chavez does win points for some of his reforms. Since coming to power in 1999 he has been shouting about participatory democracy, trying to use popular assemblies, social movements and continuous referendums. He also set up the provision of free healthcare and education up to university level and positively restructured the courts and legal system.

Venezuela is the fifth largest oil producing country in the world yet 80% of its population live in poverty. Chavez sought to redress the balance by imposing a 30% tax paid on oil exports and by changing the law so that the government would have to have a 51% stake in all oil ventures. His government also passed a land reform bill which makes it possible for the government to seize land that has been unproductive for two years and redistribute it to the poor and landless.

More information see:  
[www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk), [www.nodo50.org/elibertario](http://www.nodo50.org/elibertario)

### We want more people to read SchNEWS but need your help.

Can you hand out copies at local gigs, university, school, record shops, cafes, on the bus? We still need a hand to shift more of our SchNEWS of the World books. With most of the country's radical bookshops closing, we need your help in tracking down places that will sell books for us. Do you know a friendly shop that might want to take some copies on a sale or return basis? Contact the office for more details.

## ...and finally...

**Colombian Guerrillas** who have been fighting for 40 years for a socialist state have been spared from a planned devastating air-strike - **Operation Bikini**. The government was gonna bombard them with a different kind of bombshell - pocket sized photos of busty bikini-clad women. Despite 30% of the rebels being female, the Latin American temptresses were supposed to seduce the rebels to defection as they stretched provocatively next to slogans such as "DESERT! and "Obtain Benefits". Colombian models refused to be drafted in to pose for the photos so the army instead got the images from an internet porn site. The war torn nations first female Defence Minister supported the feminist protests and said she was cancelling the campaign.

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers to stay at home and build a weapon of mass destruction before the neighbours do. Honest.

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# DEJA VU

January 18th -  
12th Anniversary of first Gulf War

By January the US led invasion and occupation of Iraq which had been planned for months (having been on the agenda for years) was in the advanced stage, and all it needed was some sort of excuse. UN Resolution 1441, brought in in November was duly going through the motions of presenting the facade of an international diplomatic process, while its fait accompli end game was inevitably a green light for war. 1441 was a guilty-until-proven-innocent demand that Iraq disclose the weapons it was assumed to have, and if it didn't come clean it was war. We now know (see 'What Weapons?' at the back of this book if you're unsure) - as Bush, Rumsfeld and co. did all along - that this pretext for war was a fabrication.

While getting public approval for the war was treated as a bonus not a necessity by the 'coalition', there was still pressure on UN weapons inspections chief Hans Blix to deliver that 'smoking gun' soundbite which could be used to bring public opinion around to the war. It never came, as they knew it wouldn't, and the US just conveniently used the delays caused by the weapons inspections process to fine tune the war plan and work out which countries to use for airbases.

This was the background of a global day of actions called for the 18th of January, the 12th anniversary of the first gulf war.



## Shannon Airport - Ireland

A week after a permanent peace camp was established there, around two thousand converged on Shannon Airport on January 18th - where at that stage already 7,000 troops a week were passing through to the gulf. This comes after 150 protesters had previously torn down the fence and a Hercules plane sprayed with anti-war messages. The event began with a march out of the town of Shannon, and being called by the SWP, was supposed to just

involve marching and listening to speeches. But some had other ideas and a group climbed onto the roof of an airport building to make some noise and drop banners, and a portable sound system was wheeled in making the speeches difficult to hear. Later another group broke past police at a gate to enter airport warehouses, getting out without arrest. More info: <http://struggle.ws/wsm/shannon.html> [www.shannonpeacecamp.org](http://www.shannonpeacecamp.org)

(right) Weapons inspections at Volkel being obstructed by Americans - sounds rather like what happened to the UN inspectors in Iraq



## Volkel Military Base

About one hundred civil inspectors gained access to the grounds of Volkel military air base in the southeast of the Netherlands. Some inspection teams somehow had their own keys to enter gates at the base, while other cut through and entered in small groups. Most were arrested, but released later throughout the day. Investigations by several groups revealed that there were in fact weapons of mass destruction stored there under US supervision. (see Trainstopping in this book)



Washington DC

There were massive anti-war demonstrations across the world on January 18th in over 38 countries from Turkey to Japan to Antarctica. In the US the focus was on two large marches in Washington DC with 300,000 people, and San Francisco with 200,000. Cities all across the 'global north' saw marches in tens of thousands, with 30 cit-

...I have written several lengthy poems concerning my feelings about this war which I'd like to share with you...







A packet of frozen peace - Antarctica

don't  
**BUY**  
their  
**WAR**



"The de facto role of the US armed forces will be to keep the world safe for our economy and open to our cultural assault. To those ends, we will do a fair amount of killings."

Major Ralph Peters, US Military

ies in **Canada** coming out and a similar story around Europe.

\* In **Spain** 30,000 marched on the **Torrejón military base** near **Madrid** on Jan. 19;

\* in **Florence, Italy**, 5,000 formed a human chain around the US consulate,

\* **US airbase Camp Ederle in Italy** was targeted for direct action, while 90 were arrested after carrying out a 'weapons inspection' at US airbase **Volkel in Holland**,

\* 20,000 marched in **Paris**, 10,000

in **Marseille** and **Brussels**,

\* 2,000 gathered at the US military headquarters in **Heidelberg, Germany**.

\* In **Moscow** and **St Petersburg** marches were held at the US Embassies.

Crowds gathered all over **Central and South America**, including a march led by the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo to the U.S. Embassy in **Buenos Aires, Argentina** on January 16th, plus another in **Mexico City**, and on the US-Mexico border.

## Middle East, Asia

In most of the **Middle East** protesters faced an army of heavily armed riot police, but still... tens of thousands appeared in **Damascus, Syria**, 1,000 in **Cairo**, as well as large demos in **Beirut, Amman, Jordan; Bahrain, and Baghdad**. In **Palestine** thousands came out in the West Bank cities of **Tulkarm** and **Jenin**, plus other spots in the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip**.

\* In **Turkey** 2,000 staged protests in **Ankara**, as the US's top general arrived in the country to push for rights to use Turkish airbases in the possible war, in a country where 80% are against the war. Protests were also held in **Istanbul**.

\* It kicked off in **Pakistan** - with protesters in **Lahore** being fended off by soldiers and police as they tried to march to the U.S. Embassy. In **Rawalpindi**, protesters - including many children with their parents and teachers - attempted a human chain stretching to **Islamabad**, 10 kilometres (6.5 miles) away. Marches also happened in **Karachi** and elsewhere.

\* There were a series of demonstra-



San Francisco

tions in the **Philippines** protesting the war on Iraq and also the attempt by the U.S. to reoccupy Philippine military bases.

\* 5,000 marched in **Tokyo**, many carrying toy guns filled with flowers.

\* In **Hong Kong**, a rally marched through the financial district to visit the U.S. and British consulates.



(left) **Japan**: Etsumi Tairahori (69) is on hunger strike against the looming war with Iraq. She is staying at a nine-day protest camp outside the entrance to the US Consulate in Urasoe, Okinawa, Japan. Etsumi has been having a sit-in at this site every Friday for the past 18 months in protest against the US military presence in Okinawa, ever since a US Air Force sergeant raped a local woman.



Give me your tired,  
your poor, your  
huddled masses  
yearning to  
breathe free...  
Except that one  
in the turban!



# INS AND OUT

"The idea that terrorism is a third world import carried in by non-white people has become the widely accepted excuse for increasingly repressive border policies throughout the global north... A border panic has been carefully constructed so that the 'terrorists' are always seen as existing 'outside' of 'our society'."

- Nandita Sharma, *Green Pepper* magazine, Autumn 2002

"No borders, no nations, fuck deportations."

- *Marchers outside San Francisco Immigration and Naturalization Service, 18th Jan 2003*

Fresh from registering his postal vote at San Francisco's British Consulate last Saturday, SchNEWS' man in California was surprised to be swept aside by 2,000 masked-up young Americans who proceeded to trash the front of the building. Intrigued by shouts of "Tony Blair is an embarrassment to British people everywhere," and unable to answer queries of, "has Britain become a colony of the United States?" our boy followed the mob - a breakaway faction from the 200,000 strong anti-war rally - downtown where they proceeded to graffiti and smash the offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It turns out the INS is the US's latest tool in the 'fight against terror'...

The role of the INS is to deport people back to countries where they often face persecution and death - the US answer to Britain's Immigration Service, who you may recall suffocated Jamaican mother Joy Gardner in 1993 in her Tottenham home while trying to deport her.

Anyway, a new addition to the INS is the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), a 'special registration' scheme, conceived by Bush's ultra-conservative Attorney General, John Ashcroft, and hastily added to Ashcroft's repressive post September 11th Patriot Act. It means thousands of men must report to the INS for questioning, photographing and fingerprinting. Classified as legal non-citizens and temporary foreign visitors, the chosen "non-immigrants" hail from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen - a good cross section of the world's population then.

Many are required to hand over credit card and bank details, names of relatives, what mosque they attend, charities they donate to and so on. If during 'special registration' your records or your answers aren't up to scratch, or if you're late for registration because you didn't hear about it, or if you have minor visa problems - even caused by incompetence at the INS "...you may be considered to be out of status and subject to arrest, detention, fines and/or removal from the United States. Any future application for immigration may be adversely impacted," says the INS 'call up'. And it goes on "...if you leave the United States, you must appear in person before an INS inspecting officer at one of the designated ports and leave the United States from that port on the same day."

Stating the obvious, a spokesperson for the Muslim Public Affairs Council in Los Angeles has

## CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For interviewing a vampire victim! Malawi cops arrested a radio journalist cos his interviewee claimed to be attacked by a vampire. The authorities are a bit touchy about the subject as local rumours have it that the government colludes with vampires to fill up the blood banks. After his court appearance, the journalist said, "My sojourn in jail has reinforced my resolve to unearth issues authorities would otherwise prefer buried."

said "I don't think the terrorists will go and register." However over 15,000 men have registered, with many discovering that not even US citizenship gets them out being required to 'register.'

Dissenters have likened the scheme to the internment of the Japanese in the US during World War II. Babak Satoodeh, President of the American Iranian Alliance (AIA), in an interview with the Digital Freedom Network said 'special registrations' are creating and solidifying negative public opinion concerning people from the Middle East, South Asia, and Muslims in general. "People react to how this government makes decisions," he said.

Already around 500-700 have been detained, and immigration officials admit that anyone with a slight visa irregularity is subject to arrest, regardless of personal histories. Detainees' lawyers have challenged the US government to

"Say No To The Daily Mail's War on Refugees and Immigrants"

- Demonstrate at the Daily Mail offices on Monday 27th Jan at 5:30pm, Associated Newspapers Building, 2 Derry St, Kensington, London W8. lizperetz@aol.com



## Ins and Outs cont...

produce any evidence of criminal behaviour among their clients, let alone link them to international terrorist groups.

Next up for registration is any man over 16 from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, and Jordan.

*"I came here because I thought there was freedom," Ahmed, from Yemen told Washington DC Indymedia. "It doesn't look so free now." A middle-aged Somali man added, "I know the US is scared, but do they think that anyone meaning damage will come in?"*

*"Turkey has had terrorists but Turkey is not on their list," said one Lebanese businessman. "Why? Because the US needs their airbases to continue their no-fly zone."*

## Shackle It All About

**Back in Britain, the much maligned Anti Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001** (see SchNEWS 331) has been taking to the streets. The Act gives the government the power to lock up any foreigner they reckon is a terrorist, without a trial. So far 13 people have had that privilege. In a statement to Amnesty International some of the detainees said: "Our lives and our families' lives have been destroyed and we see no hope in sight." One of those held is a Palestinian father of five who was granted refugee status as a torture victim and diagnosed as suffering from severe post-traumatic stress disorder. This week he went on hunger strike to protest being held 13 months without charge.

Under the Terrorism Act 2000 (see SchNEWS 268), around 200 people have been arrested, many under the catch-all Section 57 which reads: "A person commits an offence if he possesses an article in circumstances which give rise to a reasonable

suspicion that his possession is for a purpose connected with the commission, preparation, or instigation of an act of terrorism."

Journalist Faisal Bodi points out, "For all the hysterical headlines warning of a bin Laden in our backyard, the reality is a picture of political repression of Muslims that is starting to resemble the experience of Northern Ireland's Catholics throughout the Troubles." Remember the old Prevention of Terrorism Act - targeted at the IRA? 5,000 mainly Irish were arrested, but less than 7% were charged let alone convicted.

\*To read the full transcript of the excellent Indymedia article we used, visit: [http://dc.indymedia.org/front.php3?article\\_id=46183&group=webcast](http://dc.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=46183&group=webcast)

\*For more about the Patriot Act: <http://zmag.org/ZMag/Articles/dec01kaminski.htm>

\*Get hold of the Autumn 2002 "borders" issue of greenpepper mag: CIA office, Overtoom 301, 1054 HW, Amsterdam, Netherlands <http://squat.net/cia/gp/greenpepper.htm>

\*Another good site on US government repression: [http://www.zmag.org/repression\\_watch.htm](http://www.zmag.org/repression_watch.htm)



At the UN Headquarters, New York, as chief arms inspector Hans Blix addresses the UN Security Council, 300 demonstrate outside. Police were heavy handed and arrested 17. [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

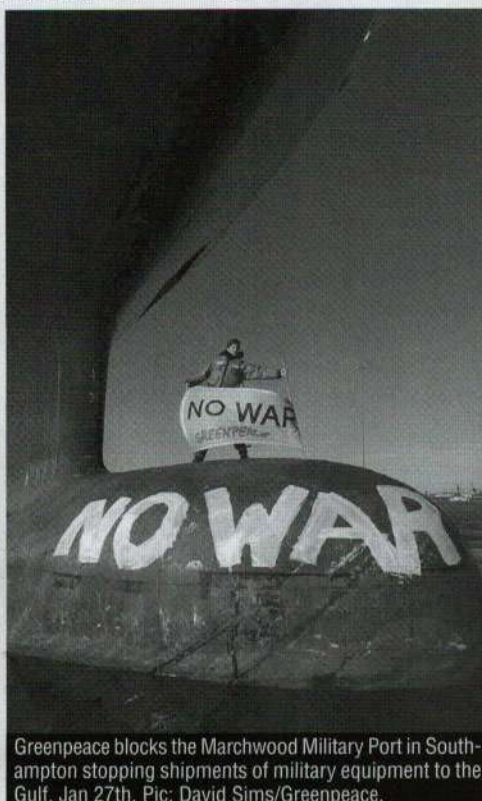
## Positive SchNEWS

**In the past 100 years we have lost 97% of our vegetable varieties in the U.K. alone.** Just 3 corporations control a quarter of the world's entire seed market—the same corporations that are trying to force us all to eat their genetically modified greens.

So what can you do about it? Get along to Seedy Sunday on 2 Feb and take part in a community seed swap happening at the Old Market, Upper Market Street, Hove. Along with talks on everything from saving your own seeds to genetics, there will be a mini farmers market, community allotment groups, tool sharpening, composting, café, creche and more. 11am-5pm, £1, children Free. 01273 622671 [seedy sunday2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:seedy sunday2003@yahoo.co.uk)

\* There's a Seedy Saturday community seed swap happening on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Octagon Cafe, Inkerman Street, Llanelli, Wales 11am- 3pm. [seedysaturdayllanelli@hotmail.com](mailto:seedysaturdayllanelli@hotmail.com)

\* Recommended reading 'Fatal Harvest – The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture' edited by Andrew Kimbrell (Island Press 2002) Essays from 40 leading environmentalists taking an unprecedented look at America's destructive farming practices and offering positive solutions in support of a new vision of farming. Stunning photography! [www.FatalHarvest.org](http://www.FatalHarvest.org)



Greenpeace blocks the Marchwood Military Port in Southampton stopping shipments of military equipment to the Gulf. Jan 27th. Pic: David Sims/Greenpeace.



## No Morales

Since last Monday (13<sup>th</sup>) many parts of Bolivia have been brought to a standstill as people have taken to the streets and blockaded major highways as part of a mobilisation against the government. The demands of the wide range of protesters are vast but include defending their rights to oil, gas, and coca, the return of privatised industries to the people, the fair redistribution of land, and the rejection of Bolivia joining the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas). The government has responded to the situation with extreme aggression and clashes between protesters and police have left at least 5 people dead and an estimated 800 people arrested. Business leaders this week complained that the blockades had so far cost them at least \$7.6 million and urged the government to do all they could to ensure that the export economy doesn't suffer.

Last June, the popular socialist party 'Movement toward Socialism' (MAS) came second in the Bolivian elections and it's leader, Evo Morales, came close to becoming the country's President. After the elections, MAS decided to take its fight against the

destruction of coca plants and the neo-liberal policies of the government from the streets into the corridors of power. But by early December, when the Bolivian National Congress approved the entrance of U.S. troops into Bolivia to destroy coca crops as part of the US's 'War Against Drugs,' the MAS decided they'd had enough of banging their heads against a brick wall and began to mobilise for the mass street protests which now cripple the country.

The growing of coca is part of Bolivian indigenous culture. The leaves are used by local farmers for tea, chewing and medicinal purposes. But the USA was so unimpressed with Evo Morales' support for the coca farmers that they tried to intervene in last year's elections by warning people that if they voted for him it would endanger future US aid to the country. <http://bolivia.indymedia.org> (in Spanish) [www.narconews.com/Issue27/article586.html](http://www.narconews.com/Issue27/article586.html) \*\* 'Desire for Change: Women on the Frontline of Global Resistance' is a new book of interviews, stories and first hand accounts of women involved in various campaigns, projects, and direct actions all over the world. To order a copy email: [pgabolivia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pgabolivia@yahoo.co.uk) or call 0207 3779088.

## Green Washout

It seems the £20m BP spent on its fashionable green image (SchNEWS 276) was a total waste. In late 2000, BP jumped aboard the gravytrain of ethical investing by publicly acknowledging the dangers of global warming in the misguided hope they would avoid being the target of environmental protests. BP plastered its website with transparent concern for social issues, but since then its shameful working practices don't live up to its laughable rebranding as caring and progressive.

Even though the £20mil is peanuts compared to the billions BP spends yearly on fossil fuel exploration, it was still a waste of money as BP just can't quite seem to back up their eco-friendly, pro-worker image with action. Alaskan authorities have only just started looking at introducing regulations after a well at BP's Prudhoe Bay site exploded, causing an oil spill and maiming native Alaskan worker Don Shugak for life. BP later admitted to opening the well "without adequate safeguards."

Three months later an accident at the same site killed welder Rodney Rost. Despite their worker-friendly propaganda, BP actively fought against tightening safety procedures after the accident, saying "a rule to protect workers wasn't necessary".

On Tuesday, Hendersons Global Investments was first in the queue of 'socially responsible investors' to dump £millions worth of shares because of their activities in Alaska. On the same day, ISIS Fund Management made BP squirm by asking the board if "Problems are repeated worldwide, not just in Alaska? And has health and safety been compromised by aggressive high production targets and cost cutting?" Union rep Robert Brian suffered years of harassment for criticising BP's health and safety procedures but when he publicly announced that the well explosion was avoidable, BP harassed him so aggressively that he has filed a complaint against them with the US Dept of Labour. Now that's what we call a caring, progressive company!

## War Briefs

There were massive anti-war demonstrations across the world on Saturday from Turkey to Pakistan to Japan to Antarctica! The biggest were in Washington DC, with 300,000 people, and in San Francisco with 200,000. In the UK, 2000 people travelled to Dublin and on to Shannon airport to protest the military use of the airport and to oppose the war. A permanent peace camp has now been set up outside the airport [www.shannonpeacecamp.org](http://www.shannonpeacecamp.org)

\*\*Also on Saturday, 70 people were nicked blockading the Northwood Military HQ. Five protesters locked arms into a giant pair of purple Y-fronts decorated with a "War is pants" slogan. \*\* The Minister for War, Geoff Hoon, will be at Lambeth Town Hall, Acre Lane / Brixton Hill SW2 (Brixton tube) on Monday (27) at 6pm and would love to meet you all! \*\* 'No War for Oil' Tuesday 4th Feb. Call for protests at UK petrol stations—support the day of action with leafleting, vigils, street theatre, and other nonviolent direct action. If you organise a protest send details to [info@risingtide.org.uk](mailto:info@risingtide.org.uk) and to the action page of the Target Oil Coalition website [www.targetoil.com](http://www.targetoil.com) [www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk) \*\* 'Beyond TV' are putting together a new cd rom on direct action against war with video pieces, photos, rants, music, artwork or any inspiring, relevant material. The cds will be copied and distributed freely around the world so get involved! [www.beyondtv.org](http://www.beyondtv.org) [gibanez\\_nauta@yahoo.com](mailto:gibanez_nauta@yahoo.com) \*\* Corporate Watch newsletter issue 11/12 is out & packed with info on corporations that profit from war. £1 plus 43p SAE to Corporate Watch, 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG \*\* Get down to a Mass Weapons Inspection at RAF Fairford on 26th Jan - [info@gwi.org.uk](mailto:info@gwi.org.uk) Several coaches organised, see <http://www.schnews.org.uk/pap/guide.html>





## ITALIAN ANARCHISTS IN PEACEFUL DEMO SHOCKER

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> January: (above) A group of 4,000 mostly from anarchist and autonomist groups visit the military installations in La Spezia, near Genoa. Despite police ruffling feathers outside one Army Barrack on the route, things were kept peaceful befitting the anti-war message. (Wot - no black block kicking off?) At the end of the demo, Food Not Bombs served food and there was a concert at a local social centre. (ainfos)

## RIP

**Kathleen Jannaway** has died peacefully in her sleep. She was co-founder of Movement for Compassionate Living, author of the inspiring book, 'Abundant Living in the Coming Age of the Tree', an early vegan pioneer, and former secretary of the Vegan Society (UK). The Movement for Compassionate Living promotes simple living and self-reliance as a remedy against the exploitation of humans, animals and the Earth. More about Kathleen's message can be seen at [www.mclveganway.org.uk/](http://www.mclveganway.org.uk/)

\* There will be a tree planting ceremony on Saturday 8th for 'Mad Pride' **Pete Shaunghnessy** at Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project, Brighton at 11.30 am. Everyone who knew Pete is welcome - email [info@forestgarden.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:info@forestgarden.fsnet.co.uk) for directions or call the SchNEWS office.

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## SchNEWS in brief

**Critical Mass bike ride** this Sunday (26) meet 2pm Hunter Square, by the Tron Kirk, Royal Mile, Edinburgh. [www.mutualaid.org](http://www.mutualaid.org) \*\* **Reclaim The Future II** next Sat (1 Feb) in London with workshops, cabaret, comedy, political cinema & café from 3pm. Kids space in the afternoon, Party till late. £2 in afternoon, £5/3 after 7pm, help still needed: [reclaimthefuture2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:reclaimthefuture2003@yahoo.co.uk) or 07931 560 569. Check [uk.indymedia.org](http://uk.indymedia.org) from noon on the day for details of venue.\*\*

**Mayday 2003 workshop** Sunday 8th Feb 2pm. Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1X. \*\* Following a visit from **SHAC East Midlands** and hundreds of phone calls, faxes and emails, White Rose have withdrawn their services to Huntingdon Life Sciences. White Rose are a specialist incineration company who dispose of hazardous waste and until yesterday the bodies of animals murdered at HLS! Who's the only place willing to dispose of the evidence now? Cambridge Pet Crematorium! Contact the crematorium at freepost CB947, Royston, Herts SG8 7BR. Tel: 01763 208 295, Fax: 01763 208 885 [mail@cpc-net.co.uk](mailto:mail@cpc-net.co.uk) 2. \*\* **'The Summit'** a film which looks behind last year's **Earth Summit in Johannesburg**, and **'Zapatista'** a film which gives a first hand account of the Zapatista struggles in Mexico, are two new videos now available at **Culture-shop**. [www.cultureshop.org](http://www.cultureshop.org) \*\* If you fancy a laugh get a copy of **'Now That's What I Call Marxist'** [nowmarxist@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nowmarxist@yahoo.co.uk) \*\* **Space Invaders:** Festival of Arts and Resistance at the old TA building (next to B&Q), Lewes Road, Brighton (23/1-2/2) 'A non-stop celebration of underground DIY culture.' Get involved 07952512533 [speakerpeople@hotmail.com](mailto:speakerpeople@hotmail.com). Timetable at [www.partyvibe.com/brighton23](http://www.partyvibe.com/brighton23)

## Inside SchNEWS

**Dave Blenkinsop**, an animal rights activist who is currently serving 4 ½ years, was sentenced to another 5½ this week for planting incendiary devices under lorries belonging to an abattoir. His sentences are to run consecutively so he is now serving a ten year prison sentence. He'd appreciate letters of support Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Bullingdon, Patrick Haugh Road, Arncott, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX6 0PZ

## ...and finally...

Ever thought, "Shit, I wish I'd been at that riot, taking back control of the city of London and pelting the riot cops with eggs and rotten fruit?" Well today is your lucky day! The newly formed London Riot Re-enactment Society is offering folks the chance to take part in the many famous riots of London, past and present. From the Peasant Revolt of 1381, to the Gin Riots of 1743, to the more up-to-date riots of Brixton (1981, 1996, 2000), the poll tax (1990), and of course J18 in 1999, the society will re-enact them all.

One of the advantages of riot re-enactment is that while trying to be as historically accurate as possible, you can decide which parts of the riot to keep in and which to skip out. For example, while re-enacting the riot of November 30<sup>th</sup> 1999, members of the society can decide to set fire to the police van but skip the part where everyone had to stand around for hours surrounded by riot cops without a toilet! The Society hopes that after a bit of practice, members will be able to form a Rapid Re-enactment Force which re-enacts riots immediately after they've happened (or even AS they happen), causing things to spiral out of control! To join send an email to: [anathematician@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anathematician@yahoo.co.uk) or visit <http://c8.com/anathematician/>

## Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers when you're having a bit of ins and out don't get the prayer rug pulled out from underneath you. Honest.



Weekly

## SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 31st January 2003

Free/Donation

Issue 390

Daily Mail SPECIAL

QUEEN: "ASYLUM  
SEEKER ATE MY CORGI"

The Daily Mail has been criticised for its coverage of asylum seekers. The paper's headline 'Queen: Asylum Seeker Ate My Corgi' was seen as a mockery of the Queen's dog. The paper also published a story about a man who had been in the UK for 10 years and was still an asylum seeker. The paper's coverage of asylum seekers has been widely criticised.

## HEARTBREAK HOTEL

This past Monday, Holocaust Memorial Day was observed across the world, with many British papers running large articles solemnly commemorating one of the worst tragedies in human history. And just to prove how massively they'd missed the point, many of these same papers also used their Holocaust Memorial Day issues to run articles that are becoming nauseatingly familiar—articles whipping up fear and hatred against asylum seekers, in some cases running on the same page as Holocaust Memorial articles without a hint of irony. As Nick Griffin, leader of the notoriously right-wing British National Party (BNP) commented earlier this month, the British press is helping to spread the BNP's anti-immigrant message. 'One could today be forgiven for thinking that the editors of five of Britain's national daily papers - the *Daily Star*, *The Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express* and *Daily Telegraph* - had suddenly become BNP converts,' said Griffin.

The *Daily Mail* is one of the worst offenders. On Monday, a group of people from all over Britain converged on the London office of the *Daily Mail* to try and put a stop to its racist hate-mongering. In the press release calling for the demo, the various groups organising the action stated their case, "Nearly every day there is an article in the *Daily Mail* attacking asylum seekers - often on the front page with an inflammatory headline such as 'Stop the Asylum Invasion'. Always portraying migrants and refugees as scroungers trying to take advantage

and as a threat to the 'British way of life'. As one refugee said after seeing a *Daily Mail* headline entitled 'A Door We Can't Close' - "It makes me feel like vermin.""

The racist articles run in the *Daily Mail* and other British papers contribute to scenes like the one that took place this past Sunday in Saltdean, one of Brighton's closest neighbours. Recently, one of Saltdean's hotels, The Grand Ocean Hotel, was named as a possible site for the emergency accommodation of asylum-seekers. Acting out of fear and misinformation, 250 local residents turned up to protest the use of the Grand Ocean for housing newly arrived immigrants. Many carried placards with slogans such as, "House prices will fall" and "Homes for our elderly not for phoney asylum-seekers." One anti-immigrant protester was even dressed up as Osama bin Laden, to drive home the absurd myth that asylum-seekers and terrorists are one and the same. Another local resident, one of a small number who actually came out in support of asylum seekers, reported, "The BNP were there, there was verbal violence even towards our daughter and her friend, people said they'd like to shoot the asylum seekers all of whom would obviously be terrorists."

On Monday, the Brighton daily rag, the *Argus* (who incidentally ran sympathetic coverage of the anti-immigrant protest right next to their Holocaust Memorial article) printed a particularly spot-on letter from a local resident. "Whether or not refugees are housed in Saltdean,

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK  
For writing about Cuba  
on the internet.

When his friends attended an unsanctioned conference in Cuba and attracted the attention of the Treasury Department, Tom Warner, the 77-year-old secretary of the Seattle/Cuba Friends Committee was unsurprised. What did surprise him was when a letter arrived accusing him of 'organising' the event and threatening to fine him \$20,000. This was all the more surprising due to the fact that he wasn't even AT the conference! Tom's major mistake was to put details of the conference on his website. Making his mark on history, Tom's nefarious actions have made him the first man to be arrested by the Bush Administration for using the internet to promote something against government policy.

the fear and anger the proposal has produced is worrying," the resident writes. "Do these people from Saltdean hate and fear me? Would they spit at me or wouldn't they notice me because I am white and speak with an English accent? Many of my family were slaughtered by the Nazis for being Russian Jews. The Nazis whipped up the sort of hysteria about Jews now being whipped up about refugees. Remember that when you lambaste people who flee here looking for sanctuary."

**\*\*Keep an eye on SchNEWS for further updates on the Saltdean situation.**

**\*\*For more news on asylum seekers and refugees across Britain, check out The Campaign Against Racism and Fascism: <http://www.carf.demon.co.uk/>, Barbed Wire Britain: <http://www.barbedwirebritain.org.uk/> and The National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns: <http://www.ncadc.org.uk/>**



# Chapel of Love



There were 100,000 people and a mind boggling 1,714 events. They were crammed into a Catholic University, football stadiums, a gymnasium, five marquees and some dockside warehouses. Described by some as the "People's UN," this was the **World Social Forum (WSF)** which happened in **Porto Alegre, Brazil** last week.

Since the very first WSF three years ago, the event has become, according to Noam Chomsky, "unparalleled in world history."

So what is the WSF? Conceived as a direct alternative to the corporate knees up globalisation ball known as the World Economic Forum, the WSF is a week of workshops, discussions, and brainstorming for social change without profiteering and neoliberalism—and it runs at exactly the same time every year as the World Economic Forum.

In addition to WSF workshops, several "parallel conferences" sprang up around the city, including an anarchist convention and a youth camp in a nearby park where about 10,000 people pitched camp, including representatives of Indy-media from around the world.

The choice of Porto Alegre is symbolic too. For 15 years the city's governing Worker's Party - which now rules Brazil through the leftwing President Lula - has been deciding the budget through a process of popular participation, redistributing wealth, reducing poverty and eliminating corruption as a result.

One SchNEWS hack sorting through the myraid of events and opinions said that three issues seemed to stand out: Palestine, opposition to the war on Iraq, and the Latin American issue of the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, which Bolivian Indian leader Evo Morales described as a charter for "transnational pirates."

This year, Brazilian President Lula went to both the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre AND the World Economic Forum in Davos. Many weren't happy with that - the leader of Lula's Worker's Party, José Genoino, received a pie in the face as a protest.

As the Confectioners without Borders who delivered the pie-ing said in their communique, "The wave that carries Lula's Worker's Party to electoral success is not, in any form, the same wave that supports the movement against capitalist globalization. Our movement is without leaders or representatives. No one can speak in our name. If someone in Davos 'represents' the movement, it is ourselves, the thousands that occupy the roads of Geneva in protest against the reunion of bankers, businessman, and governments that the Worker's Party legitimates. The hope for change that we carry cannot one more time be co-opted and frustrated by politicians and political parties that wish to promote themselves at our expense. This time we are going to do things differently." [www.portoalegre2003.org/publicue/](http://www.portoalegre2003.org/publicue/)

## RAF AMERICA

On Wednesday, the Defence Select Committee agreed to the use of Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire for U.S. Ballistic Missile Defence systems otherwise known as the 'Son of Star Wars' (see SchNEWS 307). Fylingdales will house an early warning system and Menwith Hill will process the data. A public discussion paper on upgrading the facilities at these two sites was released in December, but even then it was clear that the decision to use the bases had already been made. Minister of War Geoff Hoon has come under severe attack from peace campaigners and even from his own backbenchers for the speed at which he has handed the bases over to America. His decision was of course in no way swayed by the promise of lucrative new contracts for UK arms dealers. In order to ease concerns, Hoon stressed there would be no change to the appearance of Fylingdales or its power output and that the upgrade would be paid for by the US - phew, so we can all sleep easily after all!

There are ongoing peace camps at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales. For more information contact Yorkshire CND on 01274 730795 or [cndyorks@gn.apc.org](mailto:cndyorks@gn.apc.org) [www.cndyorks.gn.apc.org](http://www.cndyorks.gn.apc.org) For more info on the 'Son of Star Wars' see SchNEWS 307.

### DON'T ATTACK IRAQ!

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of Feb, London will see Britain's biggest ever anti-war demo. There are 3 starting points: 12 noon @ Embankment or 12.30pm @ Gower Street. Or for cyclists, a 'Wheels against the War' critical mass, 12 noon under Waterloo Bridge. The march ends at Hyde Park. There will also be a mass sit-down at Picadilly Circus, meet 5pm Green Park. Transport to London is being organised from across the country - [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk). Tickets on coaches from Brighton can be bought from Community Base, Queens Road £7/£4.



# War Briefs

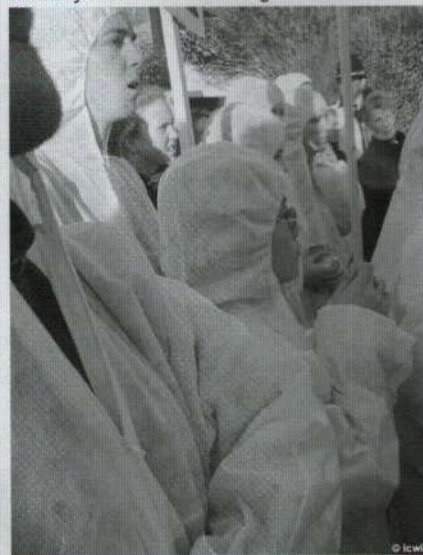
It was another busy weekend last weekend for anti-war demonstrations around the world. On Saturday there were protests in Genoa, Istanbul, Greece and closer to home Norwich was brought to a standstill, as well as protests in Edinburgh and Colchester. \*\* On Saturday over 200 protesters marched on **RAF St Athans, in Wales** and demanded to search for weapons of mass destruction [www.icwi.org](http://www.icwi.org) (pics below) \*\* Over 1,500 people took part in a demonstration last Sunday at **RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire** and 50 people managed to get into the base (see pic) [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk) \*\* On Monday the **Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior**, along with other boats, entered Marchwood Military port in Southampton and blocked the departure of UK



On the de-fence at Fairford Airbase, January 26th



Weapons inspectors visit RAF St Athans, Wales (above & below) 25th January Pics: [www.icwi.org](http://www.icwi.org)



military supply vessels heading for Iraq. [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk) \*\* On Tuesday **Trident Ploughshares** activists locked themselves to the gates of Rolls Royce in Derby and prevented workers getting to work. The factory produces nuclear fuel components for trident submarines.

0845 4588366 [www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org) \*\* On Wednesday a peace activist was arrested at **Shannon airport, Ireland** after she was found causing damage to an American military plane parked there. Although she didn't manage to disarm the plane, she did manage to cause 500,000 Euros worth of

damage. There is now a permanent peace camp outside Shannon Airport. Contact 061-365871 [www.shannonpeacecamp.org](http://www.shannonpeacecamp.org) \*\* **Cambridge peace march**, Sat 1<sup>st</sup>, 12 noon, Market Square \*\* **Demonstration at USAF Lakenheath**, Suffolk, used by US jets to bomb Iraq in the past and currently housing nuclear weapons, 12 noon Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Gate 1, USAF Lakenheath - Just off the A1065. Non-violence workshop the day before. 01508 550 446, [www.lakenheathaction.org](http://www.lakenheathaction.org) \*\* **Sussex Action for Peace meeting**, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7.30pm, Brighthelm Centre Tel: 01273 706820 [www.safp.org.uk](http://www.safp.org.uk) \*\*

**Worthing against War** demo next Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 1pm in Montague Place. [worthingagainstawar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:worthingagainstawar@yahoo.co.uk) \*\* **Hands off Iraq**, a morning of speakers, discussion, videos, banner making and children's activities. Sat 8 Feb, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton 9.30am-1pm. \*\* **The D10 affinity group**, who helped organise the weekend of action at **Northwood** earlier this month, are producing a free news sheet on nonviolent action against the war for distribution at the big march in London on the 15<sup>th</sup> February. If you want to help distribute them on the day contact [d10northwood@gmx.net](mailto:d10northwood@gmx.net).



"Whoops there seems to be a hole in the fence officer" Fairford Airbase, Jan 26th. Pic: Simon Chapman



## MURDER BY DEGREE

As Bush blunders on with his "War on Terrorism", the US courts are busying themselves handing out draconian sentences to scores of Human Rights activists who dare to oppose the training of terrorists on their own soil. The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Co-operation (see SchNEWS 382), formerly the School of the Americas, has spent the last 57 years spewing out 60,000 paramilitary graduates with honours in coercion and repression, ready for export to Latin America. SOA graduates include some of the region's most notorious dictators, like Noriega, Galtieri and Suarez.

This isn't just for fun. The school is an integral part of US foreign policy - influencing Latin American politics and economics in order to protect US interests by aiding and influencing South American militaries.

Last November 10,000 activists gathered peacefully at the school in Fort Benning to demand its closure. 43 were nicked for the hideous crime of 'repeated line-crossing' and have been sentenced this week with up to 6 months in federal jail, with a \$2000 fine to boot! Many of these dangerous criminals were nuns.

One activist managed to get the last word. Addressing Judge Malon Faircloth after getting 3 months, Eloy Garcia said, "Thank you Judge. These harsh sentences will only make our movement, our opposition to this unjust war which is shared by millions across the globe, even stronger."

[www.soaw.org/new/](http://www.soaw.org/new/)

\* Last weekend a group of 150 Colombian paramilitaries assassinated 4 Kuna indigenous leaders in an attack on a remote mountain community in Paya. Doing the dirty work for the US-backed (often trained) Colombian military, the paramilitaries systematically terrorise rural populations and 'silence' any opposition. [www.zNet.org](http://www.zNet.org); [www.lasolidarity.org](http://www.lasolidarity.org);

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## SchNEWS in brief

**The Brighton Station site plans are on hold!** This week the Government Office for the South-East ordered that no work could start until requests for a Public Inquiry were considered. It's time to keep up the pressure and save the Station site from rampant development! [www.buddbrighton.org](http://www.buddbrighton.org). \*\* Things go from bad to worse for vivisectors **Huntingdon Life Sciences**. Two of their key directors recently resigned and were replaced by a paper-merchant who promptly resigned a couple of weeks later. HLS has also lost the services of Cambridge Pet Crematorium who were disposing of dead animals for them. [www.shac.net](http://www.shac.net) \*\* Yesterday protesters invaded the **Papua New Guinea** High Commission in London. Papua New Guinea are ordering the OPM (Free Papua Movement) to return to West Papua and have threatened to forcibly return all West Papuans living in the Vanimo refugee camp. Those deported to West Papua face torture and death at the hands of the murderous Indonesian military. [www.fPcN-global.org](http://www.fPcN-global.org) \*\* Since 1998, there have been **4,000,000 people killed in the Congo**, largely over resources for the West. However the BBC have ignored this genocide. Picket the BBC, Bush House (Africa Service), The Strand, London, 5 Feb. -7.30pm. Organised by Stop All Imperialist Wars Against Africa And Africans, 020-82651731/020-89680113. \*\* A 'Save Live Music!' group has been established to oppose the Government's proposed Licensing

## POSITIVE SchNEWS

**The government has just announced they have £10 million in grants for households and communities to develop their own renewable energy projects.** Free info service available from the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), for individuals and groups who would like advice about participating in the renewable revolution. 01654-705950 [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk)

Bill (see SchNEWS 388). Join the discussion list by sending a blank email to [savelivemusic-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:savelivemusic-subscribe@yahoo.com). \*\* **Imbolc Pagan Cabaret** this Sat (1<sup>st</sup>), 7pm at the Ray Tindle Centre, North Laines, £4. \*\* **Green Architecture Day 2003**, learn about self-building, renewable and waste-material buildings. 1 Feb 9.30am-5.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, South Laines, Brighton. \*\* **The Cowley Club, a co-operative social centre run by volunteers in Brighton, has finally opened!** The bar is open in the evenings from 7-11pm as a private members' club. During the day, the club will be open to the public as a cafe and bookshop starting from Feb 11th. It's located at 12 London Road, opposite Somerfield. Wednesday night video showings will start Feb 5th at 8pm. All members and their guests are welcome. \*\* On Tuesday 28th, Dartmoor National Park Authority lost an appeal in the highcourt which could have removed the temporary planning permission won for **Steward Community Woodland**. The judge said that the "...DNPA could not see the wood for the trees." This give the sustainable living project at least 4 1/2 years. [www.stewardwood.org](http://www.stewardwood.org) 01647 440233

## ...and finally...

**More Crapita!** CAPITA, the "outsourcing specialists" (running public services as a private business), who've been dubbed crapita after cocking up everything they touch from housing benefit to passports, have now taken over the running of TV licensing in Bristol. They sent out tens of thousands of leaflets to homes inviting punters to call a hotline. Only problem is that they printed the phone number of a tyre wholesaler, who then received over 500 TV licensing enquiries a day. The tyre company may now sue Crapita for loss of earnings.

(Stolen from Bristol's local news-sheet, The Bristolian - [www.bristol.ian.freesevers.com](http://www.bristol.ian.freesevers.com))

## Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all Mail readers to beware of premature immigration. Honest.



Weekly

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Issue 391



## WASTE OF SPACE

"Just as by the year 1500 it was clear that the European experience of power would be its domination of the global seas, it does not take much to see that the American experience of power will rest on the domination of space" - *The Future of War: Power, Technology and World Dominance in the 21st Century* by George and Meredith Friedman.

On Saturday NASA- the American space agency- provided the people of Texas with a spectacular firework display, as the space shuttle Columbia burst into flames and disintegrated on re-entering the atmosphere. All 7 astronauts on board were killed and America became a grief-stricken nation again. SchNEWS hopes they show the same remorse when thousands of Iraqis are killed by American bombs.

The space shuttle Columbia is one of the shuttles that are used like taxis by the Kennedy Space Centre to ferry equipment and people out to the International Space Station, but on their way the astronauts on board also carry out their own 'scientific research'. Columbia's last crew included Israeli Air Force pilot Ilan Ramon, whose mission was to test a multi-spectral camera that probes the effect of sandstorms on climate change. The all-weather camera is also key technology for military spy satellites and unmanned drones searching for targets obscured by dust, smoke and clouds - sounds like that could come in useful in the looming Iraqi war! The other international astronaut onboard was Kalpana Chawla, an Indian born civilian engineer. It is probably a bit more than a coincidence that both Israel and India are trying to establish

their own space programmes, which will concentrate on, you guessed it - military purposes. It's no wonder that Columbia's ultimate mission was interpreted as a threat across parts of the Middle East and South Asia.

In recent years space shuttles have been used for everything from repairing the Hubble Telescope to studying the effects of weightlessness on tiny insects to deploying global positioning satellites that provide signals for most of today's precision-guided "smart" bombs. In recent years Congress has cut NASA's funding and they've had to rely on the Pentagon for funding. With the arrival of Bush and Dick-face Cheney at the Whitehouse this has meant many Shuttle missions have military objectives, thinly disguised as 'scientific research'. Many people believe that through a combination of financial cuts and mismanagement (the space shuttles have now been 92% privatised and are now run by aerospace giants Boeing and Lockheed Martin) the Columbia disaster was an accident waiting to happen. Over the summer a retired 36-year veteran of NASA called on President Bush to enact a temporary moratorium on all space shuttle flights, but his pleas were ignored and now 7 astronauts are dead.

## Start Wars

Not content with being the world's only superpower, the USA wants to extend its military might to achieve what it so bashfully calls "Full Spectrum Dominance", which will mean backing up its dominance on earth by building up its weapons in space. The US is currently working on technology which is of course only for 'defensive purposes' but which still makes a ridiculous

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK  
For skinny dipping!

A Mapuche woman delegate of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre bathed nude in a river to cool off from the warm temperatures of the Brazilian summertime, only to find herself arrested under charges of 'obscene acts'. Her arrest then sparked a non-violent naked protest by 400 activists. Police attacked the protesters arresting and injuring an unknown number of them and then turned on fully clothed journalists and bystanders. [www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk)

farce of their hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Without the help of Darth Vader they're developing the so-called "Star Wars" programme - a series of lasers that will form a protective shield, to shoot missiles out of the sky before they ever reach American soil.

This is accompanied by development of a "Nuclear Space Initiative", which would see rockets powered by nuclear generators - this is necessary to power long distance exploration into deepest space and more significantly to provide the enormous power needed to keep their mega laser battle stations orbiting above the Earth. For America the Columbia shuttle disaster has come at a bad time just when it was looking to greatly broaden its program to use nuclear power in space on rockets launched from Kennedy Space station which has a 10% failure rate. There's already been two nuclear rocket explosions over the US and after being showered with plutonium residents of Florida were warned to stay away from the rocket's debris which should have been easy to spot cos' it glowed in the dark! If the much larger Columbia had been carrying plutonium Bush might well have lost himself a few thousand of his Texas voters.



## Locked

So just why is the US so hell-bent on developing a Star Wars programme? Perhaps it has something to do with the people behind the unelected Muppet. People like Bruce Jackson, vice president of Lockheed Martin, the largest weapons manufacturer and a major contractor in US space military work who claimed "I wrote the Republican Party's foreign policy platform." No doubt Lockheed Martin are doing very well out of the threat of war on Iraq. He claims he hasn't pressed for development of Star Wars "That would be an implicit conflict of interest with my day job." So who did advocate it? Stephen Hadley, a military adviser to Bush Snr, and is a lawyer who represents, er Lockheed Martin. He claims that "Space is going to be important. It has a great feature in the military." And no doubt important for swelling Lockheed Martin's bank balance and those associated with it, like Lynn Cheney, the wife of US vice-President Dick Cheney, who is a board member of...Lockheed Martin.

The rest of the world is not too impressed with America's war mongering. Last November 160 Nations passed a United Nations resolution called "Prevention Of An Arms Race In Outer Space", with only the US, Israel and Micronesia abstaining.

This re-affirmed the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, international law that sets aside outer space for peaceful uses. Canada is pressing for all weapons in outer space to be outlawed (currently only weapons of mass destruction are banned) -because they fear another arms race will start. "If one state actively pursues the weaponization of space we can be sure others will follow" commented Marc Vidricaire, Canadian representative to the UN.

The USA is to start that arms race with the development of a space air force. The US Air Force Space Command in its Almanac 2000 stated "The future of the Air Force is space... Globally dominant - The future Air Force will be better able to monitor and shape world events..." Scary stuff. It might not be too long before space terrorism becomes a reality.

\*In typical Tony Blair style Britain is doing it's bit to help America retain it's world dominance by allowing two of our military bases- Menwith Hill and Fylingdales- to be used to aid their Star Wars programme. There are ongoing protests at both of these bases. Info Yorkshire CND 01274 730795 [www.cndyorks.gn.apc.org](http://www.cndyorks.gn.apc.org).

\*Foil the Base - Mass action against war and Star Wars at Menwith Hill - 22 March. Info [foilthebase@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:foilthebase@yahoo.co.uk)

\*More information on the nuclear space race at [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

## War Briefs

Minister of War Geoff Hoon was trapped inside the Con-nah's Quay Labour Hall for 40 minutes this week by peace protesters who had a warrant for a citizen's arrest of Hoon for his possession and threat to use weapons of mass destruction. Hoon was on the North Wales leg of his UK 'war tour' that aims to reassure grassroots Labour activists about a military attack on Iraq. \*\* On Tuesday fourteen Greenpeace volunteers handcuffed themselves to Gulf-bound tanks and jeeps at Southampton's Marchwood Military Port and decorated them with anti-war slogans. [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk) \*\* Anti-war demos last weekend included 1,800 in Swansea, 1,500 in Cambridge and 40 in sleepy Sussex town Haywards Heath. \*\* Meanwhile six protestors closed nearby RAF Lakenheath for an hour last week while other 'weapons inspectors' entered the base, and searched for American-controlled weapons of mass destruction. \*\* Stop the War have organised loads of anti-war Valentine events the day before what promises to be the UK's biggest ever anti war demo Full listing 020 053 2153 [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk) \*\* In Brighton - Make Love Not War, Valentine's Day, 5.00pm Churchill Square. Bring flowers, candles and pink fluffy stuff. \*\* Make Bass Not War - get partyin for peace with djs, stalls and stuff, 13th at Concorde 2, Brighton [www.safp.org.uk](http://www.safp.org.uk) \*\* Legal observers and stewards are urgently needed for the mass nonviolent sitdown protest to take place after the anti war march on February 15th. Contact 0845 458 2564 [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org) \*\* There's a Students Against War National Meeting this Saturday (8) from 12 noon, New College, Oxford. [osstw@lautre.net](mailto:osstw@lautre.net) \*\* Check out our spanking new direct action against the war section on our website [www.schnews.com/stopwar](http://www.schnews.com/stopwar)

## Shannon you Crazy Diamond



Last week Mary Kelly, (pic above) was arrested for breaking into a hangar and trashing a US military plane with a hatchet, causing 300,000 Euros worth of damage. And this week five members of the Catholic Worker Movement were arrested for cutting through fences at Shannon airport to pour human blood onto the

runway and building a shrine dedicated to Iraqi children killed by twelve years of US and British military action.

Contrary to the Irish Constitution and international law, the Irish Government continues to allow Shannon Airport to be used by US forces on their way to US bases in Kuwait and Qatar. The Shannon Peace Camp has temporarily been disbanded "as the camp was more of a news story than the war on Iraq and the use of Shannon Airport." Mary Kelly is being held at Limerick prison and is due to appear in court this Wednesday 5th Feb. The other five are at Shannon and Ennis police stations. And just so there can be no misunderstanding as to where his sympathies lie, Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, has now ordered 150 armed troops to provide '24-hour security' at the airport. [www.shannonpeacecamp.org](http://www.shannonpeacecamp.org)



## ELECTRICKERY

**Thousands of poor people getting evicted from their homes. Water and electricity supplies cut-off. Live ammunition fired at the protesting poor. Welcome to the new South Africa!**

Thousands of poor people in ghettos all over the country are getting a brutal taste of neo-liberalism as the ANC government continues to open up its economy to 'market forces'. This has seen public services being handed over to western multinationals that cut jobs and raise water prices. One multinational Suez Lyonnaise is now the owner of South Africa's water utilities - it hiked water rates for the urban poor. The ANC government once promised cheap water, electricity, housing, health care and education. But they have broken their promises and sold off their country to western multinationals who are upping prices and laying off workers.

But South Africa's poor have erupted like a burst water pipe. Organisations such as the Anti-Privatisation Forum and the Anti-Evictions Campaign have sprung up in defence of the basic human right to water, warmth and shelter. In April last year 87 people from Soweto, including pensioners and children, were arrested on charges of public violence, malicious damage and assault, they had gone to the ANC Mayor of Johannesburg's house to show what it was like to have your water and electricity cut off. His bodyguard didn't reckon it was funny and shot at them with live bullets. The activists reacted,

as one does when shot at, and they got nicked.

The trial of the 'Kensington 87' was delayed, following international protests, till 22 January where the mayor's bodyguard was unable to explain how two protestors were wounded by his bullets if he only fired warning shots into the air. The verdict is expected in March.

In Cape Town hundreds of residents, led by the Mandela Park Anti-Eviction Campaign, recently marched to the local ANC councillor to put forward their demands that promises of free electricity become a reality. They reckon 20 units is far too little electricity to last a month - the unemployed, pensioners, disabled people cannot afford to buy electricity beyond what's provided so they have to go without light and energy for cooking and heating. Pissed off residents are demanding that electricity cut-offs be abolished. But the AEC isn't just pleading with fat politicians - it's fighting for free education for poor students and it has led a good deal of direct action demonstrations against evictions and cut-offs. The AEC protects families from being evicted by staging sit-ins and demonstrations to turn away the armed guards who come to evict families. If the 'orrible guards are determined to take the property away then AEC activists often decide make the house 'unlivable' - they smash it up so no-one else can live there! See [southafrica.indymedia.org](http://southafrica.indymedia.org), [antieviction.org.za](http://antieviction.org.za)

## manifestAction contre la guerre en Irak



**samedi 8 février 03**  
**16h30 - place du bareusai - dijon**

## Positive SchNEWS

**Pedal power puts polluters through their paces at the unpredictable 7th Pedal Power Convention.** - DIY pedal and wind generators, pedal powered music and other contraptions to make the mind boggle, there is also a free junk pile of motors, meters, and other useful contraption-making stuff to be taken from or added to. Come along to learn about low-impact living in a comfortable atmosphere. Its on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb and starts at 12 noon till 6pm at RISC centre 35-39 London St, Reading, RG1 4PS. Please book if you're bringing stuff to display on 01344 482266 [www.c-realevents.co.uk](http://www.c-realevents.co.uk)

(left) Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Six people lock-on at the entrance of RAF Lakenheath blockading the entrance to the base for an hour. They were all arrested, but at the same time six other weapons inspectors got into the base to look for weapons of mass destruction. Lakenheath is the largest US Air Force-operated base in England, and the most important tactical nuclear bombing base in Europe. [www.lakenheathaction.org](http://www.lakenheathaction.org)





## HOMEBOYS

**"The day after the election we will physically take over the Blair's empty flats regardless of the legal situation. We don't intend to waste time on legal niceties when families with young kids have nowhere to live." - Sid Street, Bristolian Election Campaign Manager.**

In a town where most folks have been pushed to the outskirts thanks to rocketing house prices, the Blairs decided to buy two luxury flats last November. Empty since then, the flats are fingers up to anyone in housing need. The Blairs now have three homes, Downing Street, Chequers for the weekends, and a house in County Durham - they really NEED all of them. Honest.

John Prescott told the House of Commons this week that councils should be able to take control of empty properties by force if they've been empty for too long. So watch out you Blairs! Sadly it's unlikely the council will ever get their acts together enough

to enforce it. At the moment there are 2,348 houses in Brighton and Hove and a staggering 70,000 properties in London and the south east which have been empty for at least six months (most have been empty for years). Prescott also announced that he'd cut the discount for buying an ex-council property from £38,000 to £16,000 in March. So there'll probably be a rush to buy up the remaining houses before the sale ends, er, nice one. Hurry now! Sale ends soon! Everything must go! In the last 20 years £13 billion has been re-directed from council housing into central government coffers. Neo-Labour have done this by cutting funding to most local councils all over the country, preventing councils from buying or building new houses and from repairing and improving existing ones.

**Those of you familiar with Brighton will know about the (in)Sainsbury's development near Brighton station. The hugely un-**

popular superstore was finally given the nod this week despite opposition from local residents and small businesses, campaign group BUDD and the popular community squat at Harvest Forestry. Instead of building hundreds of affordable new homes, the council chose to suck Sainsburys proverbial cock and grant them permission to build a spanking new superstore, even though they've already got one ten minutes' walk down the road. Pissed off with all this sort of nonsense, UNISON and Brighton and Hove tenants joined people from all over the country the other week in a national Defend Council Housing rally of Westminster. Steve Foster from UNISON told SchNEWS, "The right to housing is fundamental. Our objective is to stop the unnecessary and expensive sell-off of the Council's remaining stock, and restore some of the public investment in Council Housing that has been lost in recent years." Defend Council Housing: 020 7987 9989 [www.defendcouncilhousing.org](http://www.defendcouncilhousing.org)

**Worldwide protests against the war next Saturday (15).** Three meet up points 12 noon @ Embankment, 12.30pm Gower St, 12 noon under Waterloo Bridge for cyclists. Sit down protest after the demo at Piccadilly Circus, meet 5pm Green Park. Transport from around the country 020 7053 2153 [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk) Tickets for Brighton coaches available from Community Base, Queens Road. Help give out SchNEWS on the day. Pick up bundles on Friday afternoon at the Cowley Club, London Road, or if you see us struggling under thousands of bits of paper please give us a hand.

**\* Scottish Coalition for Justice not War** will visit the Labour Party Conference in Glasgow. 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10am at Glasgow Green to surround the SECC for a 'Jericho Rumpus' at 1.30pm followed by a rally at 2.30pm info, transport and maps from [www.banthebomb.org.uk](http://www.banthebomb.org.uk)



Those pranksters at Greenpeace project a peace message on the Sydney Opera House, February 13th.

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## ...and finally...

**Over the past few years many cycle lanes have sprung up making life easier for cyclists.** Except that many of these cycle lanes are poorly thought out, go nowhere or are just plain stupid and a waste of money. And Brighton is no exception, one cyclist fed up with the Council's poor record has set up his own website, featuring the shortest cycle lane at less than the length of a bike! The website has a host of weird and downright dangerous cycle lanes. "Scary Cycle Lanes of Brighton" shows some life threatening lanes, like those that run down the middle of the road between two lanes of traffic travelling in opposite directions. There are also lanes with metals posts, bollards or trees right in the middle of them and a sign telling cyclists to dismount at a cycle crossing. Check out [weirdcyclelanes.co.uk/](http://weirdcyclelanes.co.uk/)

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all Aliens Lost in Space you must be completely warped to Klingon to the idea there's any intelligent life on Earth. Honest.



# GIVE OR TAKE A FEW MILLION

## FEBRUARY 15th 2003

Hyde Park, London. Pic: Simon Chapman

February 15th 2003 was the biggest worldwide day of mass demonstration in history. We will never know how many anti-war actions and events happened that day - estimates get bandied about which are always subject to the usual loaded estimations. Rounding the whole lot off to the nearest million it comes out at 20 million. Countries with pro-war regimes drew the biggest crowds - demonstrating a clear separation between states and peoples. The list featured here of anti-war rallies in the US for instance (shortened to spare tedium) counters the image of an American public gung-ho for war - and the same goes for other 'coalition' countries like Britain, Spain and Australia. It is claimed that people in every country except China participated in this international day.

### Crowd Estimates

This list has been built from a range of online sources, many of which were regional Indymedia websites, and cross checked where possible. Of course these numbers - accurate or not - don't illustrate the diversity of people who came together for these demonstrations, nor the range of events which happened on the day. In fact this article is just places and numbers - without comments - and an exercise in statistics it may be, but none-the-less a record of an incredible day which speaks for itself.

Melbourne



### Antarctica

Amundsen-Scott Station 5

### Argentina

Buenos Aires 50,000

### Australia

Adelaide 100,000

Bellingen, NSW 3,000

Brisbane 100-150,000

Byron Bay, NSW 3,000

Canberra 10-15,000

Darwin 2,000

Hobart 15,000

Launceston, TAS 3,000

Lismore, NSW 7,000

Mackay, QLD 1,500

Melbourne 200-250,000

Newcastle 20,000



Rio de Janeiro

Perth 20-30,000

Rockhampton,

QLD 600

Sydney 250-

500,000

### Austria

Vienna

20-30,000

### Bangladesh

Dhaka 2,000

### Bosnia

Mostar 400

### Belgium

Brussels

100,000

### Brazil

Recife 1,200

Rio de Janeiro 15,000

Salvador 1,500

Sao Paulo 30,000

### Bulgaria

Sofia 2,000

### Canada

Calgary 5,000

Edmonton 10,000

Montreal 100-150,000

Quebec City 3,000

Toronto 80-100,000

Stoppt den Krieg  
gegen den Irak!



Vancouver 30,000

Winnipeg 5-10,000

### Chile

Santiago 500

### Croatia

Zagreb 10,000

### Cuba

Havana 5,000

### Cyprus

UK Airbase Dhekelia

800



Santiago





Douai 2,000  
La Roche Sur Yon 2-2,500  
La Rochelle 3,000  
Le Mans 8,000  
Limoges 4,000  
Lorient 4,000  
Lyon 20,000  
Marseille 20,000  
Montpellier 15-20,000  
Nantes 6,000



## Czech Republic

Prague 1,000

## Denmark

Copenhagen 35,000  
Viborg 300

## Dominican Rep.

Santo Domingo 500

## East Timor

Dili 100 at US Embassy

## Egypt

Cairo 2,000

## France

Some of the 70 towns:

Aix En Provence 7,000  
Albi 4-5,000  
Avignon 2-5,000  
Bordeaux 11-15,000  
Bourg En Bresse 1,000  
Brest 4-5,000  
Chalon Sur Saone 2,000  
Clermont-Ferrand 4,500  
Dijon 4-5,000

Nice 15,000  
Nimes 5-6,000  
Paris 300,000  
Pau 3-4,000  
Perpignan 5-10,000  
Rennes 5-6,000  
Rouen 1,000  
Saint Naraire 4,000  
Strasbourg 7,000  
Thonon 2,000  
Toulon 6,000

Toulouse 15,000  
Tours 4,000  
Valence 5,000  
Vannes 2,000



Athens - protesters decorate a fighter plane



## Greece

Athens 200,000  
Thessaloniki 40,000+  
Demonstrations also took place in Patras, Volos, Giannena, Kavala, Aleksandroupoli, Orestiada, Komotini, Irakleio, Rethimno, Rhodes, Mitilini and more.

## Ecuador

Quito 500

## El Salvador

San Salvador 2,500

## Finland

Helsinki 15,000  
Tampere 2,000  
Turku 5,000

## Germany

BERLIN 500,000+  
Stuttgart 50,000

## Honduras

Tegucigalpa - demonstration at US Embassy

## Hong Kong

City Centre 1,000

## Hungary

Budapest 20-30,000

## Iceland

Reykjavik 4,000

## India

Calcutta 10,000  
New Delhi ?



(Left) Oh dear - police fire tear gas as things kick off near US Embassy in Athens





Berlin



## Malta

Blata l-Bajda 1,000

## Mexico

Mexico City 50,000

## Netherlands

Amsterdam 80,000  
plus anti-war actions in  
Rotterdam, Nijmegen  
and Leiden.

90 arrested at Volkel US  
airbase

## New Zealand

Auckland 10,000  
Christchurch 3,000  
Dunedin 1,500  
Wellington 7,000  
Whanganui 70

## Norway

Bergen 15,000  
Oslo 60,000  
Stavanger 5,000  
Trondheim 11-20,000



Mexico City

## Palestine

Gaza 15,000

## Pakistan

Lahore 2,000 plus  
demos in Karachi,  
Rawalpindi, Islamabad  
and 20 other cities

## Peru

Lima 300

## Philippines

Manila 6-10,000



## Indonesia

Jakarta 70,000+ (Feb  
8th)

150 visit British Em-  
bassy

## Israel

Tel Aviv 1,500

## Iraq

Baghdad 100,000+

## Ireland

Dublin 100,000+  
Belfast 10,000

## Italy

Girona 30,000  
Monza 5,000

## ROME

2,500,000+

Turin 1,500

1,000 at US

airbase Camp

Ederle

Also marches  
in Perugia, Bo-  
logna, Genoa,  
Naples

Florence human  
chain of 5,000



## Japan

Atsugi 120  
Osaka 1,000  
Tokyo 25,000

## Jordan

Amman 3,000

## Kazakhstan

Almaty 50



Beirut

## Lebanon

Beirut 10,000

## Luxembourg

Luxembourg 15-20,000



Ramallah Palestine

Rachel Corrie in Rafah, Gaza, Palestine (below)



Rome



## Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur 3,000





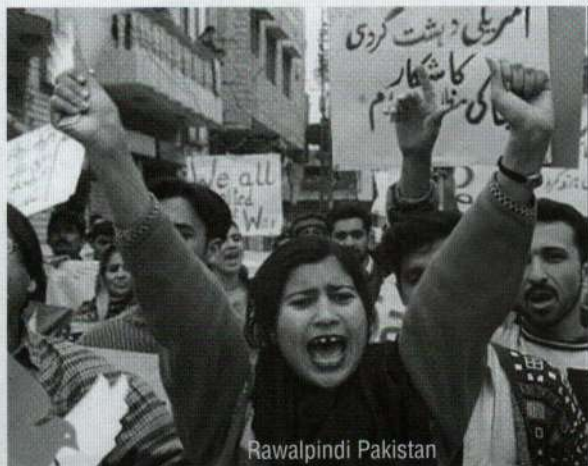
Madrid



## Spain

Algeciras 15,000  
Andalusia 20,000+  
BARCELONA  
1,200,000+  
Bilbao 100,000

Cadiz 100,000  
Ferrol 15,000+  
Girona 30,000  
Granada 150,000  
Huesca 5,000+  
Iruna 20,000  
Lugo 12,000  
MADRID 2,000,000  
Malaga 50,000  
Oviedo 200,000  
Las Palmas 100,000  
San Sebastian 15-20,000  
Santa Cruz de Tenerife  
85,000  
Santander 35,000  
Seville 250,000  
Valencia 300-500,000



Rawalpindi Pakistan

## Singapore

2 - both were arrested

## Slovenia

Ljubljana 4-6,000  
Maribor 500

## South Africa

Capetown 5-12,000  
Durban 3,000  
Johannesburg 10,000

## South Korea

Seoul 10,000

## Sweden

Goteborg 30,000  
Malmo 5,000  
Stockholm 80,000

## Switzerland

Berne 40,000  
Chur 600  
St. Gallen 3,000

## Syria

Damascus 200,000

## Thailand

Bangkok 3,000  
Pattani 10,000

## Tunisia

Sfax 3,000

## Turkey

Ankara ?  
Istanbul 5,000

## Ukraine

Kiev 2,000

## Puerto Rico

San Jose 900

## Reunion

Reunion 6,000

## Russia

Moscow 1,000

## Poland

Warsaw 8-10,000  
Poznan 3-400  
Gdansk 100  
Wroclaw 500  
Rzeszow ?

## Portugal

Lisbon 80-100,000



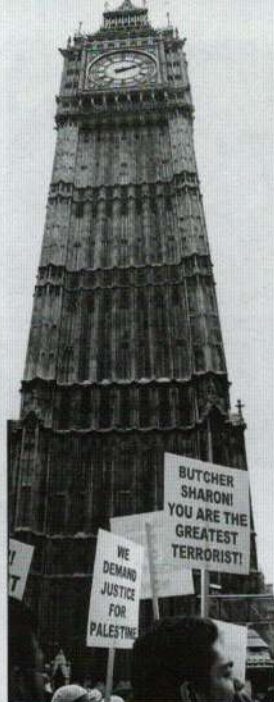
Istanbul



Damascus



Belfast 30,000  
Glasgow 60,000+  
LONDON 1,500,000+  
Shetland Islands 600



Rounding it off to the nearest zero we calculate that:

- \* 1,000 American flags were burnt worldwide
- \* 200Ha of forests were used making the wooden stakes for banners

\* There were 4,500 speeches which were listened to by 1.5% of the crowds.

\* 5,000 politicians made anti-war speeches but are in fact pro-war and only said it to get votes.

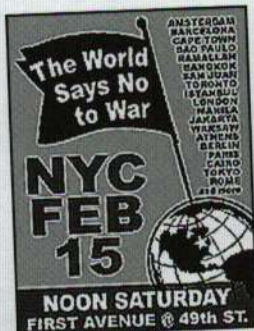
\* 245,037 Trotskyite newspapers were sold.

\* 38% of marchers were against the war, but couldn't face reading the news and didn't actually know anything about it.

\* 8,750,000 people claimed they would never vote for the current government again but probably will.

\* Tony Blair has aged approximately 15 years in the past six months.

\* To calculate the actual number at a march we have arrived at this formula...

$$\text{Total} = \frac{\text{Overly optimistic estimate from Indymedia posting}}{\text{Police Estimate}} \times \text{Socialist Paper Estimate}$$


Anchorage, AK 300  
Asheville, NC 2,000  
Austin, TX 10-20,000  
Chicago, IL 7,000  
Cleveland, OH 1,200  
Columbus, OH 1,000  
Colorado Springs, CO  
3-4,000  
Concord, NH 6-800  
Corvallis, OR 1,000+  
Dallas, TX 3-5,000  
Detroit, MI 10,000  
Eugene, OR 4,000  
Flagstaff, AZ 1-2,000  
Honolulu, HA 300+  
Houston, TX 3-5,000  
Lansing, MI 2-3,000  
Las Vegas, NV 830+  
Lawrence, KS 2,500  
Madison, WI 3,000  
Los Angeles 75-125,000  
Milwaukee, WI 5,000  
Minneapolis, MN 10,000  
Missoula, MT 2-5,000  
Montpelier, VT 1,200  
New Orleans, LA 1,000  
NEW YORK, 500,000+  
Olympia, WA 3,000  
Orange County, CA 800  
Philadelphia, PA 10,000+



Phoenix, AZ 5,000  
Raleigh, NC 7,000  
Sacramento, CA 10,000  
St. Louis, MO 3,000  
Salem, OR 1,000-1,400  
San Diego, CA 10,000  
San Francisco 150-250,000  
San Jose, CA 5,000+  
Santa Barbara, CA 5,400  
Santa Cruz, CA 8-10,000  
Santa Fe, NM 6-10,000  
Santa Monica, CA 7,000  
Sarasota, FL 2,500  
Seattle, WA 55,000  
Tallahassee, FL 4-600  
Wausau, WI 1,500-2,000

Montevideo 50,000  
Salto 1.500

## Caracas 5.000

*As a Labour MP with a large Asian constituency, I need to be seen to be against innocent Iraqis dying in a war. Er unless it's got UN backing. Or if my job was at risk.*





WAKE UP! IT'S YER PEACE MONGERING



# SchNEWS

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Friday 14th February 2003 Free/Donation Issue 392

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# IRAQ AND RUIN

"Why of course the people don't want war...But after all it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or a fascist dictatorship...Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they're being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger." - *Hermann Goering, Nuremberg, 1946*

"The bewildered herd is a problem. We've got to prevent their rage and trampling. We've got to distract them. They should be watching the Superbowl or sitcoms or violent movies. Every once in a while you call on them to chant meaningless slogans like "Support our troops." You've got to keep them pretty scared, because unless they're properly scared and frightened of all kinds of devils that are going to destroy them from outside or inside or somewhere, they may start to think, which is very dangerous, because they're not competent to think. Therefore it's important to distract them and marginalize them." - *Noam Chomsky*

Saturday promises to be the biggest day of global action against war in world history, with demonstrations in seventy countries and hundreds of cities from Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to Ramallah in Palestine to Tel Aviv in Israel, from Seoul in South Korea to the USA, in all the countries of Europe and in many of South America and Africa.

While the unelected Bush administration talks of "endless war" and "full spectrum

dominance", the American public gorges itself on gaffer tape and tinned prunes in case of terrorist attack or armageddon. On Tuesday, the people of Britain woke up to the appearance of tanks and armed patrols around Heathrow airport. Terrorist threat or theatre? Helping to thwart terrorists or introducing fear so that we may all eventually agree to a war on Iraq? Walter Lippman, the Pulitzer Prize winning American journalist, argued that what he called a "revolution in the art of democracy," could be used to "manufacture consent" - the skilful use of propaganda and the manipulation of facts in order to get the public to agree to things they would otherwise have opposed. As well as telling outright lies, such as the Gulf of Tonkin Incident, when the US lied about an attack on a US warship as an excuse to launch the Vietnam War, governments also try to manipulate the debate so that it takes place entirely on their terms. Hence President Blair always talking about the present situation as if it is caused entirely by Saddam Hussein's failure

to disarm (despite the fact that the US and UK governments have tolerated exactly this same situation for years) in an attempt to draw attention away from what has really changed - the political motives of the current US administration.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE 5

Switch on the news and hear about more terrorists being arrested. But who are they? In December, five Turks and a Briton were charged under the Terrorism Act 2000 for supporting the Turkish Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front, or DHKP-C. They were nicked because DHKP-C has been banned by the UK government and the six arrestees were supposedly "facilitating the retention or control of terrorist property." Guns? Bombs? Er, no, the people arrested were simply in possession of magazines, videos and posters that supported the DHKP-C. At a pre-trial hearing, the judge ordered all the defendants to surrender their passports and banned them from selling or distributing copies of "Vatan," a radical Turkish-based magazine that has the bare faced cheek to criticise that bastion of human rights, Turkey.

One of On those nicked was Rory O'Driscoll, who had recently joined other people in a visit to Turkish hunger strikers protesting about prison conditions. His house was then raided and he was held for two weeks at Paddington Green police station where *every hour* someone would open up the hatch to his cell and ask if he was 'alright' (a friendly way to deny

Need a rest after marching? Why not pay the US Embassy a visit in Grosvenor Sq near Hyde Park? Or join a mass sit-down in Piccadilly - meet at 5pm in Green Park.

3<sup>rd</sup> February - Fairford Airbase 'Mass Weapons Inspection'. Noon, Fairford Town Centre, Gloucestershire. [www.safp.org.uk](http://www.safp.org.uk)

[www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk)  
22<sup>nd</sup> March - Fairford again! Noon at the junction of High St/Park St, Fairford. [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk) and Menwith Hill 'Foil the Base' [www.now-peace.org.uk](http://www.now-peace.org.uk).

For more info on action against the war check out: [www.schnews.org.uk/stopwar/](http://www.schnews.org.uk/stopwar/)

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## Iraq and Ruin cont...

a prisoner of sleep, don't you reckon?). If found guilty of the 'crime' of possessing magazines and supporting Turkish hunger strikers, Rory could face up to 10 years in prison.

Meanwhile, under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act, thirteen people have been arrested and held without charge for 14 months without being told what they have done and with no way of knowing if and when they face trial or release. One of these, a Palestinian father of five, has been transferred to Broadmoor and is suffering from mental health problems.

But wait a second... aren't Bush and Blair the real terrorists here? Just recently the Pentagon announced that it intended to shatter Iraq "physically, emotionally and psychologically" by raining down 800 cruise missiles in two days on the Iraqi people. Military strategist Harlan Ullman told American television: "There will not be a safe place in Baghdad. The sheer size of this has never been seen before, never been contemplated before." The strategy is known as "Shock and Awe" and Ullman is apparently its proud inventor. He said: "You have this simultaneous effect, rather like the nuclear weapons at Hiroshima, not taking days or weeks but minutes."

What will his "Hiroshima effect" actually do to a population of whom almost half are children under the age of 14? The answer comes in a "confidential" UN document, which

says that "as many as 500,000 people could require treatment as a result of direct and indirect injuries".

A Bush-Blair attack will destroy "a functioning primary health care system" and deny clean water to 39 per cent of the population. There is "likely [to be] an outbreak of diseases in epidemic if not pandemic proportions".

The logic is brilliant. To save the Iraqi people from a murderous dictator (who we put there in the first place) we must first kill them with sanctions and then with bombs. To stamp out terrorism we must attack countries and kill innocent people, which will produce more terrorists. And to protect our civil liberties and freedoms we must, of course, take them away.

SchNEWS wants regime change in Iraq, but regime change must also happen here. Who voted to leave the running of the world to this motley crew of self-interested oil-fuelled egomaniacs? Saying no to this war alone is asking for trouble. We must say no to its leaders as well. As Novelist Kurt Vonnegut so aptly put it "(America) has been taken over by means of the sleaziest, low-comedy coup d'etat imaginable."

**Recommended reading:** John Pilger - *The New Rulers of the World* (Verso 2002). Noam Chomsky & Edward S. Herman *Manufacturing Consent - The Political Economy of the Mass Media* (Pantheon Books).

For an indepth analysis of world events see [www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org)

## War Briefs

**Army reservists** who've been receiving their call-up papers during the last few weeks **have been refusing to go in record numbers**. So far one in three have either applied for exemption or have just ignored their call-up papers. \*\* Last Saturday **25,000 people took to the streets of Munich, Germany** to demonstrate against the NATO security meeting being held there. Predictably, the police raided the convergence centre, arresting 22 people and only releasing them after the protests had ended. All over Germany, several thousand people took part in antiwar demonstrations. [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org) \*\* Having achieved their objective of drawing attention to the unconstitutional use of **Shannon airport** for US war preparations, the victorious **Shannon Peace Camp** has now been dismantled and in a major victory for them, the US aircraft which used the base have now been moved to Germany. Unfortunately, the protestors arrested for damaging US military equipment are still being held in Limerick prison [www.shannonpeacecamp.org](http://www.shannonpeacecamp.org) \*\* **Over 30 people stormed Labour Party HQ** on Tyneside last Friday, barricading themselves in the lobby to demand that the Labour Party stop its terrorist war against the people of Iraq. \*\* Over 300 people marched through **Worthing town centre** last Saturday to protest against the prospect of war against Iraq. There will be a **Worthing Against War** meeting at The Downview pub in Tarring Road at 7.45pm on 4 March and an anti-war day on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> March [worthingagainsthewar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:worthingagainsthewar@yahoo.co.uk) \*\* **Stop Europe's biggest ever death fair!** One of the world's biggest ever trade fairs for guns, bombs, military planes, small arms, mines and tanks will take place in London from 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September. There's a week long festival of action, protest and resistance planned 0781 7652 029 [www.dsei.org](http://www.dsei.org) \*\* To find about actions going on around the country join the **Direct Action Against the War discussion group** at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/directactionagainstarwar/>

## BASE INSTINCT

There are regular demos at many of the military bases throughout the UK:

**Menwith Hill**, in North Yorkshire, is the largest electronic monitoring station in the world. Run by the US National Security Agency (NSA) & operating as a US sovereign territory (!), Menwith Hill spies on emails, phone calls, and all sorts of communications throughout Europe and the Middle East with its vast array of satellites. It even won an award for its heroic eavesdropping in the last Gulf War! Menwith is also a key base for America's pet project of long-term military aggression - 'Star Wars'. There are regular demos, and on 23<sup>rd</sup> March there's a planned demonstration to 'Foil the Base' (disrupt the satellite signal receivers by using tin foil). There has to be as much foil in the air as possible, so bring foil kites, foil

balloons, foil puppets- use your imagination. Info: Yorkshire CND 01274 730795 or [cnidyorks@gn.apc.org](mailto:cnidyorks@gn.apc.org)

**Fairford**, in Gloucestershire, is the biggest bomber base in Europe and can now house the U.S B2 Stealth bombers. These lovely friendly planes can release mini nuclear weapons, dubbed 'more usable' by the trigger-happy MoD. The U.S wants to use British soil to house these weapons of mass destruction, placing the UK in the frontline of the US war for oil. A peace camp is being set up outside Fairford military base from the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Info: [jill@gwi.org.uk](mailto:jill@gwi.org.uk).

**Faslane Peace Camp**, near Glasgow. Now 20 years old, Faslane naval base is home to the UK's trident nuclear submarine fleet. Even if you can't stay for very long, moral support and supplies are always appreciated. Contact: 01436 820901



## PANTS AWAY!

All over the world people are protesting by taking their war briefs off. From New South Wales in Australia to Sussex to Florida to New York's Central park (where a group of women used their bodies to spell the words 'No Bush') protesters are getting together, getting naked and rolling around in snow, sand and grass to get their message across. [www.theage.com](http://www.theage.com)

\* **Chickenhawk** is the term used to describe a warmonger who has carefully avoided direct involvement in conflict themselves. Chief Chickenhawk is Bush himself who managed to not turn up for National Guard duty during the Vietnam War and since then has never been able to account for his absenteeism - we're fairly certain it had nothing to do with being a conscientious objector. In that same war, Dick Cheney also "had other priorities" than serving and Rush Limbaugh (a notorious right wing radio presenter) was excused on account of his anal cysts. For a full list of Chickenhawks: [www.nhgazette.com/chickenhawks.htm](http://www.nhgazette.com/chickenhawks.htm)

\* If war makes you sick, why not phone in sick if the bombs start to drop? "Sorry boss I turned on the radio, heard about all the death and destruction and felt physically sick - it's just gotten worse all day." This will leave you free to take part in a little civil disobedience later in the day - after your miraculous recovery of course.

\* **Australian PM John Howard has come up with a novel way to combat terrorism** - by spending ten million quid on junk mail! Every Australian household has been sent a Government Terrorism Kit, courtesy of Howard, consisting of that well known domestic terrorism deflector, a fridge magnet, plus a booklet filled with handy tips for avoiding disaster. Our personal favourite was 'keeping on the look out for people with a lifestyle that doesn't add up.' Mayor of Brisbane, Jim Soorley, has condemned Howard's propaganda exploits as scare-mongering and is urging anyone of an anti-war persuasion to send the packages right back where they came from. More info about the Return to Sender campaign at [www.sydney.indymedia.org](http://www.sydney.indymedia.org)

## SchNEWS in brief

Brighton's premier pirate radio station **Radio4A** is on air and internet this weekend with live coverage of Saturday's protest, music and allsorts. Tune in from Friday night to Sunday night 101.4 FM. [www.radio4a.org.uk](http://www.radio4a.org.uk)

\*\* Get along to the **Sale of the Century Tour**, 17<sup>th</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> March, part of the World Development Movement's ongoing campaign against the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS- see SchNEWS 286) To find out if the tour's happening in your area call 020 72747630 [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk) \*\*

**The Cowley Club café and radical bookshop is now open in Brighton!** Come in and have a cuppa whilst browsing your favourite anarchist weekly (SchNEWS of course!). The Club café and bookshop are located at 12 London Road, opposite Somerfield's, and are open Tues-Sat 12noon-4pm. The café and bookshop are co-operatively owned and run by unpaid volunteers, so new volunteers are always needed. If you have any time to spare, come in and speak to someone about helping out \*\* **SchWOOPS!** In last week's positive SchNEWS column we wrote about the Pedal Power Convention this Sunday (16<sup>th</sup>) but put the wrong web address. It's really [www.c-realevents.demon.co.uk](http://www.c-realevents.demon.co.uk).

## ...and finally...

### Wankers Against The War

We've all heard of groups like Doctors For Peace, Lawyers Against The War and even Businesses For Peace but here at SchNEWS Towers a new group we came across made us laugh out loud. **Masturbators For Peace** is a new anti war posse that is causing a stir with slogans like "I cum in peace", "Touch your sack, not Iraq" and "War is silly - Whack your willy". As they say on their website, "There's no greater antidote for war than love. However, any real love must start from within. You can't love others without loving yourself first. And of course masturbation is the greatest expression of self-love. So its natural that we, the citizens of the world, are joining together to masturbate for peace." Mind you this could be a load of old toss, so check it out for yourself at <http://www.masturbateforpeace.com>

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all combatants to take a walk while we have a peace up.

## THE COST OF WAR

It's estimated that even a short war in Iraq could cost the taxpayer £3.2 billion (and the US \$33bn), and that's not taking into account the money that will be needed for long term security. This is good news for the UK arms industry, but not so good for those crying out for more state funding. Here are some suggestions from SchNEWS on how the money could be better spent:

\* £180 million to give the fire fighters the pay rise they deserve

\* £65 million to take on 35,000 extra nurses

\* £2.6 billion to give pensioners a £10 a week rise.

\* And you'd still have enough spare change to buy up the Daily Mail and re-launch it as an anarchist daily!!

Alternatively we could send the whole population of Iraq on holiday to Brighton's Grand Hotel for a week while the 'special friends' bomb the fuck out of their country.

We could save the Brighton West Pier from falling into the sea and turn it into a jail for all politicians!

Or, we could blow the whole lot on getting Harrogate Railway FC and the rest of the clubs in the Northern Counties league into the Premiership.

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## BODY LANGUAGE

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, up to fifty human shield volunteers will fly to Jordan. From there, they'll travel by bus to Baghdad to meet up with the convoy of human shield volunteers who left London last month. The Human Shield movement aims to put loads of Western peace activists in Iraq around the large civilian areas in the hope of preventing bombing. Human Shield groups are now starting in Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Australia and the US. As one volunteer said, "I don't want to die. I love life. But every life is precious, and we need to recognise that a war that will kill innocent Iraqis must be opposed ... I am going to Iraq to try to stop this war, and so to preserve life". If you don't want to be a shield but want to help, make out a cheque for "Human Shield Action" and send it to 90 Mercers Road, London, N19 4PR. If you'd like to sponsor a shield directly, call Uzma on 07764 603106. [www.humanshields.org](http://www.humanshields.org)







SchNEWS

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Issue 393



THE ANTI-WAR  
MOVEMENT NEEDS  
**YOU!**

# PEACE SOUP

"The fracturing of the Western alliance over Iraq and the huge anti-war demonstrations around the world this weekend are reminders that there may still be two superpowers on the planet: the United States and world public opinion."

- *New York Times*, February 2003.

The biggest anti-war movement the world has ever seen has only a few weeks left to stop the first world war of the 21st century. Bush and his corporate backers are intent on re-carving the map of the Middle East to ensure US dominance over world oil supplies for decades ahead. If they get their way, the peoples of the Middle East, from Palestine to Kurdistan, will face more war, more poverty, and more repression so that the unsustainable gas-guzzling of countries like the United States and Britain can continue for a few more years.

But Britain is the weak link in the attack plans. Tony Blair is acting like Bush's shiny-suited lawyer, desperately digging up pseudo-legal and very pseudo-moral justifications for an invasion of Iraq. But unfortunately for US interests, Blair has very little support in Britain for his actions and if he is toppled it would be a major blow to Bush. While Blair represents the corporations, the millions who took to the streets of cities across the world last week represent the majority of world opinion. In Britain, the majority of people oppose Blair's war, and oppose it actively - the London march was the biggest in British history and actions and protests are taking place across the country.

## Weapons of Mass Dissent

But marches on their own are not enough. We need to do more. In the words of one of Saturday's speakers, we need to "turn up the heat". Civil disobedience on a vast scale, involving thousands of new activists in direct action, is the only reasonable response to Blair's war plans. We need to target high profile government events, the Labour Party's Swansea conference on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February for instance, and stop them from taking place. Government ministers should be harassed wherever they go. We need to be ready to stage mass walk-outs and stay-aways from work, blockade city centres if war starts, and culminate our actions in the already-planned massive occupation of Whitehall. We need to make sure that the police don't have a veto on what sort of protests we are going to carry out. In short, we need to stop business as usual for the government of this country until it is forced to listen to the people and dump the warmongers.

The anti-war movement is incredibly united around the need for action - there is little room for Judean People's Front style bickering - and people are determined to be listened to. A typical example of the new unity that is taking root in the anti-war movement is Brighton-based group Sussex Action for Peace. The group includes direct action veterans, left wing activists, local union organisers and dozens of individuals from all sorts of backgrounds. Meetings are large and practical, organising everything

### CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For looking for your girlfriend!

A Brighton man who got separated from his loved one at Saturday's anti-war demo made the grave mistake of trying to take a short cut across London to find her. He was accosted by the police who told him he would have to go the long way round. Unfortunately, when he told them to fuck off it became a very long way round. He was arrested and held in the cells all weekend for causing "Harassment, Alarm or Distress to a Police Officer", but how the hell do they think his girlfriend felt?

from stalls to banner drops in shopping centres to non-violent direct action training sessions to crèches. People understand that we are not going to affect this war if we stand around slagging off each other's diverse tactics. They understand that direct action goes hand in hand with leafleting the high street - that the people breaking into air bases and the people putting posters through letterboxes are in this together.

Groups like Sussex Action for Peace exist up and down the country, so if the bombs start to drop, phone in sick and join in the mass civil disobedience planned across the country. To find out what's happening in your area see [www.schnews.org.uk/stopwar/](http://www.schnews.org.uk/stopwar/)

### Statutes of Liberty?

All demonstrations in Manhattan have been banned since September 11<sup>th</sup>, and unsurprisingly, a New York judge made no exception for the February 15<sup>th</sup> anti-war march planned in the city, citing supposed "security" fears. Still, half a million people turned out to voice their opinion on Bush and his quest to rule the world. The cops allowed a rally, but then helpfully closed off



## Peace Soup cont...

streets so that people couldn't get to it. At one point, 200 baton-wielding police attacked a group of 100 protestors. The provocation? Not staying on the pavement. The police claim there were only 50 arrests, but other sources, including the National Lawyers Guild, reckon that as many as 400 people were handcuffed and locked in freezing buses all day before being released without charge. Lawyers were not allowed access to their clients for up to 12 hours, during which police interrogated arrestees and asked them about their political affiliations. Congratulations Mr. Bush, Saddam would have been proud!

And yet despite all this, many New Yorkers still managed to make the most of the day, including our personal favourites, GLAMericans for Peace, who held signs bearing such only-in-America slogans as "Makeup Not War", "Baby, I AM the Bomb", and "War in Iraq is Wack". SchNEWS now reckons that Americans may actually have a sense of humour after all after reading about one sign addressed to Mr. Bush and painted with the message, "Eat Another Pretzel, Ash-hole." [www.nyc.indymedia.org](http://www.nyc.indymedia.org)

## War Briefs

**If you think you were cold at London's anti-war march...** this Valentine's Day, 150 people braved temperatures of -35°C in Ottawa, Canada at a 5 hour mass sit-down outside the Ottawa War department. **\*\* Fairfield airbase** in Gloucestershire is the biggest bomber base in Europe and can house US Stealth bombers which will drop depleted uranium bombs on Iraq. On Monday, a peace camp set up outside the base. They need tat, food and more people; it's at Kempsford, just south of the base. This Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup>) there's a 'No Basis for War, No Bases for War' action against the base. Meet noon in Fairfield village. Camp Mobiles 07905 131020 or 07947 614941 [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk) **\*\* WAR Against War** meeting for folks who live or work in West London to discuss local action against the war. Mon 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, West 12 Bar (Basement), 74 Askew Road, London W12. **\*\* Special meeting of Worthing Against War**, Tues 25<sup>th</sup>, 7.45pm, upstairs at The Downview, West Worthing. **\*\* Weds 26<sup>th</sup> 'Question Time'**

style debate on the War. 7-9pm at the Brighthelm Centre, North Rd, Brighton **\*\* Also on 26<sup>th</sup>, Sussex Action for Peace get involved benefit night.** £3. Bands and DJ's, 9pm-2am at the Hanbury Ballroom, Brighton. **\*\* The war-mongering 'Christian' Tony Blair is due to attend the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury**, Thurs 27<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, Canterbury Cathedral. An anti-war demo is planned, meet 1.30pm, The Burgate, Canterbury. [mobilisekent@hotmail.com](mailto:mobilisekent@hotmail.com) 07950 610257. **\*\* Fri 28<sup>th</sup> is the Labour Party Welsh Conference.** An anti-war demo is planned. Meet 12 noon at the Guildhall, Swansea. [www.geocities.com/swansea-coalition/](http://www.geocities.com/swansea-coalition/) **\*\*ARROW Resistance** Gaithing to organise non-violent direct action against war, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 10.30am-5pm, 62 Fieldgate Street, London E1. [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org) **\*\* And finally...** In North Carolina, the owner of a restaurant has renamed his French fries **"freedom fries"** in protest over France's disgusting anti-war policy towards Iraq. "It's our way of showing our patriotic pride," says the owner.

## I CAN'T BOLIVIA IT'S A RIOT

**Bolivia is in the grip of a massive urban uprising after high school students and the working class of La Paz and El Alto erupted in the streets on February the 12<sup>th</sup>.** In the capital city of La Paz, high school students attacked the Presidential Palace with stones as crowds burned the headquarters of the major neo-liberal parties, a private television station, and various government buildings. In El Alto, rioters burned and looted the water company and the power company and later on occupied the Coke and Pepsi bottling plants. All of this happened after the military opened fired on a group of police who were marching to the Presidential Palace to protest tax increases that would reduce their already low wages. The unpopular tax increases were an attempt by the repressive de Lozado regime to follow IMF directives to reduce the government deficit. But tax increases

are just the tip of the iceberg. Coca is also on de Lozado's black list, but Coca growers and indigenous Indians have been blockading roads since January to protest against the criminalisation of coca growing and the unequal distribution of land. The de Lozado regime has also provoked opposition because of its support for the neo-liberal Free Trade Area of the Americas and its complicity in the US's dirty War on Drugs.

Finally, on February the 12<sup>th</sup>, the people of Bolivia had had enough. After a day of riots, most of the working class neighbourhoods in El Alto and La Paz had blockaded their areas and groups of several hundred were meeting in the carnage of their streets to discuss tactics. Unfortunately, military tanks, tear gas and snipers quickly dispersed a 10 000-strong demonstration held in La Paz the following day. By early afternoon, eight were dead and ten wounded. But the anger still rages

in the streets as protestors continue to blockade roads, chanting the anti-de Lozado slogan 'Gringo go home' (as the President reputedly has the annoying tendency of talking with a North American accent when speaking Spanish)

Parallels have been drawn with Argentina's social rebellion, but in Bolivia the rebellion is (unfortunately) under the control of the political party MAS (Movement Towards Socialism.) But perhaps it is too soon to express cynicism. The MAS, together with the peasants' trade unions, has formed the Joint Chiefs of the People to spearhead the rebellion and has called for a mass blockade in the rural areas. Under this unbearable pressure, de Lozado has withdrawn the tax increases and dissolved his entire cabinet but the rebellious Bolivians aren't through with him yet.

[www.zmag.org/laam/boliviawatch.htm](http://www.zmag.org/laam/boliviawatch.htm)



## NU-CLEAR WAY OUT

Reports commissioned by Greenpeace over a year ago reveal that a terrorist attack on a nuclear power station in the UK could release 25 times as much radiation as was released by the Chernobyl disaster. The reports, which conclude Britain's nuclear plants are "almost totally ill-prepared" for an airborne terrorist attack, also estimate that such an attack could kill between 1.1- 3.6 million people. So what do you think Greenpeace and the UK government want to do with this information? Sit on it, of course. Both Greenpeace and Neo Labour have actively sought to suppress any publishing of the findings, supposedly because of their "seriously alarming nature".

So while the government babbles on about a possible ricin attack or deploys tanks to Heathrow, there might actually be something much worse round the corner that no one is bothering to tell you about...

Maybe this has to do with Tony Blair's love of nuclear power. He had recently proposed to build six new nuclear power stations, but luckily for us, other ministers stood up to him and rejected the plan. But like a spoilt brat who didn't get his way, he is now insisting that if he can't have what he wants, green energy backers can't either. Blair is now insisting that a newly proposed target of producing 20% of Britain's power from renewable energy sources by 2020 also be scrapped!

\* Greenpeace is mounting a legal challenge to the £650m bail out package the Government gave British Energy (who run the old Magnox nuclear power stations). If the suit is successful, British Energy would go bankrupt and perhaps have to shut all of their power stations. [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)

## PRAWNOGRAPHY

Next time you tuck into your prawn and mayo sandwich, spare a thought for the other fish that never made it to your stomach. For every 1kg of prawns caught, 10-20kg of 'bycatch' is caught. These are then discarded overboard dead or dying. 150,000 sea turtles are killed by prawn trawlers every year. Prawn trawling is also thought to be the greatest threat to seahorses. This luxury product and other factory fishing methods are destroying the world's fisheries, undermining the sustainable use of the oceans. [www.ejfoundation.org/trawling.html](http://www.ejfoundation.org/trawling.html)



February 23rd: Around 10,000 march on the US air base in Rhein-Main, Germany with 2,000 blockading entrances to the base.

## Positive SchNEWS

If the revolution is gonna be televised then make sure you're the one with the videocam and get yerself down to the Indymedia camcorder guerillas' weekend. Featuring screenings of radical underground films and workshops by the filmmakers giving practical and technical inspiration to activists. 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March mainly at Glasgow Film Theatre, with a party to celebrate the launch of Indymedia Scotland on the Saturday. For the workshops (£10/£20) and party (£3/£5), book with the Glasgow Media Access Centre, Camcorder Guerillas, 34 Albion St, Glasgow. 0141 553 2620. For the screenings ring 0141 332 8128.

## Inside SchNEWS

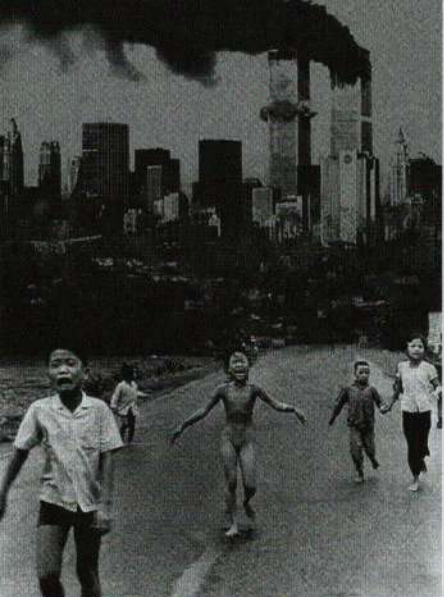
A protester from Shannon airport was this week found guilty of spray painting a US airplane which was at the base last September. The punishment was a 1,000 euro fine and a six month suspended prison sentence. The protester is appealing—donations to the appeal fund would be greatly appreciated: Cheques payable to Eoin Dubsky, Whitewalls, Ballymoney, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland.

\* Five catholic workers who were arrested doing a ploughshares action at Shannon airport at the beginning of the month are still on remand. Letters of support can be sent to them c/o Br. Anthony, Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, Co. Limerick. <http://slack.redbrick.dcu.ie>



Trainstoppers turn Embassystoppers: Activist spectacularly occupy the British Embassy in Torino, Italy, February 22nd (see 'Trainstopping' article).





## NOT A LAME CLAIM

**The government is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights - and that's official.**

Mr Justice Collins pulled no punches when he handed down a ruling in the High Court recently on the draconian Section 55 of the 2002 Asylum Bill. He said there was "a real risk" of death or injury for refugees who, under Section 55, are refused support because they didn't apply for asylum the minute they arrived in the UK. He went on to state that Section 55 violates asylum seekers' human rights.

The test case was brought on behalf of 6 asylum seekers but there are 150 more just like it in the pipeline! Justice Collins ordered that previous decisions made by the Home Office in respect to the 6 "must be quashed and re-considered" and that they should be given emergency support.

Keir Starmer QC, representing the asylum seekers, told the court how one Iraqi man had been forced to spend nights in a telephone box due to Section 55. Starmer em-

phasized that the hardships victims of this brutal new legislation are forced to endure - no money, no food, no home - substantially lower their ability to effectively pursue their asylum applications due to rapid physical and mental deterioration.

Liza Schuster, an expert on asylum from LSE commented: "What does the government expect people to do - patiently starve to death?" Er, yes.

Even though today's ruling means that the Home Office now has a duty to ensure people who apply for asylum are not left without food or shelter, Blunkett ain't having it. He was outside immediately after the hearing ended, telling the Press: "We will be appealing against this decision, with the Attorney General taking the appeal on behalf of the government."

**\* Don't let the lunatics take over Asylum!** Find out what you can do at 0121 554 6947 [www.ncadc.org.uk](http://www.ncadc.org.uk)

**\* Monday 24th** there will another **pre-trial hearing** for those accused of taking part in the disturbance at **Yarl's Wood detention centre**. Meet 9am Harrow Crown Court. 07867-690332. [lizscott@fish.co.uk](mailto:lizscott@fish.co.uk)

**\* Stop the War on Asylum Seekers Public Meeting**. Hanover Room, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton. 3rd March, 7.30pm

**\* There's leafletting of Saltdean** this Sunday in defence of refugees who may be housed there soon (see SchNEWS 390). Meet 12 noon at the Saltdean Tavern (next to the Lido).



February 25th: Mass anti-war demo in Prague, Czech Republic.

## DRUGS AND THUGS

**"The Pharmaceuticals lobby is running the show in Washington,"** said a development activist at talks in Geneva last Monday, where unelected President Bush, apparently under the influence of drugs (companies), blocked a World Trade Organisation ruling that would have allowed developing countries access to drugs at affordable prices.

After the long battle between drugs companies and the South African government last year, it was decided that governments of poorer countries could ignore international patent laws in order to prevent further deaths from curable diseases (SchNEWS 290 & 328). The drug companies see this as a massive threat to their profits and with a little help from their friends in high places they're trying to stop the deal going through.

[www.who.int/hiv/aboutdept/en/](http://www.who.int/hiv/aboutdept/en/)

## ...and finally...

### All Coked up

A South African businessman has accused World Cup organisers of assault after he was thrown out of Saturday's match between Australia and India - for drinking a can of Coca-Cola!

The World Cup organising committee, in an effort to protect the interests of official sponsors like Pepsi, has placed arch-rivals Coca Cola on the list of items that are banned at all World Cup matches.

"Within minutes of opening our cans, we were accosted by security officials and told to stop drinking," said Arthur Williamson, the hassled Coke drinker. "They also demanded that we surrender any remaining unopened Cokes in our possession." When he refused, he and his family were chucked out! Nothing like the "Real thing", eh?!

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all politicians flirting with danger, Make Out, Not War. Honest!

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# Trainstopping



**U.S.A. TRENTALCIA**

"Scegli di difendere l'art. 11,  
Scegli una stazione utile,  
Scegli la pace."

**TrainSTOPping**

Occupare le stazioni perché la guerra non può essere strumento di offesa alla libertà degli altri popoli e mezzo di risoluzione delle controversie internazionali.

(above) Why don't we do it on the track... Pisa Train Station

In the months leading up to the war, the US military were busy moving thousands of troops and huge convoys of war hardware from bases in Europe to ports ready for shipping to the middle east. This saw a direct action response around Europe, with tactics such as breaking into army bases and 'trainstopping', similar to what had been going on for years to stop the movement of trains carrying nuclear waste across northern Europe (see SchNEWS 299).

## The Italian Mob

In Italy, Defence Minister Martino illegally guaranteed the use of public infrastructure for US transport without the necessary approval of the parliament. The anti-war movement has responded with "trainstopping". Since 21st February, hundreds of protestors have tried to block at least 26 convoys on their way to the Camp Darby US military base near Pisa.

On 22nd February, despite intimidation and threats, direct action against the trains spread to other towns: in Grisignano di Zocco; in Campo di Marte (Padua) where a train was blocked for hours. A train was blocked in Verona for half an hour until police got violent. Meanwhile hundreds caused train blockades in Brescia, Bologna and Fornovo (near Parma), until being dispersed by police. In Pisa there were two demos, the first in the morning at the military air-



Going off the rails at Brescia

port, the second in the afternoon with 600 people from the station to the centre of the city. The next day the trains were kept stationary due to the 'public disorder situation'.

Since 23rd February railways staff have been re-defined as "military personnel." But while the train workers do not get much support from their labour union, the dock workers' union has announced that they will not load military equipment on the ships. The British consulate was occupied in Torino, and other actions are expected also in Ferrara, where police attacked a crowd of 1,000 people, as well as in Udine. At Magdalena Isle near Sardinia, another 1,000 trainstoppers were roughly cleared out by police.

For more see <http://italy.indymedia.org>





# Weapons Of Mass Obstruction: Belgium

From January onwards, as the war built up, military equipment from US troops based in Germany was being shipped through ports in Belgium to the middle east on a massive scale. The Belgian government had been making so-called "hard statements" against the war, but at the end of the day was complicit by letting its transport infrastructure be used by the US war machine.

Halfway through January, actions to stop military transports in Belgium took off when 3 Stop USA activists chained themselves on a sluice in Antwerp Harbour. A month later, a boat blockade took place by Greenpeace. "No War" was painted onto *The Catherine*, a US Army ship.



On 16th February, 11 peace activists managed to stop a train with US military equipment near Antwerp harbour. This train was part of US military transportation towards the Persian Gulf and Turkey, coming from Germany and shipping out of Antwerp. The train was stopped when people covered the signal with a cloth and used red lights to signal the driver to halt. With the engine stationary, two people chained themselves to it, while others locked themselves onto the wagons and the military equipment. Eventually all 11 were removed and arrested after 3 hours.



Dancing on the ruins of multinational corporations - Antwerp port, February 16th



Stopping the train-stopping - March 1st, Melsele

A massive trainstopping action was called on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> March, hoping to block 18 US military consignments from Germany. A 24-hour action with sports, dancing, and more was planned for on and around the railtracks in Melsele - but on the day disaster struck: At the meeting point in a village hall, just as the action was about to take off, police surrounded and entered the building to 'preventively' arrest all 150 people inside. The whole lot of them were then held for 12 hours and deported to Ghent. The reason given for deportation was to prevent the arrestees being able to do another trainstopping action immediately after release.

## Crashing The War Party: Netherlands



The good folk of Holland inspect Volkel Airbase

### Citizens Inspections

**Volkel 18th January:** About one hundred civil inspectors gain access to the grounds of Volkel military air base in the southeast of the Netherlands. The perimeter fence was cut in several places at once, while other inspection teams somehow used their own keys to enter several gates at the base. Most inspectors were arrested, but released later in the day. Accord-

ing to previous investigations by several peace groups, there are weapons of mass destruction stored at Volkel under US supervision.



The dam bursts open and the protesters gush through



## Actions against military transportation in Ostend

On the 8th February, about 35 peace activists held a noisy demo at the entrance of Ostend Airport against its use as a transit node for military transportation by Kalitta, Gemini and The Air Mobility Command.

On 26th March the trade entrance that is used for delivering airplane fuel got blocked, while action was taken against AviaPartner, a company doing logistic support for the transporters. Afterwards the planestoppers decided to enter the actual airport to demonstrate at the AviaPartner desk.

On 5th April, 70 took to the fence but were stopped when their ladders were stolen by police. Four still got in, despite police aggression, later to be arrested. A sympathy demo gathered at the police station, and later one of the released activists disrupted a cultural event in town by speaking about the military transports on stage.

Two days later a spectacular action happened

when a few Resist! activists got into the airport and ran about on the runway for a diversion, while others scaled the control tower of Ostend airport where they hung out a banner reading "No war for oil, Resist!"

(pic right)



On 20<sup>th</sup> April, while 50 marched towards the airport, several again climbed over the fence at the back of the airport but were spotted and arrested. Later a larger group attempted to enter the airport, and about 10 got past riot police but were eventually arrested. Two activists were hurt by police, one had to be taken to hospital.



## Montzen Belgian-German border 17th April:

(above) equipment of the 1st Armored Brigade, a pantser division of the US Army based in Germany, gets trainstopped for a few hours. The banner says 'Belgium stays accomplice' - a reference to the hypocrisy of Belgium being anti-war, yet being a major port for US arms transporting.



**Venlo 11th April:** Onkruid, a Dutch anti-militarist group, succesfully blocked a US military transport near Venlo. Activists chained themselves on the rails and the military cargo, heading for the port of Rotterdam, had to return to Germany. The track signal was put on red, while people ran on the tracks and forced the train to stop by locking onto the track.



## Think Global, Act Volkel

**Volkel 9th February:** At the NATO airbase in Volkel, a Dutch woman armed with a sledgehammer smashed three satellite dishes, in protest against the war, and the existence of nuclear weapons housed at the airbase. Barbara Smedema served two months imprisonment for this, and upon her release she was surprised by her sister with the gift of a new sledgehammer.

Thanks to Joeri - see also Indymedia Netherlands, Belgium & West Vlaanderen





شهداء العراق  
'to the victims of war'

# FROM THE GROUND UP

## A diary from inside Baghdad at the onset of war

From the day she arrived in Baghdad to the day she was finally ordered to leave, British activist Jo Wilding operated as an independent human rights observer as war engulfed the Iraqi capital. What follows is an edited selection of the frontline communiques she sent back to the UK.

**16-Feb** Though it's dark for most of our 960km journey from Jordan to Baghdad, there are trucks and tankers on the road without lights. Literally without them, not just without them switched on. Others have no brakes - or none to speak of - and simply have to sound their horns constantly to warn whatever is in their path. There aren't any spares, but life has to go on. Likewise the streetlights are not on until the outskirts of Baghdad. If you look closely, there are no lights: only poles.

Baghdad, though, seems surprisingly solid. All the talk of cruise missiles, uranium bunker-busters, carpet bombing and the rest made the whole city precarious in my mind, but Saturday is a gloriously sunny day and people are going about their business. We talk to a few people about the risk of bombing. There are shelters but no one wants to go in them after the coalition bombed a civilian shelter last time, burning or boiling over four hundred people who were trapped inside. Inside a building is a bad place to be. Somewhere wide open is the best bet, they say, a field, a park or the riverside.

**18-Feb** A gang of lads asked my name, then dissolved in giggles, slapping each other's shoulders when I told them mine and asked theirs. Overcoming their shyness, they ask where I was from, how old I was, what I thought of Baghdad, and we danced down the street together to the clatter of drums and hand clapping.

It was an anti-war march, organised by the students at the Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organisation (NASYO) conference.

I marched with a group of young Iraqi women, clapping their hands and chanting.

People talk when they know no one else can hear. The feeling is that they would prefer genuine democracy, greater freedom, but if the choice is Saddam or the USA, they will take Saddam. They do not believe, even when they speak freely, that the US and UK will be "liberating" them.

**21-Feb** British and US citizens have been advised to leave Iraq. Radio Five Live rang at midnight to ask for a comment on the "unrest". ..... "The what?"

Our friend Ghazwan was upset because it's the clearest indication that an attack is imminent; more imminent than usual, that is. As Odai told me, they've been about to be attacked for about as long as he can remember. He was 11 in the first gulf war.

The food ration has been distributed for April and May already. In the next few days the 40,000 ration shops will be receiving the distribution for June and July. In the last war the food warehouses were destroyed. If they're hit this time the plan is that they'll be empty, and that people will have a stockpile for as long as possible.

Some people talk about going out to the country when the war starts, where the bombing may well be less intense. Others say they will stay and defend their city. What I haven't heard anyone say, even in private, is that they're looking forward to their "liberation" by the US. Ghazwan refers to Bush and Blair as a single entity - Mr Blush. "Blush is pushing for war despite the objections of his people," he says.

**23-Feb** Today I went out on one of the human shield buses to a Baghdad power station where some of the international activists are going to be staying, attempting to protect it from attack.

All the way from Abu Nawas Street to the power station people were waving, cheering, giving thumbs up and peace signs. The media often suggest that demonstrations in Iraq are arranged by the government, and perhaps some are, but there was no compulsion today to pay any attention to the red double decker buses painted with peace messages. People were genuinely glad to see buses full of foreign peace activists and to know people cared enough to be there.

There are peace campaigners here from Jordan, Turkey, Syria, Palestine, Congo, Chad, Nigeria, Sudan, South Africa, Mauritius, Japan, China, India, Argentina, Greece, Russia, Estonia, the Balkans, the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Britain, Ireland, Canada, the US, Australia: bring me an atlas and I'll try to find you a country that's not represented.

Not all internationals are human shields - there is a range of organisations out here - Balkan Sobranie, Voices in the Wilderness, the Christian Peacemaker Team, to name but a few, as well as independent activists like me.

**25-Feb** Last night I sat down to dinner with Saddam Hussein. Remarkable, I know, and what's more, he



propositioned me. He said that he had always dreamed he would "make love relationship with a Christian girl". I quickly disabused him of the notion and we carried on as before. He's studying French literature at the University of Baghdad and his father named him after the then vice president 27 years ago.

Saddam was translating for us in a meeting with the National Union of Iraqi Students (NUIS), who are now "responsible for you". You have to have an organisation which is responsible for you in Iraq, and if you want to film anything you have to be accompanied by a representative of that organisation, so we had to get their approval for our plans.

We drove out to a man-made lake. On mounds, between the lake and the engineering college opposite, an anti-aircraft gun and a radar emplacement have the look of museum pieces. Khaki men fiddle about with them while passers-by ignore them as everyday sights. As we drove up to the toll booth Saddam's brother Ra'id mutters: "Don't speak English now."

The brothers joke a lot about what might be coming, as do many people - a satirical gallows humour that testifies to the spirit which has brought the Iraqi people still warm and welcoming after over twelve years of sanctions.

Their house is stocked with food, water and guns. Each house is 'an independent state' equipped with all necessities, but one family friend showed them the shopping list of provisions to be got in for the war, and the list included coffins.

**13-March** Small sandbag dens are sprouting out of the pavements, by way of some protection against shrapnel and flying debris. It's better than a poke in the eye with a sharp bit of metal, so to speak, but it's not much. People have taped "X"s on their windows to prevent them shattering. Sandbags and sticky tape against Stealth Bombers, Cruise Missiles, MOABs, uranium Bunker Busters!

Meanwhile, yesterday the bulk of the remaining UN and embassy staff left Iraq.

**17-March** The shops are all emptying of stock, piling it into sacks and taking it somewhere safer. Even Husam now warns us there's a war coming. A few days ago he swore blind there wasn't going to be an attack. It was only when we told him the UN were leaving in convoy, along with most of the embassy staff, that he rubbed his chin, frowned, and remarked that that was a bad sign. Undoubtedly there are those in this country who want war to begin, in the way you long for a thunderstorm on an unbearably humid day.

**18-March** There was a big puddle in the doorway into the classroom at Qataiba boys' school in Saddam City, the poorest part of Baghdad. A woman in black drags a rag across it by way of a mop, but makes little impact. The principal's office is as battered as the rest, deprived of maintenance after over twelve years of sanctions. Around half of the city's five million strong population live around here. It's a Shi'a district, touted as the most likely starting point for civil unrest after bombing starts. People tell you not to go there, even now: "It's dangerous."



"We will not fight for Saddam Hussein, but we will fight for our land," says one man. "I will accept any Arab as president but I will not accept a foreigner. If the Americans come, they will be very strong at first, but after some time they will see resistance. We will fight them. It doesn't matter about sects, Shi'a, Sunni, Kurd, Christian. I am Kurd. We will all fight together, not for the government. For our land." It was the first time I'd seen anyone vent frustration so openly here.

"We need to change the government, but I don't want America invasion. This not bring freedom. I can't talk here, because of security," ....words muttered amid the clamour of the classroom.

**20-March** I hardly know whether it was real. In my head I know that bombing started around 5:30am. I know because I heard low thundering booms that drew me out onto the balcony, where I could feel the pulsation through the air and see distant flashes and the occasional moving light of a Cruise missile.

I know because I saw the feral dogs that live on the riverside running down the middle of the emptied road, trying to escape the noise, which was in stereo. I know because the phone's been ringing all day with journalists asking what's happening.

The war has started.

This morning the manager of our hotel was arrested, seized by two men in uniforms and dragged, screaming and struggling in obvious panic, to a vehicle, apparently because some ignorant journalists were filming the bombing from the roof of the hotel, even though they're all supposed to be staying in the Palestine Hotel across the road. They wouldn't tell us where they were taking him and we couldn't do a thing to help him. We hardly expected to see him back, but within the hour he was escorted through the door. The edifice isn't crumbling just yet.





**24-March** "We are farmers. We are farmers." The woman kept repeating it through her rage and grief and incomprehension while the orderlies mopped the blood from the floor.

We had gone to the Al Kindi hospital to see people hurt when a bomb hit their house.

The doctor was called to the emergency room and told us to come with him. A family had just arrived. They had left their home in Baghdad and gone to their family's farm on the outskirts for safety. There were sitting eating when a missile struck the house.

The uncle who owned the house had a head wound and a laceration to his arm but was relatively lucid and able to explain that family members were still buried in the rubble. One of the young men got married one week ago. "The bride missing. We don't know where."

The mother held one child after another. Her eight-year-old daughter was killed.

A tiny wide-eyed boy in pyjamas cried and clapped his bandaged hands, calling out "Mama" whenever he was left alone. Safe in the lap of an aunt, he drifted off into his own world, touching his fingertip to the still-damp blood on his sleeve, looking intently at it, putting the finger to his tongue, his face chequered with cuts. In the corridor, a doctor shook with anger, as he demanded, "Where is the UN?"

**25-March** It's hard now to tell the bombings from the storm: both beat at the windows and thunder through the city, but after a missile explodes, flocks of birds fill the sky, disturbed by the shock waves. After a gust, they are replaced by a deluge of rubbish, drifting in the smog of sand and dust and smoke which has turned the air a dirty orange so thick it blots out the sun.

We have found out that three people died yesterday in the bombed farmhouse at Dialla, including the young wife, Nahda, eight year old Zahra, and her aunt, Hana. They were buried this morning.

Neighbours said the bomb hit at 4pm yesterday. The plane had been circling overhead for a while. It fired three rockets, one of which demolished the entire upper storey of the house. It looked as if it had only ever been a bungalow until, clambering through

the hallway, we came to the stairs, leading up to nothing.

There was nothing which could explain the attack: nothing which even looked like a target that the pilot might have been aiming for. It made no sense.

**26-March** The Iraqi's call it orange weather: some say it is on their side. It's not even five o'clock and the sun won't set till nearly seven but it's dark outside. It stinks as well, of smoke and oil

and I don't know what else. The darkness and the grime and the fierce cold wind lend an unnecessary sense of apocalypse to the flooded craters, broken trees, gaping windows and wrecked houses where the bombs have hit. At nine o'clock this morning a group of caravans was hit with cluster bombs, according to the doctors. A tiny boy lay in terrible pain in the hospital, a tube draining blood from his chest, pierced by shrapnel. I'm not sure whether he knew yet, or could understand, that his mother was killed instantly and his five sisters and two brothers were not yet found.

**27-March** This morning the sky had cleared: a mixed blessing. It was good to be able to see through the daylight again but it seemed likely to mark the end of our period of grace, such as it was, when the weather was holding up the onslaught.

In Al Shaab market Mohammed Al Zubaidi told us he had a shop. It was the second one from the left as you look at the remains of the building which the bomb hit. His assistant, Faris El Bawi, was crushed in the blast and his body incinerated along with his eleven year old son Saif who was helping him, because school was closed for the war.

Husham Hussein was about 200 metres away. He said a lot of people were injured in the flats above the shops. The shops were all open and the market was busy. He thought 25 people were killed. Someone else said 45-50 people had gone to hospital. No one could think of a military target nearby.

We were invited in for tea and biscuits in Adamiya, where a rocket demolished five homes on Monday lunchtime. Because people are not going to work or school, they were mostly at home in the middle of Monday and six died. No one saw a plane or heard anything till the explosion: they speculate that it might have been fired from the sea.

The missile landed vertically on number 13, killing the grandmother, Khowla Sherkhli, the father, Ahmed Munier, and the daughter, Maha Waleed.

Home isn't safe, the farms are not safe, the market isn't safe. Nowhere is safe.



**28-March** Last night's bombs were so immense I could see the flashes from inside a room with the curtains drawn and my eyes closed. The building swayed like a treehouse in the wind, rocking long after the sound had died away. The voice of the prayer call was singing out as if from a machine activated by the sudden shaking of the minaret.

The communications' towers were hit last night and today there are no phones. I don't know how Zaid is, or Asmaa and Israa and Mimi and Omar, or Majid and Raid or Ibrahim. They are probably less than a mile away, but it may as well be a million.

As foreigners we're not even allowed to cross the road without a minder now. Six peace activists were kicked out this morning. A good friend was expelled yesterday to Syria as a "security risk".

I blew bubbles over the edge of the second floor inside balcony of my hotel, and watched as grown men jumped and laughed trying to catch or pop them. And all the while the bass thudding of bombs carried on around us. Playfulness in the face of war feels like profound defiance.

**29-March** A missile hit the middle of the street outside the Omar Al Faroukh mosque on Palestine Street at about 4:15 this afternoon, just as people were leaving after prayers. Ahmed was walking out behind his friend Umar when he heard an explosion and saw his friend fall. Umar is a student at Rafidain College. He had fragments of shrapnel about 3cm long removed from his liver and abdomen. His grandfather demands that Bush and Blair be charged and brought to court.

Another missile hit, close by, three minutes later. Akael Zuhair was standing in front of his house opposite the mosque. I'm not sure if it was the first or second missile that hurt him, but he's in a dangerous state in hospital. He's 20.

He began to regain consciousness while we were there, thrashing his limbs about while his family and friends tried to hold him still and comfort him. His mum's tears overflowed. "I am his mother," she whispered. Nothing else. I held her without a word.

His dad heard the explosion in the street. "Help us," he said, "because we are attacked in homes and streets and markets. We are not something to be squeezed. We thank people in all the world, but especially in America and England. More than a million people in England say no to war. There is not a problem between people. There is a problem with governments."

Again, no one could guess what the intended target was. All of the friends and family we took statements from said there was nothing military in the area.

The doctors at the hospital were doing a lot of tasks normally associated with nursing staff. Khalida, the chief nurse who never sleeps, said the international standard ratio is four nurses per doctor. Here it's the other way round: there's one nurse for every four doctors. All this as well as the bombing of another

market yesterday, Al Shu'la. Dr Tariq said there were over 50 deaths and lots of injuries.

There are too many civilian casualties, too far from military targets, for all of these to be mistakes. Either they're hitting civilians on purpose, to whip up fear in the hope of spurring rebellion, or their weapons are not as precise as they say, in which case they're not suitable for use in an urban environment.

I'm being expelled from Iraq. It looked, for a while, as if we were going to have to leave this morning, but we scored another two days. Coming from the Foreign Ministry, there's not really any arguing with that. There's no shame in it either, being booted out by this government, but it hurts, it aches. I can't say goodbye to anyone because there are no phones and we can't go anywhere without a minder and permission from the foreign ministry.

The bombs have been more frequent today, and closer, than any other day.

**30-March** I started crying this morning. I thought I was leaving at 8am in a convoy for Jordan and I said goodbye to the staff in the Andalus Hotel.

It got worse when I said goodbye to the young soldiers on the street outside, who share their tea with us and tell jokes in mime. "Ma'assalama," I said, and added, as a reflex, "Good luck." And then I couldn't bear the thought of them having to face those overwhelmingly powerful tanks, guns and ammunition, when all they had was an aging rifle and a hard hat to protect them.

Then when all the bags were in the car, there was a mix-up and the rest of the convoy left without me and I wasn't leaving after all, and leaving was the last thing in the world I wanted to do, but by then my defences had lapsed and the crater of sorrow inside me had filled to the top and it overflowed with the tears of Akael's mother for her boy, Nahda's husband for his new wife, and all the intolerable, uncontainable sadness in this place.

The bombing is a constant background noise today, a rhythm in stereo with no visible source. Ali is playing a game on the computer involving tanks firing missiles at things in a city. Wasn't that a bit too close for comfort, I asked, or was it simulator practice in case he needed those skills in the coming weeks. He thought that was funny.

It will probably be a while before any of my friends in Iraq are able to read this, but when you do, this is what I wanted to say. I hope you make it safely through this war and I hope you find your freedom, from the bullying of the US/UK and the Iraqi government.

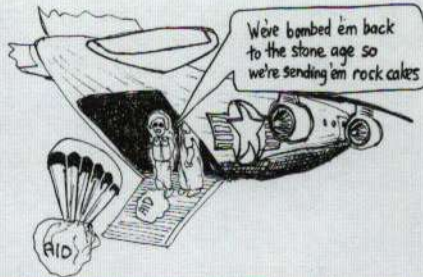
Your courage, dignity, kindness and humour inspire me. Ma'assalama.

Jo Wilding left Baghdad on a later convoy and returned to the UK.

*Thanks to Squall for this edit of Jo's diaries.*  
[www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk)

*The full diary entries can be read at [www.bristolfoe.org.uk/wildfire](http://www.bristolfoe.org.uk/wildfire)*





## AFGHANI-SHAM

In the week that George W. presents his 'vision' for a post-war Iraq, a vision that he has already refused to contribute to financially, SchNEWS reckons it's appropriate to look at Afghanistan one year on. Just how has bombing and killing civilians improved the situation for the Afghan people?

The Wanted posters that litter the country, dropped by US planes, give us a clue. America's most wanted are Osama bin Laden, former Taliban leader Mullah Omar, and former Prime Minister and hardline Pashtun warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Little change there then. Hekmatyar continues to rally support among the Pashtun communities, probably due to the oversight that neglected to allow them proper representation in the Transitional Government headed up by US puppet Hamid Karzai. Karzai's credibility plummets as he turns to the US for his own security, and his power has yet to extend beyond Kabul. Someone obviously forgot to read the bit in Security Council Resolution 1378 stating that both the transitional and the pursuant democratic governments should be 'broad-based, multi-ethnic, and fully representative of all Afghan people.'

With their usual 'go for the symptom if you can't get the cause' way of looking at things, the US have been bombing the Pashtun communities in the South and East of the country. If the man's too slippery, go for the people who may, just possibly, one day in the future, support him. In January, US, Norwegian and Danish fighter planes conducted a massive bombing raid close to Spin Boldak, a refugee village near the Pakistan border that houses 65,000

men, women and children, reportedly killing hundreds of civilians. Accurate numbers were not available as the area was sealed off by troops and access denied even to the Red Cross. This is in direct contravention of UN Resolution 1379 - which underlines the importance of 'full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and goods, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all children affected by armed conflict.' Earlier this month, 17 civilians, mostly women and children were killed in bombing raids designed to wipe out a handful of rebel fighters in the Baghran district to the South.

### ORE OF BABYLON

US forces continue to use outlawed weapons in these attacks, such as uranium bombs and the innocuously named Daisy Cutter, a bomb the size of a VW beetle which incinerates everything within a 600 metre radius and whose shock waves can be felt miles away. Findings by the Uranium Medical Research Centre (UMRC) point out that uranium poisoning is already causing severe health problems throughout Afghanistan "The UMRC field team was shocked by the breadth of public health impacts coincident with the bombing. Without exception, at every bomb site investigated, people are ill." Yet again the US shows its middle finger

### BRIGHTON STOP THE WAR PROTEST

Saturday 1st March, meet 1pm War Memorial for moving protest with street theatre and samba bands 07815 983022 [www.safp.org.uk](http://www.safp.org.uk)

### CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For handing out leaflets

In Minneapolis, eight antiwar protestors handing out leaflets on the pavement were suddenly outnumbered by police demanding they leave. Kathryn Gilje and Lisa Zaragoza pointed out the charge of soliciting wasn't valid as they weren't selling, just distributing political literature, so the pair were arrested for trespass!

to resolution number 1379 that calls upon all parties to respect conditions of 'Prohibition or Restriction' on the use of weapons which have 'Indiscriminate Effects.'

And to add insult to mass destruction, George W. 'forgot' to include any humanitarian and reconstruction funds in his 2003 budget. Yet another unfortunate oversight hurriedly rescued by Congress who managed to rustle up \$300 million for the cause. How many times did Bush pledge not to walk away from the Afghan people? \$300million might seem like a lot, but it constitutes a small proportion of the \$4billion total pledged at the Tokyo donor's conference to help rebuild Afghanistan. Compared to the \$3 billion that Israel receives in US foreign aid every year, \$300m figure suddenly loses its impact.

Israel has been given \$240 billion since 1973, much of it used for the purchase and manufacture of weapons, plus additional funds, not counted as foreign aid, for special projects such as \$180 million for the development and manufacture of the Arrow missile project. Weapons now make up 50% of Israel's manufactured exports. Contrary to the norm, Israel is not required to use this injection of funds to buy American goods, in fact Ameri-



## Afghani-Sham cont...

can defence contractors are often forced to buy Israeli goods, and it has the power to block the sale of US military equipment to Middle Eastern countries. In common with other states that have earned the "rogue nation" label, Israel has the capacity to manufacture nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and maintains a stockpile of nuclear weapons, yet has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty and refuses to allow any independent inspection of its facilities.

Israel are now demanding an additional \$3-4 billion for the next 3 to 5 years to help them cope with the continuing Palestinian uprising and the consequences of a US war in Iraq. Perhaps George W. should see someone about his blurred 'vision' before he makes more of a spectacle of himself.

More info: Uranium contamination - [www.URMC.net](http://www.URMC.net); Daisy Cutters - [www.robearly.com/911/DaisyCutter.html](http://www.robearly.com/911/DaisyCutter.html); Israeli foreign aid - [www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)

## It's a Fairford Cop, Guv

Last Sunday around 500 people met for a day of direct action at Fairford, a US military base in Gloucestershire. Fairford is the biggest bomber base in Europe and houses US stealth bombers that will drop depleted uranium bombs on Iraq. After gathering at the main entrance of the base, someone announced that they were weapons inspectors and wanted to inspect the base. A peace activist told SchNEWS, "We tied ropes to the top of the front gate and started pulling on them and shaking the gate. To everyone's surprise, including the cops, it collapsed on one side and swung open after a few minutes. There was a pause while everyone on the outside watched the horrified expressions on the faces of the police on the other side and then everyone rushed in." While being part of a huge crowd on the streets is an important show of dissent, "direct action allows us to slow down or stop the war machine" as one protestor told SchNEWS, "The best thing was that it was cool to

see different types of people working together and not letting each other get beaten up by the police and fighting back." [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk)

\* Since last Friday Italian protesters have been stopping and delaying US army "trains of death" (weapons, vehicles and personnel) <http://italy.indymedia.org/> (See 'Trainstopping')

\* Belgian cops took several hours freeing/arresting 11 Activists who chained themselves to transport trains heading to the port in Antwerp where military equipment is on its way to Turkey and the Gulf. (See 'Trainstopping'.)

\* Rolls Royce, Derby producers of nuclear fuel components for Trident missiles was closed for a day last week after activists chained themselves to the gates 0796 003003

\* 5 scientists in Antarctica made a banner and held a demo against the war on Iraq, which goes to show how global the anti-war movement has become!



### BAE Glascoed Inspected

'Civilian weapons inspectors' visited the BAE Systems munitions factory in Glascoed, Wales on March 1st. Using a rope-ladder seven inspectors entered the premises, and got up to some interesting hi-jinks: two managed to penetrate to the centre of the site before locking-on to doors. One managed to avoid detection for an hour, running around the complex which makes weaponry such as bullets and depleted uranium bombs. After being evicted, holes were cut in the fence and the inspection continued - until the security got aggressive and an inspector was arrested. But back at Abergavenny police station BAE decided not to press charges - they don't want the bad publicity. The lesson is - these companies are scared to prosecute because they know they have something to hide. This protest was part of a campaign by Campaign Against Arms Trade, which is planning to protest at 40 BAE sites throughout the year.

020 7281 0297 [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)





## KISS MY ESSO

**The looming war in Iraq has nothing to do with oil.** Or so Bush Jnr sponsored by the oil industry would try to have us believe. But, according to City analysts Deutsche Bank, the oil corporation Esso exert a "huge political weight" over Bush and "may find itself in pole position in a changed-regime Iraq."

Making this link Greenpeace shut down 119 Esso petrol stations on Monday by locking petrol pumps together and removing handles from electricity switches. Esso's head office was also shut down when a container blocked the entrance. Greenpeace have published a report showing how oil is fuelling the drive to war and the role Esso has played.

More info: Greenpeace UK: 020 7865 8255 [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)

There'll be more action against the War-Oil-Climate Change cabal with a Kyoto March - 2 Years after Bush dumped the Kyoto agreement. It leaves on 20<sup>th</sup> March 7am from the Esso HQ in Leatherhead for a 20 mile walk to the US Embassy. But you can meet it at a Rally at the Imperial War Museum, 3.30pm and an End of the World Party, 5.30pm at the US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London. 020 88553327 [www.campagainstaclimatechange.net](http://www.campagainstaclimatechange.net)

Tony Blair's Best Pals, BP

will be welcomed to their Annual General Meeting by a Carnival Against Oil Wars and Climate Chaos on the 24<sup>th</sup> April at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London. [London@risingtide.org.uk](mailto:London@risingtide.org.uk) [www.burningplanet.net](http://www.burningplanet.net)

\* **Air pollution** in the UK kills 10 times more people than road accidents every year. 24,000 deaths are caused by "peak" air pollution episodes. Another 4,000 lung cancer deaths a year are caused by air pollution, and an increase in heart diseases. National Society for Clean Air 01273-878770 [www.nasca.org.uk](http://www.nasca.org.uk)

\* **March 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>: Towards Car-Free Cities III**, Prague, Czech Republic. A conference "promoting alternatives to car dependence and car culture." If you want to go see [www.carbusters.org/conference](http://www.carbusters.org/conference)

\* This week the Government unveiled its Energy White Paper, which has produced a lot of hot air even before it's chucked on the fire. The Government announced it wants to

cut emissions of carbon dioxide by 60% by 2050. But they haven't said how this would be achieved and the target of producing 20% of energy from renewable sources energy by 2020 is now an "aspiration"! And while claiming no more nuclear power stations will be built in the near future they haven't ruled it out as a long term option.



Greenpeace blockade the entrance to Esso's UK headquarters in Surrey. 24th February. Pic: Greenpeace/Cobbing

## Positive SchNEWS

**The award winning community organisation the Arts Factory** have submitted a planning application to develop a wind farm close to their Rhondda base. The eight turbine wind farm will generate enough electricity to meet the needs of over 6000 households (20% in the Rhondda) and over 3300 local people have signed a petition in support of the project.

The Power Factory will provide a long term income to the Arts Factory, providing jobs for at least 20 people, not just greasing the turbines, but jobs providing desperately needed services in the community, such as nursery, community and youth workers.

There will be a series of road shows at community events in Rhondda to promote the project.

More info: The Arts Factory - 01443 757954 [www.artsfactory.co.uk](http://www.artsfactory.co.uk)



Fleshing out the arguments against war, Santiago, Chile, March 1st.



## SchNEWS in brief

Nestlé, the company who tell mums in the third world that powered milk formula is better for kids than breast milk, have scrapped plans to sponsor a new teenage book prize after seven leading writers said that they "do not wish to be associated" with Nestlé's prize "in any way". Info on the worlds longest consumer boycott - Baby Milk Action 01223 464420 [www.babymilkaction.org](http://www.babymilkaction.org) \*\* The trial of the 13 asylum seekers facing charges relating to the fire at **Yarlswood Detention Centre** in February last year, starts 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Most of the defendants have been released on bail but are denied the right to work and benefits. The Justice for Yarlswood Campaign are trying to raise funds to get them to the trial in Bedford and provide them with accommodation (otherwise they will be put up in Wormwood Scrubs!). Cheques payable to 'Stop Arbitrary Detentions At Yarl's Wood', marked 'Defendants' Trial Support' on the back. Campaign For Justice In The Yarl's Wood Trial, PO Box 304, Bedford, MK42 9WX 07786-517379, [ginn\\_emma@hotmail.com](mailto:ginn_emma@hotmail.com) \*\* Home secretary **David Blunkett** whose asylum policies are leaving people in the UK destitute, while his government threatens to bomb countries and create more refugees is visiting the Marriot Hotel, College Green, Bristol, next Thurs (6<sup>th</sup>). A demo has been organised meet 6.30pm \*\* Last week Spanish cops raided the offices of **Egunkaria**, the only exclusively Basque newspaper, and arrested its editor and nine senior staff under anti-terror laws. The Judge claimed the paper had links to the Basque separatist organisation ETA and imprisoned five and fined the others at least £8,000 [www.euskalinfo.org.uk](http://www.euskalinfo.org.uk) \*\* If you're interested in organising another **MayDay** event this year there's a meeting this Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup>) 11am onwards (lunch provided) @LARC, 62 Fieldgate Street, London E1 (Whitechapel tube) [londonmayday@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:londonmayday@yahoo.co.uk) [www.ourmayday.org.uk](http://www.ourmayday.org.uk)



Kids teaching us a lesson - Books Not Bombs, Melbourne, March 5th.

## Books Not Bombs

**Tens of thousands of schoolkids bunked off school for the day in a nation-wide anti-war protest across Australia on March 5<sup>th</sup>.**

In Melbourne, 5,000 rallied outside the State Library in a carnival atmosphere before marching to Parliament House. Many of the students were present in school uniform with home made banners and placards opposing war. 10,000 marched in Sydney - which saw three arrests and reports of police harassment of some arab schoolboys on a train

after the demo - giving them a first taste of 'democracy' as we practise it. Also around the country 7,000 bunked off in Adelaide, 2,000 wagged in Perth marching on the US Embassy, 1,000 played hooky in Canberra, 700 skived in Brisbane, 200 truanted in Albury-Wodonga and hundreds more chose peace not school in Hobart, Darwin, Launceston, Newcastle, and other regional centres. [www.indymedia.org.au](http://www.indymedia.org.au) (See also articles later in the book about anti-war schoolkids.)



Whadda we want? - NO RAIN - When do we want it? EVERY DAY. 15,000 come out in wet weather for an anti-war march in Manchester on Saturday March the 8th. On the same day a similar event was held in Sheffield.



# WAR BRIEFS

**A Piece of Peace**, benefit night for a peace compilation CD this Saturday, 7pm, Ray Tindle Centre, Upper Gardener Street, Brighton £4. **\*\* Anti-war picket of Labour party conference** this Saturday outside Floral Hall, Southport, Merseyside. 9-11am 0151 708 7764 merseyside@stopwar.org.uk **\*\* Cycle for Peace** this Saturday 11:30am at the gates of Abney Park cemetery, Stamford Hill, London N16 07787 523907 hstwc@hotmail.com **\*\* Performance of the play "Lysis-trata"**, an Ancient Greek comedy of a women's "sex strike" in order to stop their menfolk from going to war. 10.30am, Parliament Square, London and 800 other readings in 42 countries. More readings are planned during the day, with a rehearsed reading at Pleasance Theatre, Caledonian Road, 7.30pm. £5 entry - proceeds to the War Child charity. www.lysistrataproject.com

## Inside SchNEWS

**Paul Kelleher, the man who knocked the head off a statue of former PM Margaret Thatcher** as a protest against the ills of the world's political system, has been jailed for three months. On the day of the attack Mr Kelleher arranged a babysitter for his son and bought a cricket bat. He smuggled the bat into the Guildhall under his coat, but when he hit the statue the bat "pinged off". So he picked up a metal crowd barrier and finished the job. He then waited for the cops to turn up and when he was being arrested told them he thought the statue "looked better this way". The statue (a snip at £150,000) can be repaired for £10,000, but sadly, according to the judge, "will never look the same".

There's an online petition for clemency at: [www.petitiononline.com/pkvsmt/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/pkvsmt/petition.html) If anyone has his prison address can they tell us, so we can send him SchNEWS each week.

**\* Barbara Smedema is in prison for disabling an American com-**

## Subscribe!

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](mailto:schnews@brighton.co.uk) Download a PDF of this issue or subscribe at [www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk)

**\*\* The small peace camp outside Fylingdales in Yorkshire are looking for more people.** 01274 730795 or [neil@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:neil@yorkshirecnd.org.uk) **\*\* Peace camp** on the grass of the Peace Gardens near the Town Hall, Manchester, March 8th after the anti war demo in the City. 0161 881 0450 [ros\\_arnold@hotmail.com](mailto:ros_arnold@hotmail.com) **\*\* Stop the warmongers.** Demonstration at the Jane's Defence Weekly conference 10<sup>th</sup> March, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, 10 St James Street, London SW1 8am, bring whistles, banners, flags, drums etc. [www.disobedience.org.uk](http://www.disobedience.org.uk) **\*\* Human shields** in Iraq have now taken up their positions to defend important civilian infrastructures. Donations are urgently needed send cheque/money order made out to Human Shield Action c/o Christine Strickland, 97, Retford Road, Romford, UK, RM3 9ND Info 0207 572 1125 **\*\* Tell Cherie Blair: No War!** email her at [cheriebooth@matrixlaw.co.uk](mailto:cheriebooth@matrixlaw.co.uk)

**munications dish** at the military airport of Volkel in the Netherlands. The damage has been estimated at 500,000 Euros. Barbara said "We do not have the illusion that we can stop the warmachine in this way but we need to show hope and confidence that the world can be different." Write to: Barbara Smedema, P.I. Ter Peel, Patersweg 4, 5977 NM Evertsoord.

**\* Long time peace activist TJ Hart** has been given the maximum possible sentence for cutting a hole in the fence at RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire. She'll be banged up for two months, so send letters of support to her at: TJ Hart, HMP Low Newton, Brasside, Durham. DH1 3YA



**You Asda Be Kidding**  
Old Kent Road already has three supermarkets, but no decent community facilities. So guess what is gonna be built? Yep, a Wal-Mart/ASDA superstore! Traffic, pollution and respiratory disease are at an all time high along this stretch of road, which also, ironically, has the lowest car ownership in London. The Ossory Road Yard has been squatted since September as a community space with children's weekends, discussion groups, workshops and an anti-war forum. They want to build a kid's adventure playground, cultivate the land and create a genuinely community-run space. They have been served an eviction notice and expect bailiffs to arrive some time in March.

Ossory Road Social Centre: 07769 791387 [ossoryrd@breathe.com](mailto:ossoryrd@breathe.com)

To read 'Nine reasons why not to shop at Asda' see [www.corporatewatch.org.uk/news/resist\\_asda.htm](http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/news/resist_asda.htm)

## ...and finally...

**You know the scenario** - soldiers leaving to go off to war being interviewed by the media and saying things like "It's a job we have to do" or "We're professional people and we're going to fight for our country". Well when 26 reservists - from all walks of civilian life - were leaving for the Gulf from the Territorial Army base in Dundee the media were invited along, but this time instead of smiling for the cameras and saying it was their patriotic duty to go and fight they angrily condemned the stance taken by the Bush / Blair axis.

Gary McIntosh, a medic who had been called up, became tearful when saying goodbye to his three-year-old daughter. "How do I say 'Daddy's got to go away, I don't know when I'll be back'", he said. "I don't understand why we have to go. This is about Bush wanting to finish off what his father started and us Brits are getting dragged into it because of Blair. I don't really see why I have to be parted from my family for that." All highly embarrassing for their commanding officers.

## Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers having visions to stop masturbating for peace. (see SchNEWS 392) Honest.



# SchNEWS

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Friday 7th March 2003

Free/Donation

Issue 395



## WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?

"We back democracy all the way. All the way, that is, up to the point where they disagree with us." - Former US senior State Dept. Official

"We want to be nice to people who are nice, and good to the people who are good to us." - Senior State Dept. Official (must be one of Bush's speechwriters).

The US, aided and abetted by the Coalition of Easily Bought Countries most Willing to ignore Public Opinion (that's Britain, Spain and Bulgaria), are working round the clock to weasel the five remaining 'yes' votes needed from fellow UN Security Council members to pass their second resolution.

With the Security Council split down the middle, the heat is being turned up on Mexico, Cameroon, Guinea, Angola, Chile and Pakistan, as the US steps up its Texas-style 'persuasion' techniques with economic aid carrots and big stick trade threats in order to swing the votes their way.

A leaked US National Security Agency memo urged the gathering of information as to the 'negotiating positions', 'alliances' and 'dependencies' of these countries in order to give 'US policy makers an edge in obtaining results favourable to US goals.' The leaders of the six fence-sitting member states have been bombarded with personal phone calls and visits from Bush, Cheney, Blair and their cronies, eager to impress upon them the importance of a 'yes' vote.

The US has already pledged to punish Germany for its 'treachery' by possibly withdrawing troops and military bases and ending all

military and industrial co-operation with the country. From here it doesn't sound much like punishment, but such moves would cost the German economy billions of euros. There's talk in the US of punishing the French by renaming french fries Freedom Fries, while Turkey will no longer receive \$15 billion in economic aid after its parliament refused to allow the use of Turkish soil as a US base for war. "We don't like the way we were pushed around by the Americans," one Turkish MP said.

### Cough Up

So, which way will the six go? And what is on offer to help them decide?

Mexican president Vicente Fox, facing an election next year and aware of massive public anti-war support, has already been visited by the Spanish PM Aznar, US officials Marc Grossman and Kim Holmes, and the Godfather himself, George Bush Snr. Mexico depends on the US to buy 85% of its exports and is desperate to resuscitate agreements surrounding immigration issues. Mexican diplomats have been warned they will 'pay a very heavy price' for non-compliance with US policy on Iraq.

Cameroon and Guinea have no doubt been reminded of the bit in the African Growth and Opportunity Act, under the terms of which both countries receive US aid, that prevents them from engaging "in activities contrary to US national security or foreign policy interests." The Guinean Ambassador to the UN, however, is reported to have said, "We are not going to sell our dignity because we need money or material. Not my country."

### CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For cycling...

Reza Baluchi, a superfit Iranian who cycled 46,000 miles through 54 countries to spread the message of peace, hit trouble when he got lost near the Mexican/US border and pitched his tent on the wrong side. He was arrested by US border guards for being an illegal immigrant and was sent to an Arizona detention centre for nearly four months. An American judge has now granted Baluchi's application for asylum in the States, but has also ruled that he be forced to remain at the detention facility while immigration authorities decide whether or not to appeal the case, a process which could take several more months. Welcome to America, Reza...

Meanwhile, Angolan Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins is underplaying the significance of sudden US promises to assist his war-ravaged country: "For a long time now, we have been asking for help to rebuild our country after [27] years of [civil] war. No one is tying the request for support [to the issue of] Iraq, but it is all happening at the same time." Yes, an amazing co-incidence.

While we await the report-back from our undercover SchNEWS operative in Santiago, all we can reveal about Chile is that the country's leaders are gagging for the US Senate to give the 'go-ahead' to a free trade agreement between Chile and the US, who knows a gagging country when they see one.

And finally we come to Pakistan, which already has billions of dollars in the hole, mainly thanks to their support of the US dropping an





Fairford Peace Camp

## Who Wants to be a Millionaire cont...

orgasm of bombs on Afghanistan. Pakistan is being rewarded in other ways too, such as being allowed to hold on to their nuclear arsenal without signing the non-proliferation treaty, and probably being allowed to abstain from voting on the second resolution. In the face of growing public anti-war sentiment, Pakistani PM Jamali has said that decisions about Iraq should be left to the Iraqi people and asked his parliament to instead focus on 'domestic interests'. Jamali is scheduled to visit the US later this month, during which time he has been invited to Houston to meet 'businessmen' interested in investing in Pakistan.

Still, at the end of the day, whichever way the vote goes, the US are unlikely to back down from attacking Iraq. British Home Secretary Jack Straw's justification for war is that we must all do what America says because otherwise, in the future, we'll er... have to do what America says. Not that he should worry, as White House spokesman Ari Fleischer pointed out, "The vote is desirable. It is not necessary."

## PEACENICKED

**\*\* As SchNEWS goes to press we have had multiple reports that the B-52's at Fairford are being armed as we type. \*\***

**As US B-52 bombers begin arriving at the Fairford airbase in Gloucestershire, security at the base is being stepped up.** USAF security police have now tried to recruit plane spotters in their fight against evil peaceniks. The base has put out a memo asking for spotters to contact them if they see any protesters in the area. But as veteran peace campaigner Lindis Percy proved, security is still very lax once you get inside the base. After scaling the fences on Monday, Lindis managed to spend two hours roaming around the base and two hours under the wing of a B-52 before being arrested for criminal damage. If you'd like to help keep the USAF Security police busy, call them on 07740 609705 or 07876 148170.

**Protesters are now maintaining a 24 hr peace watch at Gate 10 of the Fairford airbase, 5 minutes away from the permanent peace camp.** More people are needed to stay at the camp, which is now located behind the very welcoming pub in Kempsford village.

There's also a big demo on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March (meet noon at the junc-

tion of High St/Park St., Fairford) Camp mobiles 07905 131020 or 07947 614941 [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk)

**\* This weekend (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>) Picnic for Peace, meet High St/Park St., Fairford Village, noon, for a walk to Gate 10 to support the peace watch vigil.**

**\* Transport to the demo on the 22<sup>nd</sup> is being organised from across the country: [www.cynatech.co.uk/gwi/Fairford-travel.htm](http://www.cynatech.co.uk/gwi/Fairford-travel.htm). Tickets for coaches from Brighton available from Community Base reception, Queens Road, and the Cowley Club, London Road £8/6**

**\* Lindis Percy and Anni Rainbow are at Harrogate Magistrates' Court next Monday (10th) 10am for a five day court case after being nicked for 'aggravated trespass' at Menwith Hill spy station. Support appreciated 01943 466405 [www.caab.org.uk](http://www.caab.org.uk)**

**\* Police have begun to use Section 60 powers to stop and search protesters at Fairford.** A Section 60 gives uniformed police the power to cordon a group of people, search for supposed weapons, and confiscate items that conceal your identity (masks, balaclavas, etc.) If you are stopped under s60, ask who authorised it and what locality it covers. You DO NOT have to give the police your name and address or answer any other questions. If asked anything, it's always advisable to answer NO COMMENT to all questions. They cannot use force to take your photo. And if they do search you (which unfortunately s60 gives them the power to do), ask the officer for their name, number and station. If they don't give it to you, the search will be illegal. Full details: [www.wombles.org.uk/files/section60.php](http://www.wombles.org.uk/files/section60.php)





Next week (12<sup>th</sup>) is the start of the **Human Rights Watch** film festival at the Ritzy Cinema, Brixton, London. Films include the UK premiere of 'Women in Black', which follows a group of women as they travel to the West Bank to form a human shield around Palestinian civilians. Showings on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Full listing [www.hrw.org/iff](http://www.hrw.org/iff) or call the Ritzy on 0207 733 2229 \*\* **London No Borders video night** - videos about the Strasbourg No Border camp, the Publix Theatre Caravan, and video hacktivism against the Schengen Information System. At LARC, 62 Fieldgate St., London E1. Tue 18<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm. [info@londonarc.org](mailto:info@londonarc.org) \*\* **War on Want's Annual Conference**, next Sat (15) speakers include Mary Robinson and Jeremy Hardy. University of Westminster, New Cavendish, London W1. Bookings 020 76201111 [www.waronwant.org](http://www.waronwant.org) \*\* Not content with getting away with killing 20,000 people in the world's biggest chemical disaster, **Union Carbide** (formerly Dow Chemicals) is now suing protesters who shut down their factory last year on the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disaster. The company is looking for compensa-

tion of \$10,000 for the loss of two hours work. \*\* There are a number of **court cases coming up soon for people who've been caught at GM actions**. Defendants are asking for support AND help with any costs. The dates are 12 March at Warrington Magistrates Court, Lancashire, Info 07762 098393. 18 March at Cupar Sheriff Court in Fife, 01382 543000, and 31 March-3 April at Chester Crown Court. Info on any of these from GEN 0845 456 9327 \*\* Events happening for **International Women's day** this Saturday (8) include an anti-war march in London. Meet 11.30am, Parliament Square. There will also be a demo in Camden against the notorious strip club, The Spearmint Rhino. Meet outside Spearmint Rhino, 161 Tottenham Court Road (nearest Tube: Warren Street) at noon. 0207 8407113 [www.eaves.ik.com](http://www.eaves.ik.com) In Ireland, there will be an anti-war demo at Shannon airport outside of Dublin. Meet 2:30pm. Contact: [maggie\\_ronayne@hotmail.com](mailto:maggie_ronayne@hotmail.com). In Glasgow, there's a three day Frock On! festival chock full of feminism, anarchism, and punk rock! 078 1294 3410 [www.geocities.com/frock\\_on/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/frock_on/index.html)

## FAT GATS

Last week GATS fat-cats were gutted when their most top-secret documents got leaked and published on the web (nice one Polaris Institute). The papers instantly exposed the true nature of the EU's GATS agenda (see SchNEWS 286) for the next negotiating round: Nothing less than a global takeover of essential services (most notably water) by EU-based transnationals.

The EU - with the full co-operation of the UK government (who have repeatedly given reassurances that water would be excluded from World Trade Organisation agreements) - is targeting state and not-for-profit service provision in the developing world as its new golden goose.

The EU has sent 'requests' to 109 (mostly developing) WTO member countries demanding trade access to water, energy, transport, tele-

communications and news services. In some cases, they are targeting countries where European companies have already been booted out by government or public protest.

Each of the 109 'requests' is a strictly classified document with a warning attached: "Member States are requested to ensure that this text is not made publicly available and is treated as a restricted document." The general public was never supposed to know that public services were being traded away in secret negotiations until all the deals had been cut. The deadline for compliance with the requests- sorry, agreements - is 31st March 2003. GATS-watch are organising a national day of action on 13th March. To find out what's happening in your area 0800 328 2153 [gatswatch.org.uk](http://gatswatch.org.uk). Read the leaked documents: [www.polarisinstitute.org](http://www.polarisinstitute.org)

## War Briefs

17-23 March has been declared a **week of direct action against the war**. Starting with a national die-in on 17<sup>th</sup> ([www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org), 0845 458 2564) and finishing with national demos at Menwith and Fairford airbases on 22<sup>nd</sup> - Check out what's going on around the country - [www.schnews.org.uk/stopwar/events.htm](http://www.schnews.org.uk/stopwar/events.htm) \*\* **Reclaim the Bases** - Direct action at a number of military bases on the weekend of 5-6 April, [www.reclaimthebases.org.uk](http://www.reclaimthebases.org.uk) \*\* On Saturday a group of 'civilian weapons inspectors' sprung a surprise visit on a BAE Systems munitions factory in Glascoed, Wales, which produces everything from bullets to depleted uranium shells. The protest was part of a campaign by Campaign Against Arms Trade, which is planning to protest at 40 BAE sites throughout the year. 020 7281 0297 [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) \*\* **150 people were arrested near Antwerp, Belgium** last Saturday before they had even done anything. They were arrested under a new zero tolerance policy dreamt up to prevent people blocking trains taking American weapons to the port of Antwerp. [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org) (see 'Trainstopping' article) \*\* **Witnesses and video evidence needed for two arrests at Brighton anti-war demos**. Did you see someone in an orange fluoro jacket getting nicked on the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb demo at about 5pm, Western Road, or the 1<sup>st</sup> March demo at 4.30pm? Contact Teresa Blades at Kelly's Solicitors 01273 608311 \*\* **Peace marches next Saturday (15<sup>th</sup>):** Lewes, meet at County Hall, 10.30am 01273 473912 \*\* **Leeds**, 12 noon, Leeds Town Hall Art Gallery 0773 488 2567 [mickdearuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mickdearuk@yahoo.co.uk) \*\* **York**, 12 noon Clifford's Tower, City Centre [www.yorkagainsthewar.org.uk](http://www.yorkagainsthewar.org.uk) \*\* **Hertford**, 11am Railway St, [hertfordantiwaraction@yahoo.com](mailto:hertfordantiwaraction@yahoo.com) \*\* **Portsmouth** 2 pm outside St Mary's Church - corner of Fratton Rd & St Mary's Rd, then to the naval dockyard. 02392 818849 [grassroots@loft33.freemove.co.uk](mailto:grassroots@loft33.freemove.co.uk) \*\* Foil the Base at Star Peace Camp **Fylingdales**. A169, North Yorkshire Moors, bring foil, foil balloons, etc. 01287 660067 <http://come.to/somewhere-real>



## SCHOOL'S OUT FOREVER



Thumbs Down: Teachers seize the Guatemala City Airport on February the 25th stopping all flights.

### Guatemala's teachers have been out on strike since January 18th.

Fed up with being ignored and told by the government that all 80,000 of them would be sacked if they didn't return to work, the teachers decided to turn to direct action. Government buildings (including the Ministry of Education) were occupied, major highways and border crossings were brought to a halt by Reclaim the Streets style protests, with the additional tactics of blockades of burning tyres, busses, trees and building material. The teachers are demanding more pay and more money for the education system.

In late February the Guatemala City Airport was paralyzed by

protesting teachers, with all flights from the US being cancelled for days. As this went on shipping ports were also closed, and teachers seized a pumping station at Guatemala's only pipeline, stopping the French owned pipeline from pumping its usual 25,000 barrels a day up to the United States of gas-guzzling vehicles.

The proportion of the budget that the Guatemalan government spends on education is tiny compared to most countries in Latin America. Even those serial misers, the International Monetary Fund, have told the government to increase its budgets for education and health! [www.prensalibre.com](http://www.prensalibre.com) (Spanish)

\* Thousands of children in the UK bunked off school to join student protests against the war on Wednesday. Over a hundred children gathered outside Downing Street, whilst similar protests happened all over the world. One said, "Tony Blair obviously does not think. Iraqi children are too young to be bombed, so how can we be too young to protest?"

## Police "Intelligence"

On Wednesday, a big pile of steaming horse manure was dumped on the steps of Neo-Labour's party offices in London to symbolise the US/UK 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution for the Iraq war. As one protester said, 'I'll be surprised if anybody notices, as it always smells of shit around the Labour Party'. Next, the cheeky muck spreaders poured fake blood over the steps of the QE2 Conference Centre, where there was a meeting of the Defence Equipment Services Organisation, (those nasty people who promote arms sales abroad).

Two people were arrested for criminal damage, but the paranoid police (who didn't get the joke) were only interested to know if the 'blood' was toxic! And as if any more proof were needed that the police can't tell their arse from their elbow... SchNEWS has learned of a man who, by sending a packet of rice to Jack Straw, managed to cause a major terror scare in the Foreign Secretary's office. The office had to be closed for three hours until special police intelligence was brought in to work out the difference between a grain of rice and the nerve toxin, ricin!

### ...and finally...

The popular comic "Dandy" was recently cleared from the shelves at Birmingham International Airport because it posed a menacing terrorist threat! The most recent issue of the magazine was deemed unacceptable because of a free toy gun that was being given away on the cover. The plastic toy, which punches out a clenched fist, was attached to thousands of copies of that week's issue, leading the airport's expert security personnel to fear it might be used to hijack a plane. A spokesman for the magazine's publishers said, "It might be a bit irritating if a kid fired it at your head over and over, but I don't think a terrorist would get very far if he tried to hijack a plane with a free toy from Dandy."

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all squeeze and tease politicians to grease the palm first. Honest

March 12th:  
Turkey sends in soldiers to defend the port in Iskenderun from protesters as the U.S. military use the port to unload munitions as it prepares to invade Iraq.



## Subscribe!

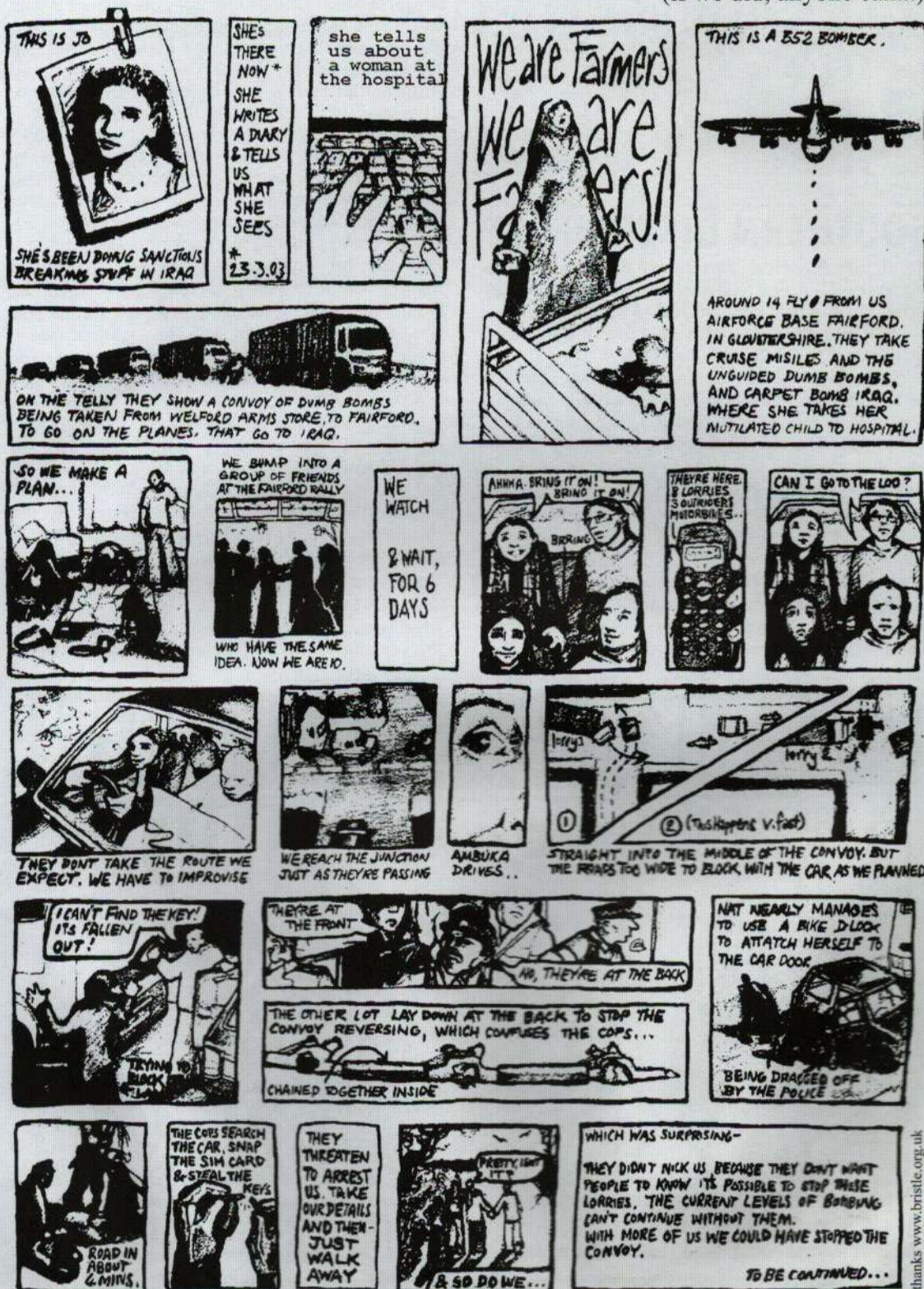
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# Bomb Stopping - just do it.

(if we did, anyone can...)



Cartoon strip: Snook

thanks www.bristle.org.uk





New Delhi March 9th

## SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT

**March 9th: American and British forces are massing in the Middle East, and war is looking inevitable. For the first time, protests outside Europe, North America and Australasia are beginning to outnumber those in the 'West'.**

The anti-war build-up intensifies in the countries of the Middle East – many of which are already watching Iraqis stream over their borders to escape the impending war, seeking safety alongside Palestinians in the refugee camps.

Here are some of the larger and more dramatic anti-war demonstrations from late February onwards:

\* On February 24<sup>th</sup> around 100,000 marched in the Moroccan capital of **Rabat**, then on March 9<sup>th</sup> 160,000 marched in the streets of **Casablanca**. Demonstrators were attacked by police, leaving many injured, 60 arrested and nine of the organisers in detention.

\* In **Rawalpindi, Pakistan**, some 200,000 people came out on March 9th – about four times as many as the previous week in **Karachi**.

\* 50,000 people demonstrated in **New Delhi, India**.

\* In **Egypt**, around this time, the government shifted from repressing protests to trying to co-opt them. When protests were organised there at the end of 2002 the organisers had been arrested and tortured. Yet on March 2nd, a rally organised by opposition parties drew more than 100,000. Then on March 5th, the President's National Democratic Party called a protest and 500,000 people came out. Ashraf Al Bayoumi, a founding member of the Popular Committee to Oppose US Aggression in Iraq, predicted that the Egyptian government could channel public anger into carefully controlled forums "for a little while" but that things were very volatile and "one scene on television could spark it all."

\* The Turkish state's confrontation with its fiercely anti-war population intensified. The Pentagon continued to deploy troops in **Turkey**, in spite of a parliamentary vote on March 1st that refused to authorise it. The vote was taken as 100,000 people demonstrated outside the parliament building in **Ankara**.

\* On February 28<sup>th</sup> an angry demonstration kicked off in **Bahrain** – headquarters of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet and a key ally in the region. 4,000 marched from a Shi'ite mosque to the UN Office in the capital of **Manama**, burning US flags and trampling Israeli flags on the way.

\* The same day saw 7,000 march in the Yemeni capital of **Sanaa**.

\* In **Indonesia's** second-largest city, **Surabaya**, some 800,000 people gathered to protest on March 9th.

# STOP THE WAR : STOP THE CITY!



## MEET 5.30PM : CHURCHILL SQUARE : DAY AFTER WAR IS DECLARED ON IRAQ

**BRING POTS AND PANS TO BANG : LETS MAKE SOME NOISE!**

PHONE FOR CONFIRMATION  
01273 298192  
brightonagainstwar@hotmail.com





# RUNWAY TERROR

Last Saturday the whole of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire were put on high alert and the police were given powers for 28 days under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 to stop and search anyone – without even needing to make up an excuse to do so.

SchNEWS has learnt that in Fairford, Gloucestershire, planes carrying weapons of mass destruction are being prepared for use on civilians. People from all over the country have been heading there to try and stop this happening – these very same people who are trying to stop people being killed are being treated like terrorists!

According to Liberty, this is the first time Section 44 has been used and the first lucky recipients were... people at a Picnic for Peace at Fairford! Brandishing his big Section 60 Criminal Justice Act (1994) to look for weapons, one copper demanded to search someone's lunchbox. The bemused protester told SchNEWS, "They opened up the sandwiches to see what was in them - no razor blades, but some rather tasty houmous and vegan pate." Funny that! No weapons of mass destruction in his sandwich, but quite a few B-52's across the razor wire in the airbase, weapons which will take part in the "Shock and Awe" tactic bombing of Baghdad, causing massive and widespread destruction "like the nuclear weapons at Hiroshima, not taking days or weeks, but minutes."

## DE-FENCE SITTING

While the police are keen to know what peaceniks at Fairford are eating this time of year, they seem less keen to act when US military personnel forcibly evict and intimidate residents of the peace camp.

On Monday afternoon US soldiers ripped down banners on the fence and started constructing an extension to the Gate 10 perimeter fence on Gloucestershire County Council Land without planning permission, forcing the peace camp to move a few feet around the corner. The police just looked on and did nothing. However the camp is getting lots of support from locals, with one camp resident, Jill Chadwick, commenting, "In a way I'm surprised at the amount of support, given my experience at Greenham Common and the vigilante attacks we experienced there."

\* The Peace camp and bomber watch need more support, people, tarps, water and a chemical toilet if anyone has one. 07754064146 or 07736964653.

\* An Oxford student told SchNEWS about getting into Fairford "If lazy students like me and my mates who spend most of our time getting drunk can get in, anyone can. And if lots do we can stop the planes." Last Saturday about 20 people got onto the runway.

\* Disobedience are holding a series of workshops in Hackney, London this Saturday (15) in preparation for the big day of action at Fairford. Workshops will include legal advice and group self-defence. For details email: [disobedience@riseup.net](mailto:disobedience@riseup.net)

\*\* Gathering of Grannies at Fairford on Monday (17) 11am main gate. For info on women's actions: [tabitha@gwi.org.uk](mailto:tabitha@gwi.org.uk) \*\* Next Saturday (22nd) is the Fairford Free Festival with Rinky-Dink and Lardy-Dar Cycle Powered Sound Systems for The Party At The End Of The Runway. SchNEWS hopes that The Collateral Damage Orchestra and

## CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK For Wearing a T-shirt!

A shopper at Crossgates Mall in New York was confronted by security guards demanding he remove his T-shirt as the slogan was 'unacceptable'. He declined, so they returned with a cop who arrested him. Later in the week, 100 people marched through the store protesting his arrest all wearing the same T-shirt. And what was the illegal slogan? 'Peace on Earth' on the front of the shirt and 'Give Peace a Chance' on the back.

Friendly Fire Quartet will also be there. This is followed by a party at the Axe & Compass Pub, Kempsford 8pm - late. Free camping in the pub garden/peace camp.

\* If you've been searched on spurious grounds, unlawfully arrested, detained without reason, or even assaulted at Fairford, get in touch with Berkshire Citizens Inspection Agency. They can't offer legal advice, but are collating all incidents of harassment. [berkshirecia@hotmail.com](mailto:berkshirecia@hotmail.com)

\* If you are going to demos it may be worth getting clued up about your rights if you get arrested, check out [www.activistslegalproject.org.uk](http://www.activistslegalproject.org.uk)

\* Help is needed to keep an eye on RAF Welford, near Newbury in Berkshire, one of the USAF's biggest munitions dumps in Europe. The base stores bombs for use at RAF Fairford. Contact Berkshire CIA, 0118 966 8328, or [berkshirecia@hotmail.com](mailto:berkshirecia@hotmail.com)

\* An anti-war protestor in Canterbury was arrested under the Terrorism Act - for throwing an egg at Tony Blair. He was charged under Section 5 of the Public Order Act, which means the crown has to prove via witness statements that he caused distress. He's hoping to get a statement from Tony Blair.



## WAR BRIEFS

Nine people cut their way into American airbase "RAF" **Lakenheath** last week, then cycled around the base to disrupt preparations for war against Iraq. \*\* **Celebration of Iraqi culture**, Sat 15<sup>th</sup> - music and speakers, St Columba's Church Hall, Chantry Road, Moseley, B'ham. 7.30-10pm Bring food or £2.50. \*\* **Remembering Anfal & Halabja public meeting**, Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Grand Committee Room, Houses of Parliament, Westminster 7pm. Kurdistan National Congress 020 7250 1315 knklondon@gn.apc.org \*\* 800,000 people gathered to pray for peace in Indonesia's second-largest city, **Surabaya**, last weekend. \*\* **The SQUALL website has new anti-war related stuff** that's worth a look. Check out human shield Jo Wilding's excellent dispatches from Baghdad and the whole 1997 statement from New American Century, (right wing US think tank, many of whom have since become key members of the Bush administration) advocating a war on Iraq as a step towards US world domination. [www.squall.co.uk](http://www.squall.co.uk) \*\* Mon 17<sup>th</sup> starts a **week of non-violent actions** against the war. Die-ins in Southampton (02380 550159), Oxford 01865 794504, London 0845 458 2564, Birmingham sarahteve rsham@yahoo.co.uk and Hastings andreaneedham@onetel.net.uk \*\* Tues 18<sup>th</sup> **Hastings Against War meeting** 7.30, Electric Cinema, Old Town \*\* Use the media to get your anti-war message across: **'Activists' guide to exploiting the media** from ARROW, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX £1.50 or online at [www.antenna.nl/eyfa/resources/media.htm](http://www.antenna.nl/eyfa/resources/media.htm) \*\* On 26 Feb, protestors against war on Iraq barged the White House and Senate offices with tens of thousands of phone, fax and e-mail messages as part of a **"virtual protest march."** New EU hacker laws could make protests like this a crime, removing all distinction between online protestors, hackers, spreaders of computer viruses and terrorists. \*\* **Brighton Demo against the war, meet 5.30pm, 21<sup>st</sup> Mar, Churchill Square.**

\* Saturday March 22 12 noon: **National demo against USAF Fairford.** Assemble Fairford Church, Fairford, Gloucestershire. Coaches from all over the country. Info, map of Fairford, transport contacts: [www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk), or CND 020 7700 2393. Transport from **Brighton** - tickets from The Cowley Club, London Road. From **London**: Euston 9am £10/£5. To book a seat 07817 061183 fairfordcoachlondon@hotmail.com.  
\* For those up north, there's a **Foil the Base demo**, midday March 22 - main gate of Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire. Menwith is the "brains" of the US military in Europe. Bring foil kites, balloons, puppets etc. to disrupt US Military satellite signals. [www.now-peace.org.uk](http://www.now-peace.org.uk)

## WIZKIDS OF OZ

The Australian Department of Defence has decided to withdraw advertising from all student media in Australia because of an **"adburst"** by a student newspaper. The Defence Department had been repeatedly requesting advertising space in the magazine, who kept on saying no and got a bit tired of repeating themselves and decided to run the following ad instead:

"Why settle for an ordinary office job when you could have an extraordinary and challenging career as a pawn in the power games of politicians? Not only will you get to take orders from arrogant pricks with buzz-cuts and ego-complexes, but on special occasions you'll get the chance to repress your moral integrity and accept orders to bomb the shit out of dark-skinned, tea-towel-wearing foreigners. Officer positions are open in many specialised fields from engineering and logistics through to carpet-bombing and cannon fodder. You will receive over \$44,700 per annum upon completion of initial training, which should just about cover treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Gulf War Syndrome..."

## SchNEWS in brief

**RADIO 4A** Brighton's Sham-bolic Pirate Radio is back this weekend with diverse sounds, political commentary, comedy and news. 101.4 FM and webcast [www.radio4a.org.uk](http://www.radio4a.org.uk) \*\* Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> picket the **Ideal Homes Exhibition**, sponsored by the Daily Mail, who have recently been stepping up their campaign of hate against refugees and asylum seekers. 12-2 pm, Earls Court, London. 01273-540717 \*\* **SEASoN alternative National Science Week.** 12-5pm, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Commons, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells. It's not too late to register for a stall at the event. 01892 863941 <http://geocities.com/seasonscience> \*\* **No money for new oil** - stop UK government support for the **Baku oil pipeline.** Demo Tues 25<sup>th</sup>. Meet 11.45am, Crown Place, London EC2. 020 7566 1673 [www.baku.org.uk](http://www.baku.org.uk) \*\* **Blatant Incitement Project** - day of sharing facilitation and group-work skills and experiences. 24th March, 10am-5pm, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. Free. Vegan food £3 01524 383012 dowhatyouretold@breakthelaw.co.uk \*\* The **A-Infos** website contains a massive directory of anarchist organizations around the world. [www.ainfos.ca/org/Anarchist\\_Organizations.html](http://www.ainfos.ca/org/Anarchist_Organizations.html) \*\* **'Drowned Out'** film about an Indian family resolving to stay at home and drown rather than make way for the Narmada dam. March 27<sup>th</sup>, 9.30pm, The Other Cinema, 11 Rupert Street, London W1. 020 7437 0757 £5/4 \*\* **SchWoops.** The screening of 'Women in Black' on Saturday is at the Phoenix Theatre, East Finchley, NOT the Ritz, Brighton. 6.30pm [www.hrw.org/iff](http://www.hrw.org/iff)

**Section 44** of the Terrorism Act 2000 extends the usual stop and search powers. The search is supposed to be "only for the purpose of searching for articles of a kind which could be used in connection with terrorism", but they don't need to actually think you have any! If stopped and searched, ask for a written record of the search. You do not have to give your name, address or any other details.



## WWC Out of the Closet

**Sinking to new depths of greed and corruption, the Transnational Corporations (TNCs) are now getting all wet about water.** Water's running out all over the planet (last week a UN report estimated that some areas may be bone dry as early as 2025) and could soon be a more valuable commodity than oil.

Under the guise of trying to sort out the global water crisis, the 3rd triennial World Water Forum (WWF) will take place in Kyoto, Japan, March 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Only problem is that this international debate on the subject will be run by the World Water Council (WWC), a think-tank created in 1996 by the World Bank and some of the world's largest Transnational Water Corporations. You get the picture?

Top of the agenda, naturally, is privatising the world's water supplies - especially in the developing world. When they last met in 2000, the WWF came up with a pro-privatisation manifesto entitled "World Water Vision" which, the WWF claimed, reflected the global consensus on solutions to the water crisis. Of course it did nothing of the sort - there was of course no grassroots representation at the 2000 meeting (especially from the developing world) and the whole conference was stridently opposed by activist groups (who set up their own alternative conference). Despite its own legitimacy being deeply questioned, the WWF say the time for debate is over. This 3rd conference in Kyoto will not be about "if" but about "how" to force privatisation on unwitting or unwilling populations whose governments have been bought or coerced by the World Bank.

\* To find out more about the WWF and protest plans: ASEED Japan - [www.aseed.org](http://www.aseed.org)

So just what are the alternatives to letting the TNCs privatise the world's water supplies? It's true that many public water utilities are bureaucratic dinosaurs out of touch with the people they are supposed to serve, but there are many publicly owned supplies that are accountable to the needs of the population.

One example can be found in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The local water company DMAE is publicly owned, but it is financially independent from state

control and is fully financed through water bills paid by the 1.4 million inhabitants of Porto Alegre. All profits are re-invested in the water supply. The daily work of DMAE is controlled by civil society representatives, while operations and investment decisions are subject to a participatory budget process and community members directly decide the budget priorities of the water company. Through a process of public meetings, every citizen can have a say in which investments should be made first.

This participatory model has massive success - awareness about water and sewage is raised and the people's needs are prioritised. As a result, 99.5% of Porto Alegre's population now have access to clean water (the highest rate in Brazil) and DMAE's water price is one of the lowest in Brazil, while overall consumption has gone down.

In the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, a proposed privatisation was strongly opposed by the water workers' union. So the Dhaka Water Authority contracted out one zone to the union, while another zone was given to a private water company for a one-year trial. The union co-operative's results were so much better that the private sector's that the contract was given to the union. The union co-operative's achievements included a considerable expansion of the number of people with access to running water as well as a sizable reduction in water losses.

\* Corporate Europe Observatory has prepared briefs around key issues of the global water debate: [www.corporateeurope.org](http://www.corporateeurope.org)

## Inside SchNEWS

**On Tuesday, Trident Ploughshare activist Ulla Roder managed to get into a hangar at RAF Leuchars in Fife and do some serious damage to a Tornado plane that had been left unguarded.** Ulla later said, "I took my hammer to the nose-cone, the cockpit, the fuselage, the wings, the tailplane and other parts of the plane which it was safe to damage. I don't see it flying again". She's currently on remand until her next court appearance on the 20th March. Write to: Ulla Roder, HMP Corton Vale, Stirling, FK9 5NY.

[www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org)

## Positive SchNEWS

**It's Fairtrade Fortnight** starting this week with over four thousand events going on around the country. You can go along to tasting parties and stalls and check out coffee and chocolate produced by farmers from the majority world who aren't being ripped off for their produce. For a full listing of events at 020 7405 5942 [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)



Marcos Veron Pic: João Ripper  
[/www.survival-international.org](http://www.survival-international.org)

## SHAMAN ON YOU

**Marcos Veron, Brazilian Indian shaman and leader of the Guarani-Kaiowá tribe, was brutally killed in January.** The 70-year-old was beaten to death by thugs in the pay of ranchers who had taken over his homeland, Takuára, in 1953. The Guarani-Kaiowá have been exiled from their land for the last fifty years. Many live by roadsides. Without land they can't grow their own food or hunt. In their own words, without their land they have 'nothing to live for'. The Guarani-Kaiowá tribe have been trying to get their land back recently, but to no avail. For the last few months, many have lived camped on the side of a highway, and this January, they tried to move peacefully back onto their land. The attempt sadly failed - the tribe was attacked and Marcos murdered. This month, the last of those who had accompanied Marcos were again ordered off their land by the courts. [www.survivalinternational.org/marcos.htm](http://www.survivalinternational.org/marcos.htm)



## WELFORD WORTH A LOOK

The **Welford Peacewatch Camp**, a sister to the Fairford Camp, was set up on the 12th of March within sight of USAF Welford, north of Newbury in Berkshire which is a munitions storage facility supplying the 16 B52s based at USAF Fairford in Gloucestershire 38 miles away. From the camp convoys could be observed leaving the base daily heading up the M4 with their lethal cargo. Several actions were taken to prevent them arriving...

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March a huge convoy of bombs destined for Iraq supported by police vans and motorbike outriders was stopped by just ten people. A crossroads was blocked with a parked car then others lay in front of the convoy joined together with arm tubes. A week later on April the 1<sup>st</sup> protestors blocked the motorway long enough for others to start to lock themselves to the bomb trucks. Perhaps it was an April fools joke because the driver really took the

poiss when he knowingly started the truck in motion with people locked on underneath. They were quickly forced to unlock or be crushed. On both occasions people were searched but nobody was arrested.

After these few practice runs campaigners were more successful on 10<sup>th</sup> April when a crew of five from Bristol blocked the A417 near Cirencester with a car, and two of the group chained themselves underneath a transport vehicle with bike locks. It took police the best part of an hour with hydraulic cutters to get them free and the convoy rolling again. The activists were arrested for obstruction and all except one later released without charge.

The last of the bombers left Fairford on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April so the people at the Welford Peacewatch camp decided to break camp the following night.

[www.gwi.org.uk](http://www.gwi.org.uk)

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

## CASTLE KEEPERS

Last Friday, 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".

**\*\* Crop Pullers from GM-Free Wales facing similar charges are in Chester Crown court 31 March - 3 April. Supporters welcome. 0845 456 9327 [www.fraw.org.uk/gs](http://www.fraw.org.uk/gs) \*\*** Public meeting: The Future of Food and Farming in Wales, at the Daniel Owen Centre in Mold, nr Chester. 3 April, 7.30 pm

## ...and finally...

So what do you do if you're a 'concerned member of the public' or more to the point, a paranoid reader of the Daily Hate Mail, calmly minding your own business in the public library when suddenly you see a foreign-looking student viewing pictures of 'tall buildings' on the internet? You call the police of course!!

Which is exactly what happened recently at a library in Plymouth. Embarrassingly for the concerned member of the public, the 'tall buildings' turned out to be the logo of an internet radio website. The police involved, however, still had the cheek to ask if the library service could start keeping a log of any and all internet activity by asylum seekers. The head of Plymouth Libraries, Chris Goddard, "gently but firmly" refused, citing data protection and human rights issues. Way to go Chris! But is there any way we could start keeping a log of the internet activity of bored, brain-washed Daily Mail readers with way too much time on their hands.... pretty please?

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers walking around Gloucestershire or Wiltshire not to fill their lunch-boxes with something substantial and finger licking good that the police can get their teeth into! Honest.



## SCHOOL'S OUT II

5 kids from Blatchington Mill School, Hove, were baffled when they got suspended for joining nationwide student demos against the war on Iraq last Friday. The head said they were very naughty children for disobeying teachers and leaving school without permission. But the kids (15 - 16) were under the misapprehension that recent government initiatives promoting citizenship meant taking an active interest in our so-called democracy.

Other kids have been telling SchNEWS about their walkouts, with one 14 year-old girl in Birmingham saying, "We were accused of truanting but we were standing up for our political views about the world we're growing up in." More than 1000 in Leicester took part in what one local councillor described as the "most effective anti-war demo to date". As one 16 year-old demonstrator put it, "Tony Blair has only succeeded in one thing as far as we're concerned - politicising a whole generation." Nice one!

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# Resistance Snowballs

## MARCH 15th

Another major day of protest. Mass rallies against the War on Iraq were held in over 2,000 cities around the world, the day before Bush and Blair (Oh, and not forgetting that Spanish leader Aznar) met for their 'war summit' in the isolation of a US airbase in the Azores (islands in the Atlantic off the west coast of Africa.)



Half a million out on the catwalk in Milan, Italy.



You've heard of the black block - well here come the white block - Jakarta

**EUROPE:** Millions marched in Spain and Italy, two countries whose governments supported the US war, including 1,000,000 in Madrid, 400,000 in Barcelona, and demos in many other Spanish cities. In Italy the biggest march was 500,000 in Milan.

In other European cities there were 100,000 in Berlin; 50,000 in Paris; 40,000 in Brussels; 5,000 in Marseille, 4,000 in Stockholm, Thessaloniki and Bucharest, plus many others...

**N. AMERICA:** Large numbers responded to calls from the ANSWER coalition, with anti-war events in over 100 cities; the biggies being 100,000 in Washington DC, taking up more than 20 city blocks; 100,000 in San Francisco, and 50,000 in Los Angeles.

250,000 marched in Montreal, in the largest of 40 demonstrations in Canada.



Vienna

### US 'OUTPOSTS' AROUND THE WORLD GET HIT:

25,000 visited the US Embassy in Athens, 10,000 at the US Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina and 1,000 at the US Embassy in Moscow; while 2,000 converged on the US Navy Base at Crete, and others demonstrated at US air bases in Frankfurt, Germany and Moron de la Frontera, Spain. 10,000 marched through the Turkish port city of Iskenderum where the US Military were loading up equipment for transport to Iraq.



Union Jacks and Star Spangled Banners have certainly become hot property since the threat of war began: more flags get torched, this time at the Khan Younis refugee camp, southern Gaza strip, Palestine (left).

**MIDDLE EAST:** 200,000 demonstrated in Sanaa, Yemen; as well as demos in Amman, Beirut, Cairo (which is heavily repressed by police) and many Palestinian cities and refugee camps.

**PLUS:** 50,000 in Sao Paulo, Brazil; 10,000 in Tokyo; 2,000 in Seoul, South Korea; 1,000 in Bangkok, Thailand... Then there were thousands in Calcutta, New Delhi, Frankfurt, Dunedin and Christchurch in New Zealand, plus protests in Mexico City's main square, and in Guatemala and El Salvador.

Muslims in London organised walk-bys at the embassies of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Qatar and Pakistan, all countries collaborating with the United States.

I look forward to recruiting all the young people here into the Marxist-Leninist movement.





# Fair Play

## Direct action at Fairford airbase

Back in September it became obvious that there was the real possibility that there was going to be a war against Iraq. I started to look around for a group to join that would work against this and found my local peace group. I found this group fascinating. For once, all in the same room, working together, was a real diverse range of ages, interests and political view-points and it seemed to work. The group wanted to pick a mixture of national and local targets for its anti-war actions. One of these targets was Fairford Airbase in Gloucestershire. In the months that followed many people learned a lot about the modern way of warfare and politics and just how far the state was willing to go to protect its interests. We also learned a lot about what worked tactically and what didn't.

There were times during the anti-war campaign when it looked like we might win, that the international players would be forced to listen to us, and bow to public opinion. We didn't win, but sadly I reckon we might get to have another go at trying. If Bush goes to war against Iran or Syria, Fairford will be used again, and we will be there again, so the lessons of what happened this time need to be learned.

Our group found out that in the last Gulf War the bombs that fell on Baghdad were dropped from planes based in Fairford. B-52 bomber planes flew for hours from the tiny Cotswold village about 20 miles west of Oxford. We also read that since then, the air base had received a multi-million pound refit to make it capable of holding B-2 stealth bombers - flat, evil-looking planes that can evade radar and carry more bombs.

Fairford seemed an obvious focus. Where else was there a chance to throw a spanner directly in the war machine? What other more appropriate symbol of our government's complicity in the war? There had



apparently been talk of stationing the special, climate-controlled hangers for the aircraft in Italy, Germany or Spain. This was ruled out, as the risk of civil resistance was too high. It seemed that British apathy was being put to the test.

So we went and joined a protest in December that was to start in Fairford village and march to the gates of the base. The local group had come up with the idea of dressing in white paper boiler suits, calling themselves the Gloucester Weapons Inspectors and demanding access to the base to inspect the weapons of mass destruction inside. The idea was to highlight the ridiculous demands being made of Iraq and to contrast them with the culture of secrecy, domination and downright hypocrisy around American military power. We also wanted to show that not all the passengers on Aircraft Carrier HMS Britain were happy with the ride we were being taken on. We all hoped that if we could get enough people to Fairford and that those people made the powers-that-be nervous enough we could have an effect on whether the UK joined the war, and that that would effect the US's design, etc, etc.

Many people in our group had not been involved in direct action before and didn't know what to expect. Before we went to the base, a peace activist who had campaigned against the last Gulf War came to speak to us. He told us how he and five others had cut the perimeter fences of the base, dodged the guards and soldiers and run onto the runway. They stopped four planes from leaving with their 'payloads'. Many of us were inspired by this story and planned to use similar tactics... We had fence-cutting tools in our bags.

It's about an hour's walk from the village church to the gates of the base. There were about 500 people, small sound systems and a huge puppet stealth bomber. We walked to the gates of the base and asked to be let in. No one was shocked when they told us to go away. Then we decided to go for a walk around the base, and around 30 people managed to cut a hole in the fence and climb in, running for the hangers, climbing on containers, generally causing chaos. At that point no planes had arrived yet, so we were just slung out of the gates by some police officers. This scene was repeated in January, although it was harder to get tools for cutting the fence past the police, who had begun to search people; we became more ingenious in our hiding places. There were a few arrests.



No this isn't Glastonbury - Fairford January 26th



It wasn't just the big demos happening at Fairford. As the anti-war movement grew people set up a peace camp at Gate 10 of the airbase, the gates closest to the planes; this camp tried to monitor activity on the base. There were nighttime raids, one of which did £50,000 of damage to groundwork vehicles. Landing lights were damaged. People tried to stop the convoys of munitions arriving from Whelford, where they were stored. Another camp was briefly set up at Whelford, only to be shut down by the police.

It wasn't just Fairford either. While this was going on there were break-ins happening at Menwith Hill in Yorkshire where a nighttime raid left tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage. In Fife, training aircraft were damaged, groups broke into RAF Mildenhall and Lakenheath in Norfolk, breaching the perimeters, stopping the runways. The Fairford actions fitted into a network of large and small groups all over the country trying to stop what was happening.

There was a feeling that if we could make the demos big enough, and they continued to be as active in their determination to not just be symbolic, we could have a real impact on the base.

After the huge turn out at the London anti-war demo on 15th February, the question was obvious: how can we get these people from the centre of London to the place where we can directly effect the war effort? If we'd had just 10,000 people willing to enter the base at Fairford (a tiny fraction of the numbers on the streets on the 15<sup>th</sup>) the impact could have thrown Labour's war plans into disarray. Governments can cope with demos that do nothing but go from A to B and then home as they did in London. But groups of people willing to risk arrest, refusing to be controlled by police or any other organisation, returning week after week – this is harder to cope with. And this is what was beginning to happen at Fairford.

So we had high hopes when we returned to the base in February. The demo was 700 people. It followed the usual pattern of village assembly and march. This time, however, when we arrived at the gates people came out of the crowd and attached ropes to the razor wire topped gates and started to pull in rhythm. The gates started to rock and shake and the hinges started to buckle. The whole crowd pulled: I saw teenagers and wrinkled old peaceniks side by side with people masked up and people with flowers in their hair. The police on the other side went from pitying amusement to running for their riot gear as the gate popped open and the crowd surged through the gate. Meanwhile, holes had been cut behind a big banner leaning against the fence and people were running through. It took nearly forty minutes for the police to contain the crowd and push them back through the gate. The lessons here are: use rope with no spring in it, attach it with carabinas high on the gates (harder for the police to reach), and don't underestimate what a crowd working together can do.

The next time we went back *en masse* was 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We knew it would be different then. For a start, we were at war and all the planes had been moved there. There had been scare stories on the news for days before about shoot-to-kill policies on



the base. We had heard about the harassment of the peace camp, how American soldiers had attacked them. We had heard how the Terrorism laws had been brought into force in the area, so that anyone could be stopped and searched at anytime for no reason. There were ridiculous stories about people's packed lunches being rifled by cops and how some people were searched several times a day.

But loads more people were coming and our coaches filled up quickly. Even my dad decided that writing to his MP wasn't enough and that he would join me on the front lines. I thought, if my dad was coming that finally the mass of middle England would surely come, registering their disapproval of an illegal, un-democratic war. Unfortunately the police had the same idea.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March there must have been 1,000 police officers at Fairford in full body armour, seven police horses, cross country motorcycles and what looked suspiciously like a helicopter with mounted machine guns. Before we even got near the site our coach was stopped and searched and we were detained by the side of the road for 20 minutes. The police seemed unsure of the law, unable to answer the questions of our legal observers as to why we were being stopped or what they were looking for. Luckily we had hidden our tools well. The London coaches, holding around 150 people, were turned back from the demo for no reason and escorted by helicopter and police convoy back to London. We saw then how far the state was going to go to protect its interests.

The heavy police presence was not like other times. It made for a depressing day. Some people put flowers into the fences, others listened to speeches under the eyes of the massed constabulary. There didn't seem to be much we could do; as we marched back again a plane flew over head emphasising the nastiness that was behind the rolls of razor wire. We knew that the B-52s would take off from there to kill people.

What we learned from Fairford is that you can catch the police unawares, as we did with the gate trick. But that in times of war they will throw their full weight into making sure they don't get caught out, and they will ignore the law, as they did when they turned back the London coaches. To have a chance, you need to think around them, work in small groups that can make choices quickly, hide your tools well in unexpected places, play on their prejudices. For



example, the police have a very narrow image of what a protestor looks like and they tend to search these people more often and follow them more closely; it can be useful to have some 'typical protestors' to draw attention away from everyone else.

After the 22<sup>nd</sup> people felt that a more decentralised style of demo might have been more effective. Even if you can't get inside they hate having groups of people moving around outside their control. Also although I have focused heavily here on the more 'direct action' side of the campaign this should not be to the exclusion of the other types of participation that went on at Fairford. The crowd was always very supportive there, people did legal support for those who had been arrested and fined for their actions. People tried to talk to the American servicemen, people made noise and campaigned and talked to the press, people gathered information for others to use, people researched the various types of evil that was going on inside. People were just there. If we go into Iran or Syria, or even if the US goes alone, people will be there again.



Weapons Inspectors well kitted out with identification equipment perform an inspection, 14th December. 2002 Pic: Simon Chapman



## Fairford Peace Camp

A peacewatch was set up at Fairford outside Gate 10 of the airbase on February 17th to begin monitoring military activity at the base and a permanent camp was established on March the 2nd, the day before the B52 bombers arrived to be based at Fairford for the upcoming war. The camp was packed up finally on the 3rd of May. (Follow the progress in SchNEWS 393, 395, 396)

It's Sunday morning.

**FAIRFORD** is an inoffensive looking town in the Cotswolds which happens to be home to a large air base that sometimes houses American stealth bombers (B2s). It's one of only 3 forward bases for them outside the USA, so it's likely that in the event of a war with Iraq planes from here will take bombs (possibly nuclear) to the Gulf.

Today the area is full of weirdly attired concerned citizens.

I'm a weapons inspector.

**WAR IS BAD**

I've decided to go home.

WAR? NOT IN OUR NAME

NEVER AGAIN

WE ARE FOR HUMANITY

Oh yes, we're going to do an independent weapons inspection today.

For more info on this see [www.cynabatch.co.uk/gwll/Fairford.htm](http://www.cynabatch.co.uk/gwll/Fairford.htm)

We walked through the town, which is tiny, to the base, which is somewhat bigger. Lots of people had brought stuff to decorate the fence with.

We stood around at the gate for a while, then everyone wandered off and the fence magically became more permeable...

Shall we take the dog for a run dear?

I think so.

Loads of people got in + ran about. For a while it was really anarchic + beautiful.

Then we were rounded up + chucked out. Later the police decided to arrest a couple of people in quite a violent way, but on the whole it was a really lovely day. More protests are planned at Fairford. See [www.gwll.org.uk](http://www.gwll.org.uk)

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PH 10/2/03





# RAFAH FRONTLINE

Since SchNEWS published **Occupational Hazard** last September (SchNEWS 373/4) the heat has been massively turned up on Palestinians and International Solidarity Movement (ISM) activists in the occupied territories. Whilst the western media focussed its attention on the war in Iraq, Israel took the opportunity to step up the level of violence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to clamp down on the 'problem' of international activists. This has led to an increase in attacks on ISM activists, beginning with the murder of Rachel Corrie (SchNEWS 397/8). In the following article, a British activist who was with Corrie in Rafah describes his experience as an international in Palestine and explains the changing role of the ISM.

The International Solidarity Movement was set up to provide support for non-violent direct action supporting Palestinian struggle against the illegal Israeli occupation. Since August 2001 international ISM activists have been travelling to the occupied territories to join the Palestinian people and use their privileged status as 'westerners' to act as human shields, aiming to disrupt the daily attacks on people and basic infrastructure inflicted by the Israeli Occupation Forces. The ISM is a coalition movement of people from many different political and ideological backgrounds but, significantly, it remains a Palestinian-led organisation and supports the right of the Palestinian people to resist the occupation in any way they see fit.

There is no space here to document the full extent of the conflict, or the horrors it has inflicted on the population of the occupied territories. Occasionally the western media may focus on some of the more obviously brutal aspects of the occupation: the massacre in Jenin in April 2002 (see SchNEWS Of The World 2002), or the arbitrary rocket fire into the refugee camps in northern Gaza. What goes unreported and often witnessed by outsiders is the day-to-day repression of the Palestinian people at the hands of the Israeli military. There is a hidden psychological and economic war being conducted against the population of the West Bank and Gaza strip. This is a war of ethnic cleansing following the oldest script of all, that of land theft and seizure of natural resources such as water. It is here that the ISM takes action: sleeping in houses threatened with demolition, either as part of collective punishment (families of suicide bombers and other resistance fighters) or

simply because the house is in the way of the proposed wall; escorting ambulances through checkpoints, or kids to school; acting as human shields for workers trying to rebuild the water systems that have been destroyed by the Israeli military.

The question often raised over ISM activities is how the principles of non-violent direct action can even begin to be applied in a war zone. The answer lies in the nature of the situation: whilst there is undoubtedly a war of sorts taking place in Palestine, it is a phenomenally lopsided conflict. The Israeli state is backed to the hilt by the US, receiving \$4 billion a year in direct military aid. Its air force, in a country of just 4.5million people, is larger and more advanced than the UK's. The Palestinian people are cut off from anything but token support from fellow Arabs and the armed resistance groups hold an ageing arsenal of automatic weapons and explosives. What is happening in Palestine is more like ethnic cleansing than counter-insurgency. However, the theory behind ISM actions was that the Israeli state was more susceptible to outside pressure than other states engaged in similar brutal repression. Its establishment is proud of its claim to be the only democracy in the Middle East and is at great pains to rebut, for example, any comparison between the occupation and the old South African apartheid system.

Essentially the ISM has been using its privileged status to act as human shields, knowing that the potential media backlash against the Israeli state for killing or injuring internationals would deter the occupation forces from direct violence against them. With this approach the ISM was able to win many small victories over the occupation and provide a sense of security and solidarity for many Palestinians.

But at the time of writing this situation is changing daily, and it increasingly seems that no one in the occupied territories has 'privileged status' anymore. First came the murder on March 16<sup>th</sup> of Rachel Corrie, a US activist deliberately crushed under the blade of a bulldozer as she tried to prevent Palestinian homes from being demolished. Three weeks later Tom Hurndall, a British peace activist, was shot trying to escort children from an area where they were under fire. A week later a British cameraman was shot dead despite being clearly identified as press. None of these deaths were the result of an exchange of fire. Many



ISM Workers acting as a human shield, trying to prevent a Palestinian building being flattened by an Israeli armoured bulldozer.



ISM activists in the West Bank were arrested and deported at this time. Quite simply it seemed that the rules had been abruptly changed and the simple act of being a non-violent activist in Gaza was punishable with death. There are two possible reasons for this. It may be that as Rachel's death coincided with the outbreak of the invasion of Iraq it did not generate the media attention or international pressure that the ISM had been banking on, and, taking note of this, the IOF began a campaign to eradicate what has obviously been a thorn in their side for some time. The other more sinister possibility is that international witnesses are simply being cleared out of Rafah as a prelude to an increase in the level of oppression.

I went out to Palestine at the beginning of March this year and, on my arrival, I was asked to travel to Rafah, as numbers were needed there. Although the western media prefers to focus on more easily accessible parts of the West Bank, the effects of the war are perhaps nowhere more evident than in the city of Rafah. Unlike the West Bank, Gaza is not under occupation and its population is to some extent better armed than their counterparts in Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem. Rafah is the southernmost city in the Gaza strip. It is cut off from northern Gaza by a checkpoint, which can be closed for days at a time. It is cut off from the sea by illegal Israeli settlements and a military exclusion zone, which runs the length of the coast. It was divided in half by the 1981 agreement between Israel and Egypt, and along this arbitrary line a wall is being constructed through the centre of the city to seal it off entirely from the outside world.

Curfew in the outlying areas is enforced by live fire. It is potentially lethal for the inhabitants to even step out of their front doors after nightfall. House demolitions are a regular occurrence, with families often given only 15 minutes to clear themselves and all their possessions from the family home before it is demolished in front of them. Resistance is inevitably met with lethal force. The Shaheed or "martyr" posters which are produced and flyposted to commemorate the deaths of all those killed in the intifada are testament to the way in which sudden violent death is a way of life in Rafah. The outskirts of the city are simply post-apocalyptic, rubble-strewn wastelands guarded



View from Abu-Mahmoud's house: a wall across Salaheddin under construction - making a militarised border with Egypt, and dividing the city of Rafah in the middle.

by machines which do not hesitate to inflict death.

Possibly the most important thing which ISMers do in Rafah is to stay in the houses most visibly threatened with demolition to make way for the wall. The family I stayed with, Mahmoud and his wife Nora, live in what was once the heart of Rafah with their three young children. Before the intifada Mahmoud was able to earn enough money working in the hotels of Tel Aviv to build a house in his hometown. That house is now pockmarked with bullet holes and stands on the edge of a rubble wasteland, which has been cleared to provide a free-fire zone for the Israeli military. Trespass in this area which once was filled with homes is forbidden and will be met with live fire.

Mahmoud's house now stands at the end of the street and is in the path of the wall's construction. It is overlooked by the vast bulk of the Salaheddin watchtower. The bullets fired at his house are intended to intimidate him into leaving. Every night without fail there is some shooting, often continuously. Mahmoud has learned to tell the difference between the sounds of different Israeli weapons and to hear which direction they are firing, a vital survival skill. Tanks and bulldozers rumble past on a regular basis. The trajectories of bullets which have passed through their home are clearly visible, the most chilling being a set of bullet holes through the kitchen at head height. The Israeli army is able to kill these people with impunity. It is difficult to imagine the stress that that knowledge puts on people. It is a psychological war of terrorisation.

Mahmoud's house is now covered with signs announcing in Hebrew (courtesy of a Jewish peace activist) and English that children and internationals live there. This has at least stopped the troops from firing directly into the house and for this one family at least has made life on the frontline a little easier. Internationals maintain a constant presence there and are often visible on the roof.

It is important to understand that most of the people of Rafah have never seen an Israeli soldier, only the watchtowers and the machines. They are confronted by a capricious and lethal enemy with no human face. The Israeli approach is random terror; the incursions into civilian areas are unannounced and terrifying in their scale.

The last night I spent in Rafah there was an incursion into the Salaheddin and Hi Salaam areas, where



Mahmoud's house - the last in the row still standing, riddled with machine gun fire - Rafah, Gaza, Palestine.



virtually all the internationals were staying with families. The first we knew was the sound of explosions mixed with the growl of diesel engines as tanks advanced from the border. The Israeli forces advanced into the area machine-gunning the houses, creating a 'secure' area for the bulldozers to do their work. Bullets soon began to come through the walls of the house. Myself and the other British activist in the house gathered with the family in the back room, desperately trying to put as much concrete and brick as possible between ourselves and the incoming fire.

The lights went out as one of the tanks smashed down the pylons in the street outside. We were able to crawl to the balcony and announce through a megaphone that we were international citizens and that our embassies were aware of our presence. This didn't draw any noticeable response and the tank continued to lurk under the balcony. We began to hear the sounds of a nearby house being demolished, but the tank was blocking our way and there was no way to leave the house. We waited in fear that Mahmoud's house would be next and nervously contemplated our next move. In the end there was little to do other than wait and try to calm the family down whilst preparing ourselves for a swift move if it became necessary. For whatever reason, Mahmoud's was not attacked that night (we hope because of our presence), although one of his neighbours had a substantial part of the house knocked down.

In the morning we surfaced to find the place deserted by the army, but the devastation was everywhere to be seen. Throughout the night there had been no return fire by the resistance in our area, but this hadn't stopped the Israelis from machine-gunning civilian houses, killing two and wounding many. In an unusual twist, just down the road in Hi Salaam, the resistance had succeeded in severely damaging a tank and, although by morning it had mostly been dragged away, a defiant crowd gathered around the remains and were celebrating the destruction of the machine. The fact that the disabling of one tank was the cause of such joy demonstrated to me once again how uneven this conflict is. It appears that there was no military objective for this illegal invasion of Palestinian territory; the IDF spokesman told the British Embassy that they were simply "on patrol". To me it seemed to be nothing other than deliberate terrorisation of the populace.

The role of ISM in the future looks uncertain, although there is no doubt that its work will continue in some way. Rachel Corrie's death was the start of a systematic repression of internationals within the occupied territories. Even in this repression, however, there is victory of sorts. The very fact that the Israeli state has attempted to use the recent suicide bombings by British citizens to smear the ISM, and has begun to kill ISM activists, has catapulted the movement into the headlines and once more placed the oppression of the Palestinian people at the top of the international agenda.

After the self-serving cant about the liberation of the people of Iraq, perhaps the US may be forced into at least a pretence of reining in its number one client state in the region. In Rafah, however, there is little hope that the much-vaunted 'road map', or the appointment of a business friendly prime minister, will bring peace. In fact the repression is intensifying. As one man put it to me after Rachel's death, "If they do this to an American, you cannot imagine what they will do to us."



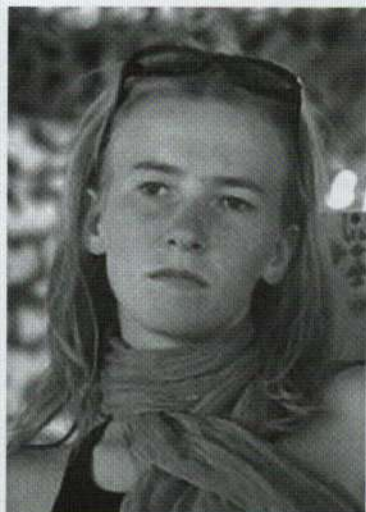
March 16th: Israeli bulldozers roam the wasteland they have created after flattening Palestinian housing in Hi-Salaam, Gaza. On this day Rachel Corrie (below) was one of several ISM workers trying to protect a Palestinian building from being bulldozed when one of the armoured bulldozers deliberately ran over her, then withdrew without stopping.



For more info on the conflict see  
[www.electronicintifada.net](http://www.electronicintifada.net)  
<http://jerusalem.indymedia.org>  
 To get involved with the ISM see  
[www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org)



# RACHEL CORRIE RIP



**Rachel Corrie, an American international peace observer in Palestine was deliberately killed by an Israeli bulldozer on March the 16th while trying to protect Palestinian houses in Rafah.**

Rachel had been volunteering for the International Solidarity

Movement (ISM), a Palestinian led organisation attempting to alleviate human rights abuses in the occupied territories. As such she was a part of an international collective, taking direct action to resist the brutality of Israel's 36 year military occupation. 600 homes have been destroyed in Rafah since the beginning of the most recent Intifada. On average, 3 Palestinians a day are killed in the occupied territories.

The ISM has been criticised for supporting and protecting those involved in Palestinian violence, such as suicide bombers. But as Rachel said in an email just before she was killed "If any of us had our lives and welfare completely strangled, lived with children in a shrinking place where we knew, from previous experience, that soldiers and tanks and bulldozers could come for us at any moment and destroy all the greenhouses that we had been cultivating for however long, and did this while some of us were being beaten

and held captive - don't you think we might try and use violent means to protect whatever fragments remain ... The vast majority of people here, even if they had the economic means to escape, even if they wanted to give up resisting on their land and just leave, can't leave ... I think this qualifies as genocide."

Israel's occupation of the Gaza strip and the West Bank is totally illegal under international law (The Geneva Convention), but there is no suggestion that there's going to be any pre-emptive strikes by the US. Instead the US provides Israel with \$10bn a year in aid. This compares to a measly \$1.7 billion that they've set aside to help rebuild Iraq after they've totally obliterated it.

Following Rachel's death, protests took place in her honour across the world. In Palestine, these were attacked by the Israeli army.

Members of the ISM have vowed to continue their peace work in the region [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org)

