



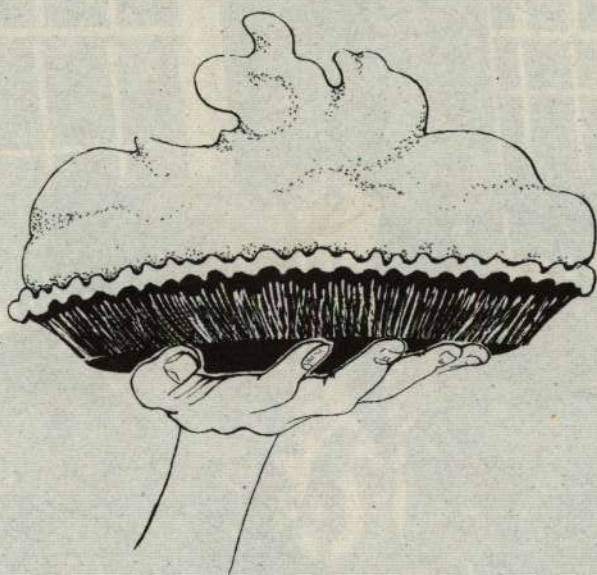
SchNEWS

SURVIVAL HANDBOOK



PROTEST AND SURVIVE

INFORMATION IS YOUR WEAPON



ARM YOURSELF

SchNEWS is a free, weekly information sheet printed and published in Brighton by a bunch of lazy ne'r do wells. It is obtainable by sending first class stamps (one for each issue) or donations (payable to Justice?) to SchNEWS c/o on the fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX. Alternatively you can get it via email - schnews@brighton.co.uk or on the web at <http://www.schnews.org.uk>

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Lots of the articles have been blatantly ripped off from the Earth First! Action Update, like they've never done that before.

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Disclaimer

SchNEWS

SURVIVAL GUIDE



Andrew Testa

The Biotic Baking Brigade flout Renato Ruggerio,
Director of the World Trade Organisation,
see SchNEWS 190

And now a word...

I am sure that people don't need a patronising introduction from a MEEJA HOR, but since you asked for one here it is.

Here are 10 reasons I love SchNEWS:

1. It is free.

2. It is only 2 sides of A4 and is therefore easier to read than any of the mainstream broadsheets. This is good news for the trees, who I believe have made a collective decision to be pulped in order for SchNEWS to be printed.

3. It is very funny. Should the Daily Telegraph ever have a Crap Arrest of the Week slot I would almost be tempted to buy it. Though I suspect their version of crap arrests would be about some insider trading corporate slag getting a suspended sentence for killing the cleaner.

4. It is intelligent rather than clever. If you want to know the difference, watch Jeremy Paxman interview someone on Newsnight then 24 hours later try and remember the content of the interview. I did this once and could only recall the fact that Ewan McGregor gets his cock out too often on screen.

5. It reports on stuff that people need to hear about and is either ignored or sidelined into 'specialist ghettos' by the majority of mainstream press. The day the Sun runs front page analysis of neo liberalist corporate legislation and has a page three photo of a yurt is the day the anarcho zen revolution has really kicked in. Until then SchNEWS and various other alternative media groups will have to do.

6. SchNEWS have never published any pictures of the Spice Girls and their babies. This is an enormous plus point.

7. The people who put together SchNEWS are lovely talented folk but would never find work anywhere else. Woe betide any employer who tries to get one of them on a new deal scheme.



9. They don't support numerate conformity.

10. It also provides invaluable information to activists about forthcoming actions, celebrates the successes (and lets face it no one else will), urges people not just to join in campaigns but to DO THEIR OWN. It doesn't tell people 'what to do' but tells people how they can do what THEY want. Basically it has more hot tips than Delia Smith and a bunch of asparagus.

And last but not least it lets the budding activists all over the country know one thing. They are not alone.

There are more of us than you think.

Hope that is O.K. my lawyer will fax you the royalties contract and I have told him not to make do with a free copy of the book this time.

Love Mark



Mark Thomas

...from our sponsors



What are the politics of boredom?

"When I'm big I want to sell insurance just like Daddy..." Those of us who grew up wanting to be fireman, astronauts, rockers, models, sailors, dancers, painters, explorers, and revolutionaries are yesterday's people. Today's big adventures lie in accountancy, insurance and middle management sales. The good life is a beech desk, a Paul Smith suit, marriage to a colleague, a short experiment in open plan loft living followed by a 'detached' close to a major road. Political parties need an archetype to seduce us into joining. The Panthers had the ten point program wrapped in Afros and black leather, the Labour party has welfare to work dressed like Richard and Judy and talking management speak: "You have no employment rights or say but there's motivational line dancing in the lunch hour."

Ruthless capitalism is modelling a

cardigan. There's no teenage years in this Blairite promised land. No years on the dole or skiving college while you 'find yourself.' Training has replaced education. The best that's on offer is work in return for consumer democracy. Maybe a shag here and there to the strains of Mick Hucknall or Lighthouse Family but no real youth or excitement. In this middle management utopia, danger and recklessness aren't half as exhilarating as planning a career and a pension. Being 'sensible' is the new rock 'n' roll. What an impoverished dream. All those 'Be All You Could Be' ads add up to 'tow the line or be excluded.' Wealth equals power, Rupert Murdoch can ring up Blair and get him to alter government policy but the 90,000 homeless people sleeping on Britain's streets have no say at all.

More and more people are excluded. New Labour got into power by convincing business that it was willing to behave as brutally as the Conservatives but without the more wacko far-right prejudices and ideologies. The Blairite line was that Thatcher's reforms were irreversible but hadn't gone far enough. We can't claim that New Labour betrayed us; their promises weren't directed at us. To compete in the global market place Britain needs a work force with few rights and low wages. Career, loft and purchasing power are what's held up as the spoils of the Blairite adventure but in reality there's more spoil lives than spoils.

Over the last twenty years we've had it drilled into us that we have to accept rampant capitalism's terms or become casualties. Welfare has been slashed and turned into a form of punishment to make any job, no matter how soul destroying and low waged, preferable to signing on. Strikes have become rare and virtually outlawed. In this atmosphere it's easy to become demoralised and start believing that the only choice we have is to take the crap job and go about it with as much bad grace as we can muster.

Stretching right across the world, capitalism can seem like a many headed hydra, impervious to attack and always sucker punching awkward workers - who expect rights and decent money - by shutting up shop and

Chumbawamba

setting up factories in poorer countries like Mexico and Korea. In reality capitalism is always on the run from people asserting their needs against the inhuman logic of profit. Right now they're scrapping in the aisles in South Korea, the strikes kicking off there resemble those which happened in Britain in the seventies - the ones which convinced business it was time to move to poorer countries like South Korea.

Just because there aren't as many demos as discos doesn't mean that there's passive acceptance of the status quo. We might not be striking or marching round in circles but discontent surfaces everywhere. It's our natural inclination not to do as we're told. Phoning in sick, 'accidentally' unplugging a computer or stealing envelopes, are all signs that all is not well in the world of work. People will always find ways to revolt, whether through pop's counter culture or lying to the woman behind the counter at the dole. Local groups against this or that might seem small fry, but alliances are forged and discontent has a way of smouldering and quietly expanding until it explodes into creative activity. Punk, Paris '68, the Poll tax and the campaign against the Criminal Justice Act were all moments when individual discontent fused into mass action.

These surges make us realise we're not entirely mad or alone in thinking things can change for the better. Reclaim The Streets and The Anti Roads Movement all provided evidence that we don't have to put up and shut up. Clawing back space from business and partying in it; what a simple and brilliant idea. What a move away from old style leftism with its emphasis on political parties, lobbying, puritanism and sectarianism. SchNEWS is a regular reminder that being political doesn't mean you're the social equivalent of the loony at the bus stop. There are a lot of people out there trying to have lives which aren't dictated by capitalism and SchNEWS lets us know about them. With everything from Welfare To Work to Channel 5 trying to pummel and bore us into submission, we need as many SchNEWS stories as we can get.

Between the obvious mass rebellions, we can still see

what's simmering through news-sheets like SchNEWS. Choosing not to be an activist shouldn't disqualify us from getting news and feeling connected to a movement. Knowing that there are alternatives to Blair's dream of a nation of accountants or becoming a smack addict, can sometimes stop us from ending up only wearing one shoe and speaking in tongues. If the eighties taught us anything - besides Kajagoogoo songs and don't bother searching for a G spot - it's that mono culture isn't the way to go. It leads to lifestylism rather than revolution.

"SchNEWS is a regular reminder that being political doesn't mean you're the social equivalent of the loony at the bus stop."

Activists need links with diverse groups, without them single-issue-siege-mentality sets in. SchNEWS's doesn't have a party line so it doesn't waste column inches pushing dogma or squabbling with every madman with a computer. Sectarian arguments

make great comedy routines but they're not big and they're not clever. SchNEWS brings people together. Making alliances, bouncing ideas back and forth, getting excited and developing a vision of what is possible as opposed to what we've got now, SchNEWS is helping to facilitate that and it's what will make the next explosion of creativity even more spectacular than the last.

"The society that abolishes every adventure makes its own abolition the only possible adventure."

Here's what yer getting for yer money...

- SchNEWS 151: Police Enter Dead Woman's Bottom
SchNEWS 152: Respect To The Liverpool Dock Workers
SchNEWS 153/154: It's War!...On The Killer Corporations
A Survival Guide: Free Parties
A Survival Guide: How To Campaign
SchNEWS 155: Iraq Attack
Le SchNEWS 156: United Colours Of Global Action
A Survival Guide: How To Do Company Research
SchNEWS 157/158: Cook In With The Butcher
New Deal Fact Sheet
SchNEWS 159: Told You So!!
Surveillance Watch
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Castors, Cops And Chaos! Resistance To Nuclear Waste Transport In Germany
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A Survival Guide: How To Squat
A Survival Guide: How To Set Up A Co-Op
SchNEWS 165/166: One Year's Hard Labour
SchNEWS 167: " I Get £89,000 A Year ... I'm Worth It, You're Not"
A Survival Guide: Subvertisement
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A Gardener's Guide For Survival In The Modern World
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SchNEWS 191: The Chips Are Down
SchNEWS 192: "I'm Devastated"
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SchNEWS 196: Xmas Blow Up Job
A Survival Guide: Networking Initiatives
SchNEWS 197: Forever Blowing Bubbles
SchNEWS 198: Cleaned Out!
SchNEWS 199: Skooool's Out For Ever
SchNEWS 200: Snapshots Of Global Resistance
A Suicidal Guide: D.I.Y. Tunnelling
SchNEWS Index
And Finally
Emergency Section Six
Plus! The Definitive 16 page...
SchNEWS contacts listing

This new style interactive contents page results from us not getting it together to put page numbers in the book. See the relevant SchNEWS number to work out where things are.

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! THE WORLD IS UNDER ATTACK!

SchNEWS

SchNEWS

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Issue 151

23rd January 1998

Free/Donation

POLICE ENTER DEAD WOMAN'S BOTTOM

"This area of the East Mendips is the centre of Somerset's major quarrying industry. Virtually one-fifth of the national requirements are met from Somerset."

Somerset County Council

As SchNEWS went to press, a game of cat and mouse between protesters, bailiffs and the police is taking place at **Dead Woman's Bottom** near Nunney, Frome.

The five protest camps are being illegally evicted by the Under Sheriff of Somerset and his merry men who moved in early Tuesday morning. The protesters are trying to stop the proposed Bull's Green Link Road being built. Although there are only 30 to 40 people on site they are proving impossible to evict effectively.

The authorities are having real problems evicting because some of the camps are on private land, and local landowners who are opposed to the road are refusing to support the powers that be. One told SchNEWS: *"There are vans and vans and vans of riot cops but the Section 69 (a formal warning from a senior cop to leave the land) that they're handing out is basically a get-out-of-jail-free card"*

Despite the fact that there were children on site, no prior warning was given of the eviction. One woman was dragged off and her kids were left alone screaming, while a doctor was assaulted by bailiffs on his own land.

INVISIBLE PIXIES

As fast as the bolts for the perimeter fence are set in concrete, they are being mysteriously ripped out by invisible pixies... *"This protest will last for months. We are conducting a guerrilla warfare from the woods"*

Everybody's favourite environmentalists, Tarmac, are paying for approximately two-thirds of the £3.2M road-scheme - the rest is to be met from the tax-payer. If built it will give Tarmac easier access to the Halecombe quarry, as well as enable them to trash previously inaccessible areas of the Mendips. The road will cut through Asham Wood, one of the last two ancient

Fresh Water Cray fish [no, the fish aren't up a tree, they're in a stream clever-clogs]. But don't worry, according to the County Council's Structure Plan this part of the Mendips is a Designated Special Landscape Area! Ironically, while the Council are arguing that the road needs to be built to divert heavy lorries away from five villages, 30 % of Halecombe Quarries output is for asphalt for roads and road maintenance.

The Mendips have been the scene of the longest running ecological direct action in the country. The mining causes massive destruction to the environment, lowering and polluting the water table and producing material for large construction projects. As one activist told SchNEWS: *"It is ridiculous that the Mendips are supplying stone to the whole country. Mining should be small-scale and supplied on a regional basis"*

* **Whatley Quarry**, owned by Hanson PLC, is another site that is destroying the Mendips. It is currently looking to double in size, creating a gaping hole that will be visible from the Moon. In December 95 **Earth First!** staged a mass trespass, with 500 activists trashing the site and closing the quarry for a week. A court case of the 3 people charged with criminal damage to the railway line into Whatley is now a year old, with the prosecution dragging their feet in a clear attempt to break the spirit of those involved. A Show Trial is expected in March. **This campaign is gonna last for a while, so get yer arse down there NOW!**

DEAD WOMAN'S BOTTOM
01749 880 144

SchNEWS PRESENTS:
MARK THOMAS

★ as seen on that TV thing ★
@ Pavilion Theatre, Brighton
10th Feb '98
to launch our sexy 3rd book -
"SchNEWSannual" featuring issues
101-150 + photos/cartoons/features & 16
pages ov hot contacts. Send us £6 & sae.

GREEN BELT HOUSING: IT'S...G.B.H.!

"Labour's long term aim is... a strategy to bring empty properties into life."
New Life For Britain, Labour Party Policy Document, October 1996.

With the rump of the £22 BILLION roads programme killed off, a lot of activists have been breathing a sigh of relief - for a while. But just when we thought that our tree and meadow type-things were safe, a new threat has emerged: it seems as if the greasy palms of business have transferred their money from tarmac to bricks and mortar (Sch/48)

Hang on though, hold your horses. Even if planning permission is given for many of these schemes, the bulldozers will not be moving in 'til after the Millennium, so it isn't time to put on your harnesses and head for the trees just yet. Now is the time for establishing green belt housing (GBH) as an issue. The more that the threat of direct action is put forward, the less likely it is that John Prescott will give the go-ahead for the developments.

It seems as though this issue might well be the one which sparks off a return of mass scale direct action. Houses being created are not to meet direct social need, of which there is much, but in order to make a fast(ish) buck. Every year 100,000 of the new households created cannot afford to obtain housing at the market rate, and rarely is there any provision for social housing in local authority structure plans.

HOMES NOT DOMES

Building pricey 1-4 bedroom shoeboxes in the South East isn't exactly the way to solve the housing crisis. And the plan to tack 80,000 new houses onto the outskirts of Milton Keynes should be looked upon as a criminal act in itself.

Building houses on sparsely developed land leads to the building of more roads, increased car dependency, more shopping centres and increased infrastructure in times when the country can barely retain the services it already has.

Also, if urban housing density is increased too much in order to save the countryside, then our cities may lose their remaining vital green spaces. On SchNEWS's doorstep (well, 4 miles away) Peacehaven Valley is under threat. 90% of locals, including the mayor, support direct action to stop the GBH. **'Stopping The Sprawl'** by Friends of the Earth, £7 (or £4.50 from FoE groups), Publications Despatch, FoE, 56-58 Alma St, Luton, LU1 2PH.

LIVE THE LIFE U LOVE & LOVE THE LIFE U LIVE!

GLOBAL STREET PARTY!

"Imagine the kick of taking back your street in the knowledge that all over the world people are doing the same! A Global Street Party has the potential to be a defining moment of resistance."

Since its first appearance in London in 1995, the street party has been erupting across the world with its collision of love and rage, carnival and revolution, politics and party. From Leeds to Sydney, Amsterdam to Edinburgh, Berlin to Israel, thousands of people have banished the car, danced defiantly, transformed private space and created their own extraordinary local festivals of resistance. Now a proposal has come from London and Finland to hold a Global Street Party on:

SAT 16th MAY '98

This date coincides with the 1998 G8 meeting in Birmingham, where world leaders of the 8 largest economies meet to make decisions about the future of the planet and its peoples. They will then all fly to Geneva to celebrate the 50th anniversary of GATT. There they will sign more agreements which enable them to wrench ever more power and control away from local communities and siphon it into the self-appointed dictatorship that is the World Trade Organisation. Reclaim The Streets (RTS) want to know what you think about a Global Street Party Day? Let them know asap! (by the 5th Feb)

Reclaim The Streets PO Box 9656
London, N4 4JY Tel 0171 281 4621
Email: rts@gn.apc.org

* "So sorry!" The police have had to apologise after their bad behaviour at the Oxford street party on Nov 1st. The local Green Party agreed to withdraw their official complaint in return for the police making a public apology in a local paper. The cops have also promised to use their video tapes from the day to ID those officers who'd 'forgotten' to put their numbers on, and talk to those who had a "heavy attitude".

* On Sat 7th Feb, there's gonna be another RTS in Amsterdam. More info on (Dutch) 06-53642572, from the 5th of Feb * On Sat 9th May it's gonna be the turn of Wolverhampton. More details to follow. * Help is also needed to make a street party happen in Hertfordshire this summer - draw attention to a destructive new road scheme. Contact 01923 448131

* This week in Stockholm, Sweden, activists connected to Action for Social Ecology temporarily stopped the construction of the Southern Link road.

SPIDER'S WEB IN T' KITCHEN, BY 'ECK

Alan Bowkett, the chief executive of the parent company of Magnet Kitchens, this week had a *Cronation Street*-style pose of fucked-off sacked workers decamp in his back garden. Bowkett got a £124,000 salary increase last year - a silver-plated garlic crusher more than the £114,000 needed to meet the 3% pay rise demanded by the 300 who have been on strike for the last 18 months. "If they could do it, why not us? We decided we'd become eco-warriors," said one ex-worker. Four unions are backing their industrial action. A spokesperson for Mr Bowkett, trying not to sound like Alf Roberts, said he "would see how long they would stay."

* Watch SchNEWS's pal Mark Thomas, who invaded the Magnet AGM last week with the stickers (C4 Weds 11pm)

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SCHNEWS IN BRIEF

Congrats to Denise and GrandPappy, proud parents of baby Clay, who was conceived down the cakehole tunnel during the Manchester airport evictions and born on Christmas Eve. Was this the last eviction of 977*** Bit late but nice one to The Christmas Liberation Front. They removed a Renault (car) logo which was the crowning feature of the 45ft Christmas tree in Manchester City Centre and replaced it with a more traditional star *** E-Tea? Check out the Anarchist Teapots website at www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/EF/teapot. Don't forget their new address is 142 London Rd, Brighton. It's open 12 noon - 6 pm Sat/Sun, with films and events in the week eves. On 2nd Feb they will be showing Cheech and Chong 'up in smoke' at 7pm *** There's a picket of Barnardo's on West St, Brighton this coming Saturday 24th, 12 noon - 2 pm, in protest at their support of the Project Work for your dose plus a tenner scheme. *** Get yourself down to the Windows Art Centre, Lower Borough Walls, Bath on Saturday Feb 21st for a West Country Activist's winter gathering. There will be speakers from environmental, social justice and animal rights groups, followed by vegan lunch, workshops, Accommodation is available - contact 01225 466526 in advance

In response to the Countryside Alliance's second PRO-HUNTING rally (March 1st, Hyde Park), Movement Against the Monarchy are warning: Do not underestimate their clout. Opposition to the first rally in August was virtually non-existent. So get down to the Public Meeting at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London on Thursday 19th February @ 7.30pm to help suss out a strategy *** London Animal Action, have told us about the following anti-hunt demos: Sat 31st Jan-Downing Street-12 noon (Westminster Station, turn right); Wed 4th Feb-Houses of Parliament-12 noon; Mon 9th Feb-Labour HQ, Millbank Tower (meet Pimlico Station 12 noon). Bring banners! *** Anyone interested in going on a direct action tour to Germany in May should contact LUNE EF on 01524 381844 asap *** For a mind-bending, brain-washing list of 100's of web addresses of information on warfare sites go to: www.tao.ca/earth/damn *** A not-for-profit video project is being set up in Bristol. It's early days but ideas include community video, eco-documentaries and maybe even a video magazine. Contact 01941 170945 if you want to know more *** NICE ONE! UK's 1st prison bootcamp is to shut down.

NEWBURY ANNIVERSARY

Cops on horseback, some in helicopters as well as the usual vanloads stood guard, as 100 people held another re-union rally at Newbury two weeks ago. Perhaps the cops were a little nervous, fearing a repetition of last years anniversary, when naughty activists 'hi-jacked' a Friends of the Earth rally, invaded a site compound and smashed and burned every piece of machinery they could get their hands on, causing at least £200,000 worth of damage. This time the police had to contend with people with Christmas decorations, ribbons and thermos flasks. Later at a candlelit vigil, a man was spotted all blacked up and laying on the ground and eavesdropping on those at the vigil!

TRAINING DAY

Want to do something different for the New Year? Then why not get involved in SchNEWS. We will be having another one of our Training Days soon, so give us a ring if you're interested. 01273 685913

BEER MONSTERS

The land occupation at the threatened Bury St Edmunds Butts Water Meadow in Suffolk, has now been going strong for 4 weeks, despite gales, floods and winter weather! The Campaigners are trying to save the meadows from being trashed by a road that Greene King Brewery want built in order to save 10 minutes off their delivery journeys. The campaign has widespread support, with local people and businesses supplying most of the essentials, such as food, water, equipment, utensils and firewood - but they would like a few more people to come and stay. There is also a boycott of the company in place, with planned pickets outside pubs in the pipeline. Contact 01359 240365.

INSIDE SCHNEWS

"I am often held in total isolation in solitary confinement, having to endure prolonged periods of deprivation, psychological abuse, constant intimidation, starvation diets and physical torture. On numerous occasions I have been shackled in a body belt and thrown in strip cells having to sleep on the floor, cold and naked, for days on end."

Satpal Ram was given a life sentence eleven years ago for defending himself against a racist attacker who stabbed him with a broken glass. Despite the fact that Lord Chief Justice Lane said that Satpal should serve ten years, he has now been told he will have to serve an additional two years before his case comes up for review again. SchNEWS isn't usually in to writing to our MP's but Satpal is asking for people to write to Jack Straw to ask that he be released now. Letters of protest to Jack Straw, Home Secretary, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (but don't mention cannabis)

Letters of support: Satpal Ram E94164, Nottingham Prison, Perry Rd., Sherwood, Notts, NG5 3AG (send it recorded delivery).

DYING FOR IT

Quick, better get your bets in for the Death Sweepstake. Name those most likely to pop their clogs (throw a seven) in '98 and you could be a winner. Make your list of 10 celebrities (younger than 90) and email it to deathscore@postmodem.com quickly. If you miss the deadline you can watch all the fun at <http://www.deathscore.com/deathscore/>. There is a catch though - "you don't get credit for any death in which you, the player, have directly or indirectly participated. In other words, NO PUSHING! ANYONE."

...and finally...

A dodgy New York landlord who failed to carry out any repairs on the neglected flats she rented out has been sentenced to spend 60 nights in one of the flats herself! "She should have a taste of her own medicine" said Judge JoAnn Friia. Tenants said they had complained to Florence Nyemitei about lack of hot water, partial electricity, blocked toilets, faulty fire extinguishers and poor heating for four years but nothing was done. Nyemitei was fined \$10,000 and now has to spend four nights a week between 8pm and 6am at one of the flats.

* If you're fed up with cretinous landlords then why not set up a housing co-op. Get a copy of a Radical Routes' new book called funnily enough 'How To Set Up A Housing Co-operative', which covers the legal issues, practical step-by-step advice and heartening success stories. Write to 24 Firfield St., Bristol, BS4 3AL email krayg@cablenet.co.uk

disclaimer

SchNews warns all hunters to choose their quarry with care in case they end up in a fucking great pit. That's the (Dead Woman's) 'bottom' (punch) line. Honest.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER job sharing

SchNEWS

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Issue 152

Friday 30th Jan 1998

Free/Donation

RESPECT

TO THE LIVERPOOL DOCK WORKERS

"You have all been an inspiration to workers throughout the world, this struggle has united workers on a level unknown before"
Email tribute

Two years, three months and twenty nine days after they were sacked for refusing to cross a picket line, Liverpool dock workers voted on Monday to end their marathon dispute with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. A short statement issued on Monday reads:

"At a mass meeting the Liverpool Dockers decided to call an end to their long running dispute on a recommendation from their shop stewards. The decision to end the dispute was taken after hearing about a number of very important and significant developments which made it more or less impossible to continue. We ask the comrades to appreciate the difficulty that confronts us at this stage and understand that all the relevant details of the final settlement will follow in due course.

Thanks for all your magnificent and wonderful support."

Yours in Solidarity,
Jim Nolan
Merseyside Port Shop Stewards Committee

As SchNEWS went to press shop stewards were still meeting and we will give more details when they follow. We at SchNEWS say respect to the dockers and Women of the Waterfront. The dispute was surely one of the most imaginative and creative responses to Globalisation in trade union history. It not only crossed international boundaries, but united different struggles. The dockers fight might be over but the fight against low-pay, crap jobs and a world where people don't get shafted for trying to get a decent standard of living continues....

For a potted history of the strike, see SchNEWS 136 or check out the Labour website www.Labourmet.org.uk.

* "While Elton John makes a song and dance about a dead princess, Polygram continues to profit from the misery of the workers at M & S"

Polygram is a multinational company operating in 40 countries. It is one of the three biggest music companies in the world, controlling 20% of the worldwide market. In 1996 it made £2.965 billion sales! Elton John's 'Candle in the Wind' - the best selling song of all time - is published through PolyGram but packaged by M & S (Packaging) of Blackburn. M & S pay their workers just £3.80 an hour with no holiday or sick pay and 12 hour shifts. People employed at M & S through a local agency on a 'when needed' basis are paid even worse - just £3 per hour.

However, when one of the workers, Nigel Cook, started to argue against low pay and poor conditions and set up a union he was sacked.

So a campaign has been set up not just to re-instate Nigel, but also to highlight the crap jobs and casualisation that the dockers were also fighting against. There's gonna be a picket and protest of Polygrams Britannia Music Awards (the Brit Awards) at Docklands Arena, London on Monday 9th February letting people know that it's not all glitz and glamour behind the music industry. Ring 0171 837 1688 for details of the picket. There will be transport from Brighton - ring 01273 685913 to book a place.

Nigel Cook Campaign, PO Box 14, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 1GG 01254 679605.

* Meanwhile pool old Elton John has been told by his accountants of a looming cash-flow crisis. It seems his weekly spending bill of £280,050 is causing some concern. With five homes across the globe (with two florists making 240 flower arrangements a week for his homes) and a fleet of cars worth almost £2 million, SchNEWS wonders just how the poor old musically-challenged twat is manages.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For cleaning your bowels: Stoke Newington police nicked two party organisers and confiscated a two-kilo block of clay. The clay was meant to be consumed as a way of cleansing the colon, but the down-to-earth officers found this difficult to digest, and apparently mistook it for hash. Some people are full of shit.

* This week the government told the nation that it had spent £126,000 on refurbishing 10 and 11 Downing St since the General Election. Now what was that about us all having to tighten our belts because there's no money in the pot?

* Belgians are facing a second week-end without money as a strike of security-van guards puts their country on the verge of becoming Europe's first cashless society. The strike following the murder of three security in armed robberies, is over low pay (they earn on average £700 a month) and has left banks, shops and their customers short of cash, with virtually all cashpoint machines closed days ago. With teachers and health workers also on strike and near-daily demonstrations, the self-styled capital of Europe is in danger of sinking into chaos...

THESE PEOPLE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT

*350 Magnet Workers have been on strike now for 18 months over pay and conditions (see SchNEWS 151). If you'd like to make a donation contact the Strike Committee c/o Ian Crammond, 109 Jedburgh Drive, Darlington, DL3 9UP.

*Hillingdon Hospital Workers have been in dispute for as long as the dockers (see SchNEWS 136). Sacked after refusing to take a 20 pay cut and worse conditions, they have been abandoned by their union UNISON and are desperate for donations. Donations to HSSC c/o 27 Townsend Way, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1TG

IN NEXT WEEKS SCHNEWS

The Free Party clampdown continues - last Saturday in Stoke Newington it was the turn of five sound systems to have their rigs confiscated. So next week SchNEWS is gonna do a double-issue on what's been happening round the country in the past six months. Give us a bell if you've got any gossip.

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! THE WORLD IS UNDER ATTACK!

SchNEWS

SchNEWS

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Free/Doughnation

IT'S WAR!

... ON THE KILLER CORPORATIONS

Fifteen masked-up environmentalists spent an hour on Sunday sipping tea on the lawn at the Sussex home of the boss of one of the world's biggest multinationals.

Mark Moody-Stuart, Group Managing Director of Royal Dutch Shell, and his wife Judy, were startled to find protesters scrambling on their roof and in the front garden of 'Little Blackbrook' in Hassocks, where they unfurled ten-foot banners proclaiming "MURDERERS" and 'EARTH FIRST!'.

By the time police arrived after a quarter of an hour, Mrs Moody-Stuart was serving refreshments as members of South Downs Earth First! grilled her husband about the meeting of 1,000 killer corporations in Davos, Switzerland, which ended on Tuesday. Simultaneous actions took place around the globe in Colombia, Germany, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, South Korea, Spain and the USA. Nearly 200 organisations from 54 countries, with a combined membership of 20 million, have released the Declaration against the Globalisers of Misery.

The playwright Harold Pinter, and Ken Loach, the film director, were among the signatories denouncing "the accelerating centralisation of political and economic power and the shift to unaccountable and undemocratic institutions".

One EFLer told SchNEWS: "This is direct democracy in action. Injustice isn't anonymous, it has names and addresses. It was the only chance we had to literally bring home the reality of the destruction that giant corporations like Shell inflict upon indigenous people across the globe."

White-haired Moody-Stuart, 57, told the protesters: "I don't really want a 'MURDERERS' banner on my roof, could you take it down? I'm getting on a bit and it'd benefit us both - you could use it at the next AGM!" It marks the build up to MAI-DAY, when the corporations finally take over the world (see Sch141) with the signing of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, due in May. And this time: ITS WAR! This monster free trade treaty will give multinationals the right to sue national governments, with greater political right than any sovereign nation. It's already happened in Canada under a three-country treaty, NAFTA, where the Ethyl Corp

Of America is suing the Canadian government for \$367M for trying to ban the use of MMT, a controversial gasoline additive it produces in Ottawa. It wants "immediate compensation for imposing legislation which hinders it's operations [profit]."

While the UK press is silent, activists in Oxford set up a DIY polling booth - a people's referendum - last month to get people to vote for or against the treaty. Once they learned details 99% voted NO. The final negotiations take place in Paris between the world's richest 29 countries on February 16-20th. Oxford City Council passed a motion denouncing the treaty in a letter to the DTI. Another referendum will be held tomorrow, and the idea is being repeated in Reading and St Andrews. To set one up call Corporate Watch 01865 791391. A national action has been called for Friday 13th at the House of Commons, with an appropriate 'horror' theme. Contact the World Development Movement on 0171 737 6215.

ACTION!

On Feb 23-25th, 600 activists from People's Global Action will meet in Geneva for the first conference of a new world-wide co-ordination of resistance to the global market and the MAI. SchNEWS'll be there - why not come too? Playfair Europe!, Oviedo, Pedro Masaveu 1 10 E 33007 Oviedo, Spain +34 85241121 www.agp.org www.citizen.org e-mail the Counter Globalisation Network on CGN@avocados.globalnet.co.uk

* GLOBAL STREET PARTY, May 16th, everywhere. Contact RTS 0171 281 4621
* PEOPLE'S SUMMIT, May 15th-17th, Birmingham, against the G8 meeting 0121 632 6909
* RECLAIM EUROPE!, June 14-16th, Cardiff, against EuroSummit '98, the finale of Britain's six-month UK presidency.

SchNEWS PRESENTS:

MARK THOMAS

★ as seen on that TV thing ★

@ Pavilion Theatre, Brighton, £10

This Tues !!!

(10th) to launch our sexy 3rd book - "SchNEWSAnnual" featuring issues 101-150 + photos, cartoons, features & 16 pages of hot contacts. Send us £6 & sac.

... ON THE TELLY

"The hard reality is that there is no more reason for monitoring Iraq's poison gas supplies than those of Syria, Iran, Israel. Iraq shouldn't be working on trying to develop a nuclear bomb. But Israel already has a number of them. The US, France, Britain etc. all have large supplies. Do I trust Iraq with the bomb? No, of course not, but I don't trust the US with it either."

David McReynolds

USA War Resisters League

Doing the rounds in the USA at the moment is 'Wag the Dog', a film about an American president who tries to get out of the mess he's in by going to war. Sound familiar? In Clinton, the US have a President who apparently doesn't impale or inhale, and ignores the advances of Boris Yeltsin, but you can't really blame him for that, as he's a real ugly. Despite this, he still insists it must go to war with Iraq because they are not conforming to UN resolutions.

America have broken countless UN resolutions and are the only country in the world that is currently being investigated for the use of biological weapons (over Cuba). Maybe they are just not happy with the UNICEF figures that show that seven years after the Gulf War, over TWO MILLION Iraqis have died as a result of UN sanctions, half of them children. And once again, it will be the civilian population that will suffer the consequences, especially if any of these military targets which are hit release toxic chemicals. Could it be that a few years from now we will be witnessing Gulf War Syndrome II? And there was us thinking sequels were never any good.

Where was the outcry when Saddam used chemical weapons on the Kurds? Who speaks out when Britain continues to sell Hawk jets to the military dictatorship of Indonesia which has occupied East Timor since 1975 and killed a third of the population? Why did America stay silent when Israel invaded the Lebanon in 1978 and again in 1982 and who still occupies South Lebanon?

This 'crisis' is just another chapter in the carve up of the Middle East, against the interests of the mass of people living there, by the superpowers. Well what a surprise...

ACTION!

The National Peace Council have set up an emergency response network 0171 354 5200 npc@apc.org

* Sat Feb 14th 12 noon: National demo against the threat of war outside Ministry of Defence.

* Monday 16th Feb: direct action to shut down the air base at Northwood in Middlesex which is the HQ for the rapid-deployment force.

* There's a cheap minibus going to Faslane Peace Camp in Scotland (camped outside the home of Trident) from Brighton and London 17th Feb - 22nd. Ring Alis 0171 275 9452 to book a place.

FRIDAY 13th MAI HORROR SHOW @ HOUSE OF COMMONS

PIGS, RIGS AND

CLAMP DOWN RUNDOWN

12/4/97 Reclaim the Streets, Trafalgar Square. 3 people from Immersion charged with conspiracy to murder. Sound-system impounded and later returned. Charges were dropped.

5/5/97 Llanbered, North Wales: Police helicopters and riot vans appeared at Marchlin Quarry and seized the Babble soundsystem. The driver was arrested.

21/6/97 RTS, Bristol: Desert Storm soundsystem and truck impounded on the M4 and owners charged with conspiracy. Rig and truck returned in October and charges dropped.

13/7/97 East Sussex: police threw the CJA at a private birthday party following the Brighton Dance Parade, at which 20 soundsystems made to promise not to put on free parties that night.

16/8/97 Deiniolenin, North Wales: Police strip searched two people for drugs on their way to a free party, finding none, before setting up road blocks.

6/9/97 Norfolk: at the legally squatted Thelveton Hall, police arrived before the soundsystem to prevent a party organised by Innerfield and Planet Yes.

18/10/97 24 officers arrived at a private birthday party and found £10 worth of cannabis. They nicked two people, took the key to the house and impounded the soundsystem.

31/10/97 Norfolk: At the squatted Thelveton Hall, police crushed another Innerfield do by seizing equipment, which they later had to return. People's bedding was burnt on the front lawn by the owner of the hall.

11/97 Tottenham: 60 riot cops busted party and seized equipment belonging to the Immersion rig - later returned minus a few bits.

31/12/97 Brighton: one party was stopped before it began; another was stormed after midnight by riot police who then baton charged people outside. A third party took place in a squatted bingo hall, until police seized the rig in the morning.

31/12/97 Nottingham: Pulse, SmokeScreen and DIY tried to put on a party in a non-residential area, but police stopped it with roadblocks.

25/1/98 Hackney: noise pollution officers stopped a party in a disused Hackney warehouse, seizing sound equipment which they are now seeking to destroy.

A VIEW FROM THE DANCE FLOOR

In January 600 party-heads, clubbers, sound-system collectives and rave organisers met in Bristol's Trinity Hall. The all-day, all-night party-come-conference built a united front.

"It's the War of the Flea. Soundsystems keep growing from the grassroots. While the authorities try and contain them, they keep coming back to irritate them. One may be out of action for a time, but another will spring up in its place"

Debbie Staunton, United Systems

"Riot police have conducted a year-long war of attrition against large private and open air parties, making scores of arrests and breaking up events before they start"

The Big Issue, 3/11/1997

While New Labour were busy popping champagne corks and celebrating with a May day post-election knees up, other parties (of repetitive beats) were being actively state-crashed across fields and warehouses all over Britain.

Dancing is OK, so long as you do it without the beats. Otherwise police resources and manpower, to the tune of an inner city riot, may have to be activated.

In the week before Labours landslide victory an unsuspecting party goer received this posting on his e-mail: "The North Wales police are monitoring your activities, and we will take action to stop your event". The next day several officers grilled him over rumours of a May bank holiday rave - Having monitored the UK Dance Listings web page, and e-mail North Wales police followed the data trail right to his door.

The following May Day "election" weekend, the Tribe of TWAT, Chaos, BWPT and Babble soundsystems, trailed by a party convoy, were met by the regional Zero's Intolerance squad at Marchlin quarry in Llanbered. Deploying helicopters and riot vans, the Babble system was impounded and the party convoy forced to find sites over the border into England.

Not that English police don't leave their Criminal Justice Act (CJA) calling cards when sound-system festivities come to town. A month after the election, following an all day RTS party, Desert Storm were pursued by Bristol police to the bottom of the M4. Shielded by several hundred people, the truck had been led to the outskirts of Bristol to avoid being snatched by stationed riot vans. On setting out for the long haul up North, the vehicle was pulled and the soundsystem impounded.

While 1997 saw quarries, fields, and warehouses ransacked even private gatherings were being trashed.

The second half of 97 runs something like this, clampdown in Wales continues, with Rave Watch schemes, arrests and system seizures. Armed response units show at a Norfolk house party on Halloween. Police in Tottenham and Hackney discover the Noise Act. Riot police showed at the Innerfield Bingo Hall bash, seizing their rig, and stealing records and connection leads. Then, only a month into 98 as part of the "Transforming Hackney" programme, five sound-systems were taken under the Noise Act...

In 1993 the Southern Central Intelligence Unit began "Operation Snapshot". Following the events at Castlemorton festival, open air raves were identified as a target for police operations. "Any information, no matter how small, on New Age Travellers or the rave scene" was to be logged onto police databases for future intelligence. Working in silence, the Home Office tackled ravers on their CJA top ten social deviant list, by outlawing sound-systems and making criminals of their owners. On the party scene since, 1997 saw more legislation, manpower and resources mobilised to close down free parties than ever before.

Clubbed to Death

"If we are not careful night-life will turn out to be no different from the bland consumerist playground of chainstores and fast food outlets which punctuate the daytime economy"

Manchester Metropolitan University Institute for Popular Culture

"Management who do not co-operate in drink and drug related matters will be brought to task and this could ultimately lead to closure"

Chief Superintendent Peter Harris, Greater Manchester Police

In 1998, sniffer dogs, drug swab tests, search warrants and licensing powers are used on innocent dubbers. Many will be recorded on CCTV, inside dub venues: some made to submit to drug test. Some dubs will be closed and promoters forced to sanitise their nights with fresh police disinfectant licensing solutions.

This new clean dub solution won't effect corporate sium like the Ministry of Sound but will wash out alternative dance and DIY circuits nationwide. In Brighton, where special SWAT teams forever chase the rave to the grave, rave Chief Inspector Bailey issued a report to Environmental Services calling for

a revoke of a cafe's 24 hour licence. Bailey said Brighton police had "tollated intelligence and video footage" implicating the Sub Cafe's management with known criminals and drug dealers. The cafe had it's flyers banned for using the words "chill out", CCTV cameras spying on the venue, and officers wandering in on weekends, threatening the place with closure. However, when Bailey's bully boys rolled up in front of the licensing committee with their snooper film rushes and "intelligence" casebook; it turned out the evidence was misleading, and the Submanagement were cleared. However, the continued harrassment eventually led to their closure.



IT IS BETTER TO SUCK AND FUCK 'TIL YOUR KNEES WOBBLE...

NAUGHTY KIDS

ZAPPED ON CAMERA

When Web and Kirby, the multi-pub conglomerate, bought the Brighton beach front Zap club they decided to install hidden CCTV cameras. The spy system, all grand spanking pervy new, is in full colour - so it can pick out that pink stitching on your bright fluffy bra. Web and Kirby say it's part of the new sanitised Zap charter. Finally, a club you can take your gran along to - they even shut at a mildly respectable 3.00am nowadays.

The Zap Club joins other Brighton snooper spots - the Paradox, Event, McClusky's, Greens and Cybar, in installing CCTV systems where footage can be used on police request. This is all part of the new Orwell-Clubs initiative on behalf of Brighton police, where, to get an entertainment's venue licence, you have to spunk up (literally) on spy cameras first.

Drug Czar Hellawell has already given his thumbs up to new club bashing powers. On Newsnight he said "Alongside inner city areas, clubs were public enemy no.1." The Legg Bill (Public Entertainments and Licensing Act) when it becomes law this year, will give police the power to shut clubs on any evidence of drug use. Smoke a spliff in your local Ritzy and there goes your Saturday night sesh. Even without this Legg-up, police are getting their jollies in North Wales by strip searching students on route to Bangor University. In Manchester police are launching Club Watch schemes all over town, with plans to make CCTV a licensing condition. Elsewhere, Hackney council have set up a 24 hour weekend anti-rave hotline, which puts winging locals through to Noise Pollution Officers. On 25th January a tip-off led to five sound-systems being impounded in Stoke Newington.

*Problems with red faced loony ravers winging about your party next door. Hav' a word with Hackney Noise Pollution Officers on - 0181 9857711

*Anyone interested in seeing their cleavage or sweat spots should phone the Zap on 01273 202407

*Information on the Drug Czars plans and Home Office legislation call - 0171 2734000

Most of the dance music press appear to be either drowning in records or too off their cake to notice the repetitive beatz genocide taking place in clubs, disused Bingo Halls, empty quarries, fields, squatted mansions and private homes around the country. While the authorities continue to snatch and destroy sound-systems, sap the life and creativity out of clubs, and criminalise those on the dance pulse - music journalism is censoring the real issues under a blanket of glitzy club ads, DJ cult worship and sequinned wonder bra's. In just one copy of a well known double-barrelled titled dance mag SchNews found evidence of 90 pages of ads, 41 pages on club related stuff, 1,349 cleavages, and 3 pages on drug, underground and general news bit. Sorted!

DANCING TO WHOSE TUNE?

At one and a half grand per hour to keep going, police helicopters are expensive pieces of kit, to be used only for serious anti-crime operations. Some bewilderment then, was felt by an ecstatic crowd of party-goers raising appreciative arms up to the scintillating spotlight shon from the helicopter hovering above. While club lighting is usually expensive in itself, those at this party at a derelict farmhouse near Peterborough last summer, were treated for more than an hour to a dazzling aerial light display courtesy of the old bill. And though that party was not actually busted, the incident gives cause to ask again questions passing over the lips of party-goers across the country: why the hell are police channelling so much of their resources into checking people's attempts to celebrate together? What is it that seems to make some coppers almost come with excitement at the prospect of a clamp-down?

Free parties are not new, by any stretch of the imagination; the same openness between people manifest by random chats and hugs at parties today was experienced by those at popular festivals down the ages. Pretty much the opposite of being on the tube in London, where passengers are almost always silent and avoid eye contact, gripped by the alienation that is the everyday reality for most of us. Can't the authorities get their heads around the sense of ownership felt by people at free events, created by those within the dance community simply for the love of the party? How much more real is that experience than that of commercial clubs, where the will to dance is enclosed and removed from everyday life, then sold back to us for the price of a ticket? Perhaps though, that is precisely what those in power can get their head around. With the growth of the free party scene, people spent more time away from commercial 'entertainment' venues, getting their drugs of choice from the black market instead of from a bar. We empowered ourselves to put on our own events and discovered that they made those offered by the world of commerce seem *lezring*. No wonder a backlash, then: free parties undermine some people's pursuit of profit, and for a while threatened to execute the judgement that contemporary leisure was pronouncing against itself.

What is it that's so empowering about beats? When dance music tears through our apathy with 150 bpm thrown out across a crowd, we begin to live more intensely, as anyone who's felt it will tell you: music unites, and inspires people to let themselves go. To say that that should only take place within the walls of licensed clubs is to say that people should only be able so freely to express themselves within the limits imposed by corporate and other authorities whose interest in dancing is merely to fleece those of us who love it. For them, the walls and time limits of clubs exist to contain our creative desire for self-expression, making that desire separate from ourselves and lives, something that can only be

bought into, instead of being collectively realised. Those walls trace the same lines of enclosure as those marked out by the walls of art galleries, which keep 'art' as something removed from everyday life, to be exclusively controlled by a few. At the Reclaim the Streets party last April, the Immersion rig gave it some on the doorstep of the National Gallery, starkly contrasting that bastion of high culture with something joyously participative, embracing of all the people there. It's no coincidence that Reclaim the Streets parties when they began took the soundsystem as their central part, bringing to the everyday public space of the streets this instrument of a free culture whose public, inclusive celebration had elsewhere been the target of so much repression.

But it's not simply about being anti-club; many dub nights are wicked, put on for fair prices by people with attitudes as good as the sound folks they attract. The issue is one of control: loads of us like to go out and dance a lot. So on who's terms do we do this? Undoubtedly the reason the police and general authorities want to herd us all into clubs is because that is the arena in which they can best control what we do. The crux of it all is this: that dance culture, at its best, offers people a glimpse, immediate experience of a way of being together vastly different from the reality of most people's lives, where the spectre of money continually haunts the space between us. What would it be like if people hugged and communicated so freely on the tube? These different ways of relating to one another are both a cause and an effect of the concrete realities with which they are bound up. With most of our most basic resources - land, information, the space around us - annexed by a minority social class, the rest of us look past each other in our efforts to compete for a bigger slice of the cake. Of course we feel alienated from one another - all that we share is our lack of control. Whether or not we're aware of it, each time we put on a free party we take back a space to make our own, and declare autonomy from the market system.

Party-goers everywhere should have no illusions about why their scene is being so heavily targeted by those in power. So how much does your culture mean to you? Across the country, in the various invisible territories of abandoned halls and darkened fields, beautiful free events are being suppressed by those with one hand pointing to the guarded club door, and the other gripping a side-handled baton. But people's will to dance is as relentless as their determination to think and organise for themselves. We have scarcely begun to make them understand that we do not intend to play the game.

"I don't understand why half the world's still crying, when the other half of the world's still crying too, man, and can't get it together" - Janis Joplin (as sampled by Stay Up Forever Records)



KEEP BRITAIN
TECHNO

... THAN TO SQUANDER YOUR YOUTH ON REFORMIST POLITICS

RADSTOCK RAILSTOCK

Having left a 10 mile strip of railtrack disused for 23 years, British Rail are now in the process of selling it to Bath and East Somerset Council who want to build homes, factories etc. Local campaigners and residents are opposed to the loss of this important urban wildlife sanctuary and safe passage for pedestrians avoiding the bumper to bumper Frome Rd. According to activists the land used to belong to the Coal Board whose disused land is meant to revert to common land after 20 years. As the council are unable to prove ownership their eviction will be illegal, but they have already started preparing for war and trashed an activists caravan. It can be resisted *if you get yer arse down there*. Ring 01761 432273 for directions.

COOLTAN RE-SQUATTED

London based itinerants Footrip have taken back the Cooltan in Brixton - the old community centre that was brought by the Voice newspaper but left to rot for the past year. A Valentine's Day Party is being planned (372 Coldharbour Lane, 14th Feb. of course, 10pm) The building is proposed to become a luxury 196 bedroom hotel - just what Brixton needs.

KICK McCRAP OUT OF FOOTIE

You've heard of the Kick Racism Out of Football campaign - but what about the one to kick McDonalds out of football? A Wycombe Wanderers supporter was none too happy about the appearance of Ronald McDonald before his teams game commenting "We need to protect our local children from such corporate exploitation" He wrote to the Football League, drawing attention to the the ruling of the judge in the McLibel trial. This stated that McDonald's advertising and marketing strategies "exploit children" with Ronald used as a salesman, masquerading as a clown". What a surprise - Steve Sutherland, Marketing Executive of the League replied "unfortunately they are a major corporate supporter of professional football in this country and will feature heavily in 1998 World Cup Promotions". So tough basically.

* A CD-ROM has been released containing all 20,000 pages on McSpotlight website. For a copy send a donation to McLibel Support Campaign, 5 Caledonia Rd, London, N1 9DX Tel 0171 713 1269 <http://www.McSpotlight.org/>

A-MAIZING

Genetically Modified (GM) food stuffs have been having a hard time of it lately. Which is a shame. At the Broomfield Agricultural College in Debry mutant apple trees got the chop, while in France, renowned for its level headed protesting, 3 people have been on trial all week after trashing some mutant maize. People from Confederation Paysanne (the second biggest farmers union in France), entered a storage plant and mixed up the mad-stuff with 25 tonnes of non-mad maize. Estimated damage \$1 million dollars! In Ireland, Monsanto (the agro-chemical giant who gave us the screwy soyabean) are trying to get permission to test on 10 different sites. They want to keep the farmers details secret after a field of sugarbeet got a good kicking last year. Meanwhile, other speedy looms in white coats have managed to engineer mice so that they produce male sperm. Eek eek!

*Genetix Update newsletter donations + SAE c/o PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY. www.enviroink.org/orgs/shag/action

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tel/fax (01273) 685913 e-mail: schnews@brighton.co.uk e-SchNEWS: <http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/> happy birthday! coby - have a website on us

SchNEWS in brief

Spotted in the small ads of Peace News. "Ploughshares activist, recovering from post-ploughshares blues, seeks **revolutionary romantic** or **romantic revolutionary** for mutual disarmament. *Please endorse mug-shit and criminal record* *** Looking for an alternative Easter? Bristol Earth First! are putting on **Love and Rockets** over the Easter weekend. Friday 10th April will see workshops on 'the social city'. Meet at Bus Station Car Park @ midday. Saturday, and its an early start for a bit of a direct-action-surprise. More info contact Box 10, Greenleaf, 82 Colston St., Bristol, BS1 5BB *** Fascists got more than they bargined for when they tried to hold a meeting in Dublin last week. The group, who are devoted to preventing refugees from finding sanctuary in Ireland, didn't bargain for Anti Fascist Action who made sure the meeting degenerated into a farcical shouting match, followed by **stink bombs!** *** It's a bit early yet, but pencil 9-16th April in your diaries for the **International Animal Rights Gathering**, Holland. The event will include presentations, practical workshops, vegan food, demos and a benefit concert and has been organised to promote networking and cooperation between individuals, local and international groups. Call 01424 430503 for info. *** Talking of animal rights, there's a demo outside Shamrock Farm (the nice people who supply monkeys for vivisection) next Wednesday 11th Feb 2.30 pm Meet by the recycling bins on the Level for a lift. *** A quick reminder to get down to the Windows Art Centre, Lower Borough Walls, Bath on Saturday Feb 21st for **West Country Activist's Winter Gathering**. There will be speakers from environmental, social justice and animal rights groups, followed by vegan lunch, workshops, beer, music and jamming. Accommodation is available - contact 01225 466526 in advance *** **May Day** 1 Bradford's 1 in 12 Club have organised a week of events from 1st-4th including a four day conference for all those pissed off with capitalism and its impact. It promises to be 'different from anything you've ever been to before'. To get involved call 0117 907 3667. *** Alternatively, Portsmouth crew want bods to get active in their towns May Day events, and need: stalls, speakers, poets, bands, DJs, audio/visual equip, banners. Write to Portsmouth May Day Collective, Box M, 167 Fawcett Road, Southsea, Hants. PO4 0DH *** There will be a day of action at the site of the M66 Motorway (Manchester Orbital Ring Road) on February 20th. Meeting at the **Daisy Nook** Visitors Centre at 11pm. Contact Barry and Cath Jones on 0161-344-0225 or E-Mail Activist3@yahoo.com *** Work on the **Maheshwa Dam** in India had to be stopped after massive protests of locals when thousands occupied the site since January 11 and went on hunger strike. (see SchNews 150) The government has ordered a review.

SCHNEWS TRAINING DAY

Learn how to write, stuff envelopes, and Desk Top Publish SchNEWS at our next Training Day on Wednesday 18th February 12 noon onwards.

There will no SchNEWS next week cos not only are we really busy, but we knackered and we need more people to get involved! So book your places now. 01273 685913

GANDALF UPDATE

An effigy of Judge Selwood, the man who sentenced three editors of Green Anarchist (GA) to jail recently, was burnt outside Portsmouth Crown Court on Monday. The judge was setting a court date for two more people involved in the so-called Gandalf trial, where editors of Green Anarchist and the Animal Liberation Front magazines are on trial *just* for reporting about direct action. 3 editors of GA are now in prison for the next three years, while GA editor Paul Rogers and ALF press officer Robin Webb begin trial at the end of April.

The jailing of the three has sent shock waves through the underground press. However, an escalating campaign of support has emerged with everyone from the Index on Censorship (who have printed the 'offending articles' on their web site - www.oneworld.org/index_oc) to the National Union of Journalists giving support.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

* Sign the 'Solidarity Pledge' (copies from London Gandalf Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP)

* Write letters of support to the prisoners
* Support the nationwide 'Liberation Tour' (for dates or offers to set one up in your area contact Gandalf Defendants Campaign, PO Box 66, Stevenage, SG1 2TR)

* Carry on reporting about *and taking direct action*

Prisoner address's: **Steve Booth** [CK4323], HMP Lancaster Castle, Lancaster LA1 1YL. **Saxon Wood** [CK4322] and **Noel Molland** [CK4321], HMP Guys Marsh, Shaftsbury, Dorset SP7 0AH

Next London Gandalf Support Campaign is on Wednesday 25th February @ 7pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 (Holborn Tube)

Check out SchNEWS website for more comprehensive coverage

ROAD WARS...again

If you want to visit the camp against the Relief Road, it's at Greenwood, on the A38 Birmingham between Bassetts Pole and Weeford Junction, next to the ARC gravel works. Get the 110 bus from Corporation St. in Birmingham city centre to Bassetts Pole then walk 1.5 miles north along the A38 to the ARC gravel works on the left. Info: 0797 0301978

There's a **Critical Mass** in Birmingham. Rave against the Birmingham Relief [sic] Road, Saturday 14 March 12 noon Chamberlain Sq.

* If you in the Birmingham area on Saturday 21st February you might like to pop over to the **Horse and Hound Ball**, Metropole Hotel, NEC, Brum at 6.30 pm...just a thought.

...and finally...

Remember the football match between Class War and some Buddhists that ended in a big punch-up? Well how about the "Cup of Peace" volleyball final in Kabul, between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Afghan Red Crescent Society. The Red Cross won the match, but the Crescent Society supporters were not amused, and invaded the pitch throwing sticks and chairs.

disclaimer OK, so it's £10 to see Mark Thomas but we are skint, and have been dishing out free info for over 3 years and putting on cheap events for just as long. pleazee, stop yer moanin', we need to pay off our debts and buy some new gear. Honest. (OK we're all off to Spain on Wednesday)

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

FREE PARTIES

How to have a free party!

Round up the crew, blag a rig and a van, find a venue, ring your mates and tell them where and when, score, set-up the rig at the venue, switch it on and Bob's your father's brother.

Most Important Things:

- # Nice People in Safety
- # Top Sounds & Visuals
- # Interesting Venue
- # Drugs
- # No Grief

The best thing about putting on a free party is that all your friends are there. Word of mouth is usually the best way, and you'll only get friends and friends of friends etc. Advertising in other ways may attract unwanted 'guests'. To help each and every one of your crowd correctly to experience the 'dance energy rush' in an environment of relative comfort and safety here's a few tips:

Always check squatted venues at least a day or two before the party for:

Safe floors, ceilings walls, broken glass, electricity etc. (we found misguided revellers using a hanging live power outlet as a swing!), running water, flushing toilets and sufficient fire exits.

Essential safety kit:

- At least one CO2 (black) fire extinguisher.
 - Trained first-aider with a decent first aid kit.
 - Mobile phone.
 - A 12 volt Halogen floodlight is useful for setting up (you can run it off a car battery).
 - A 240 volt floodlight (or more) in case there are dangerous dark areas.
 - Torches.
- It's all dull, and some of it's expensive, but there's nothing that kills a party more effectively than someone dying in blood-soaked agony on the dance-floor.

If you can't think of any good music to play - let someone else do it. If, after announcing your intention to organise the party in the pub on Tuesday night you aren't bombarded by endless DJ's, all of whom who will guarantee to 'rock it'

with their 'fuckin' mental' collection of 'white labels', then, and only then, resort to "Now that's what I call Absolutely the most 'avin it, Hardcore Industrial Ultimate Rave Dance Anthem Classics in the pan-dimensional multiverse before and since the Big-Bang" from K-Tel.

Your sound-system should have three important qualities - bass, midrange and treble. Many have only two or even one of these, but all three will seriously enhance your listening pleasure. Alternatively, soak your ears in Ketamine and Brew and lie face down in the scoop bin which was all you could afford with your last Housing Benefit cheque and forget about the irrelevant higher frequencies.

A good choice of venue will greatly enhance everyone's fun. Beautiful countryside makes a cheap and effective backdrop. A sunrise is infinitely less expensive than a laser and a squillion times brighter. Indoors, everyone will be happier if there's somewhere reasonably comfortable and quieter to sit down.

Drugs of all sorts may be available at your party, and will have an affect on the atmosphere. If you're planning to sell alcohol, remember the penalties can be severe and the police may use this to get you if they can't use party related laws. If you're bringing the soundsystem, you'll be the first to be searched for illegal drugs. A good way round the sale of alcohol problem is to buy it in bulk, which everyone can 'chip in' for in advance (e.g. from France) and have a list of people who 'chipped in' ready to show the police if necessary. If you find that there are dealers at your party are selling drugs, no-one will thank you if they get sold horse tranquilliser as ecstasy. Take some ecstasy testing kits if you can, for the safety of those who will take it, but don't carry any illegal drugs with them (obvious really!)

Avoiding grief is the biggest challenge faced by anyone putting on a free party in Britain today. No matter how careful the organisers are to be safe and conscientious, some people just can't handle seeing other people having a good time - especially if they're not invited! Outdoor and indoor events



pic by Dic.

Planet Yes, Turbo Unit, Innerfield
at Foire Extraordinaire, South France



pic by Dic.

Innerfield Soundsystem,
Free party at Shoreham, Brighton.



pic by Ali.

Innerfield Soundsystem,
Sunday at Selar, South Wales.

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FREE PARTIES

face grief from the police (Criminal Justice Act, Public Licensing Laws), angry neighbours, uninvited guests and the weather.

The ideal location is one where no-one can see the party or hear the music other than those attending. Sound travels a long way outside, partying in quarries and deep valleys can be very effective at limiting the range of noise disturbance, whereas trees reduce the volume much less. As a rule of thumb, if you can see a building from the soundsystem then they can hear the music. The amount of noise which constitutes a disturbance has frequently been debated. Some moaning minnies will strain to hear a faintly audible whisper of a kick-drum, with the windows open and consider this an infringement of their rights as a miserable, party-pooing, tory (probably) land-owning killjoy. On the other hand pick your site badly and you could keep hundreds of people awake all night needlessly.

The C.J.A. allows the police to insist you leave the site if they *think* that the party may cause *serious distress* to local people. Serious distress has not been defined in law and presumably if the police eject a party from a site which would not have caused a problem, they could be taken to court over it, but as yet no-one known to us has had the time or the means to try this. To order you to leave the land, the order has to come from a superintendent or higher ranking officer, although this often comes as a signed standard letter. In one case, the soundsystem refused to leave land when issued with this order in East Sussex and in the morning the police confiscated some of the system. If you successfully argued that no distress was or could be caused by the party you might get compensation for the loss of the rig and get it back, but this argument has never been tested in law (to our knowledge). Under the C.J.A., a confiscated soundsystem can be destroyed if the owners are convicted, and the maximum sentence for organising a 'rave' includes five years in prison. These laws apply whether or not you have permission from the landowner of the party site, although the police are less likely to prevent parties on land with permission. Outdoor events are not subject to the same licensing laws as indoor ones, although a marquee might be construed as

'indoors' for such purposes.

Wherever you party, cleaning up afterwards is essential. Why should we fuck up the countryside for a party - after all industry and roads do it much more effectively. Cleaning up keeps on the good side of locals and helps perpetuate the outdoor free party vibe - man!

Partying indoors throws up a whole new legal minefield. Theoretically any gathering in a building with music and dancing to which the public have access is subject to an entertainment licence under the neatly titled Local Government Act (1982) Miscellaneous Provisions. Prosecution under this act is at the discretion of the Local Authority (usually) and in most cases this is too expensive and time consuming for them to undertake. However if pushed this will happen and it's very hard to fight. The only defence is to show that all reasonable precautions were taken to ensure that no uninvited guests had access to the building. In the eyes of the average magistrate, this means having 6 or more bruisers in bomber jackets with headset walkie-talkies strutting around as though they just stepped off the set of *Bladerunner*. Taking money on the door also implies a licence is required. To the best of our knowledge, no case of this kind which has gone to court has ever been won by the defendant. The maximum penalty is £20,000 and/or six months, although a fine of a few hundred is more usual. Once again ownership of the building makes things easier although this law still applies. If you can prove that all the people at the party were invited - you do not have to have a licence.

The other angles the police may use to try and stop the event are breaking and entering and abstraction(?!). If you're cracking a squat for a party, do it at least one or two nights before the event, so if you get caught you're only looking for somewhere to live and not standing with a jemmy in one hand and a record box in the other. A discrete window can be left open for access on the night of the event. Most buildings are accessible without causing damage, if you break a lock or something getting in, this is enough to get you nicked for criminal damage - so replace it. Locks don't cost much and might be useful on the night. Once you're in get the tools (jemmy, bolt-croppers, screwdrivers etc.) off the

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

FREE PARTIES

premises immediately.

Abstraction is stealing electricity. Check the state of the power *before* the night of the party. If there is power in the building go to your local electricity board shop and pay for some (£20 will do) in advance. They will normally accept the advance payment, and rarely inform anyone. If the police suggest that you're stealing the lecky, you can produce a receipt! If possible have a generator on hand as a back-up.

Often, the key to success seems to be not to give the police a reason to stop the event. A long-term empty industrial building, a few streets away from any residential areas can be partied all night without any authorities being aware. If you are careful about not inflicting too much damage, clean up afterwards and put your own locks on you might be able to party it again in a month. However, too many parties in the same building brings other problems and soon the crowd will expand to include small time local mafia and other thugs who have their own unpleasant profit motives for attending. A good phone network of friends and moving the venue each time will keep numbers manageable and idiots away.

In general when dealing with the police, environmental health and any other officials or general busybodies and members of the public, remain calm and courteous at all times. This is a disarming tactic which will render even the most puffing, ruddy faced retired ex-colonel's barking complaint ineffective. Listen to what the police say, reason intelligently and don't believe a word of it without consideration. They will lie to you, steal your genny from behind your back and to hell with the law if it serves their purpose.

If you think your event might result in a prosecution - take measures to protect yourselves against potentially biased court proceedings. Take photographs of all the safety precautions you have undertaken, and have a reasonable number of visible stewards. Don't take money on the door, clean up afterwards and take photographs of the site afterwards. If possible have a camcorder available to record the event particularly interactions with the police.

Lastly a few DO's and DON'Ts:

Partygoers:

DO hassle stressed people with head-torches and screwdrivers when the music's mysteriously stopped saying "Oi mate, can I borrow your miners helmet to skin up with."

DO poke bit's of metal into unknown boxes on the wall with coloured lights, saying "Beam me up Scotty".

DO gather round the police when they arrive, waving empty bottles and shouting "Remember the Beanfield, bastard pig wanker?"

DON'T help clear anything up at the end, but instead lie around in a pool of piss and dog turd informing the organisers that they're slaves to the system.

DO arrive at a pitch-black Welsh hillside in November with only a small nightie, high-heels and two pills (previously ingested if possible).

DO believe the police when they tell you the parties cancelled (as they never lie), and on no account bother to try to find a different way onto the site, returning 40 miles to your flat to watch telly.

DO park across the access road to the party so that ambulances can't get in.

Organisers:

DO give out printed flyers saying "Illegal Rave" in large letters a week in advance to give the police ample time to plan their operation.

DON'T pick outdoor sites with ample parking as muddy dodgems in the morning is a top laugh and modern ambulances have wings.

DON'T bother with a tarpaulin to cover the rig as it never rains in Britain.

DO put generators inside buildings as Carbon Monoxide heightens the effects of ecstasy.

DON'T bother bringing any water to the party. If someone dies of dehydration it's their own stupid fault...your honour.

Good Luck and Enjoy!

Ecstasy testing kits available from:

www.greenparty.org.uk/drugs/index.html

or 1a, Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ

for £15.00 inc. p&p



Ollie and kids at Vive Zene women's refuge, Tuzla.
Aid and Party mission to Bosnia: D.A.S.H., Planet Yes and Innerfield.

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO CAMPAIGN


OK - You've just discovered the council have given the US Airforce permission to build a missile silo in the children's sand pit at your local park and you wanna do something about it. But what—and how?.

Up until five years ago people in this country pretty much thought "Who's gonna listen to me, I'm just one person". But then 'a motley band of straggly-haired hippies' (Media description at the time) invaded the site of a new motorway at Twyford Down, they came back the next day and the next and the next...

Suddenly there was a new way to register your vote. Now, (thanks to some great media sensationalism), everybody's doing it, from road protesters and civil rights campaigners to local mothers and pensioners bouncing cars off of blocked pavements, ordinary people are discovering how to bend the government's ear.

What follows isn't a definitive guide to setting up a campaign, every campaign is different, so are the attitudes of the council/company/polluter you are going to be dealing with, even the people within a campaign will vary. This is basically a checklist of the needs common to all campaigns.

OK, so you think you're the only one who gives a damn about the sand pit - wrong. Start sounding out the people you know, friends, your own family, talk to the parents whose kids use the pit. Think about who else would have an interest, maybe the local primary school teachers? Take the phone nos. of anyone who shows an interest; even someone who doesn't seem too bothered but does say, "It shouldn't be allowed" might change their mind once they find their neighbours are doing something, tell them all you're organising a meeting, get them to tell anyone they think might be interested. It's going to help a lot at this stage if you can give them a leaflet explaining what's going on. You don't have to spend a lot of money or be a great artist. You only need to put down the title of the campaign, why it's bad, whose being bad and a contact no. you can type it or just hand write it. Most cornershops do photocopying for about



NOOP

Nukes Off Our Pit

The council is going to let the US airforce build a missile silo on our sandpit

We say NO

If you would like to know more about the campaign or come to a public meeting

Phone 666999

5p and you should be able to get up to 12 flyers out of an A4 sheet of paper.

You might only have got ten people's nos. but by the time you do hold the meeting they might have told another 20 people or 30 or 50...

Next step is to find a place to talk to these thousands of angry mums and before you hold your meeting to do some research, most pubs have function rooms upstairs and most will let you use it for free; if a pub isn't suitable for your campaign there's school halls, church halls, even your front room. A well known and easy to get to venue is the best but even if your first place isn't quite right there's always somewhere else for your next meeting...Get in touch with other groups who know about the subject you are tackling. OK, perhaps a sandpit isn't a good example at this point, there probably aren't that many experts on sand around, but say your campaign was about an incinerator, find an expert on pollution from incinerators or global warming who will come and talk at the meeting. A lot of the groups in the contacts list at the back of this book can provide you with a speaker or if they don't they 'know a man that can'. Don't forget your local Green Party or Friends of the Earth; the library have lists of all sorts of groups as well.

Make sure it is well publicised. At this stage unless your distant auntie's left you a bit of dosh you can't do much more than put up say 10 A4 posters around the area. Contact the local radio and newspaper, they might come to

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how sexy you can make it sound—generally local news is quite boring and journos are always looking for something juicy. This is where your skills at bullshitting come in handy, you need to talk the meeting up big time, tell them how angry people feel, without actually saying so give them the impression that people are mobilising and could even be prepared to do something drastic if the council won't listen, tell them you have the best expert on the subject coming, blah, blah, blah.

Right, so now you've got 20,000 supporters, you've hired the opera house, you've got the national press to actually turn up and you got the world's leading expert to speak. What do you do now? Start by introducing yourself and how you feel, why you've called this meeting, explain how by all getting together you can begin to do something then let your expert do his/her stuff, it's good if this can be a mixture of facts and a question and answer session. If anyone's still awake when it's over now's the time to start organising! You need to get people to take on roles within the campaign. Find out who has any experience at organising/facilitating meetings, who can take the minutes and type them up, who would make a good treasurer, who's good at artwork, publicity, letterwriting, talking to people, who's prepared to hand out leaflets etc. It's important to try to involve everyone at this first meeting in some way realistically as there probably won't be more than 10 or 20 people. Ask for a whipround for posters, photocopy's of the minutes. At the end of the evening announce the date of the next meeting.

The following advice came from GEN an anti genetic food campaign but by changing the subject to your own, the rules are the same.

Try to make the group (and venue) as accessible to a wide range of people—experience has shown that issues draw individuals together from all sorts of backgrounds and social perspectives. Empowerment and involvement can mean writing letters for one person and pulling up modified plants to another. Everyone has a

limit to what they are able or prepared to put into a campaign. We need to respect all these roles and levels of involvement.

Keep to the same meeting place, day of the week and time, this helps to keep the focus and offers a stable place for new people who come along.

- Find allies in your area (e.g. health food shops and restaurants, organic gardeners, already active Friends of the Earth or local Greenpeace groups, etc.) Ask them if they want to get involved maybe with distributing leaflets and petitions. They might also be prepared to give a donation or put out a jar for the campaign costs. Larger organisations may be able to offer work space or the use of a computer.

- Get those already involved to write letters to the local papers, this helps to stimulate debate within the community. Some papers have run features on GE on the back of the quantity of related mail they receive (so if they didn't turn up to your early meetings they might now). Be careful with the media. Use them skillfully—make contacts with sympathetic journalists and trust your instincts. (GEN have available an 'activist guide to the media' written by George Monbiot—it is very honest and helpful. £1 for photocopying and postage—if you can afford it.)

- Involve the local council and MP (even if they are your opponents there might still be councillors who are on your side). Encourage them to do all they can (e.g. pushing for GE free school meals and no planting of GE crops or trials on council land. The MP can connect with other MPs who are exerting political pressure).

- Make use of what is in your local area and think about organising around this, is there a deliberate release site or a food factory for example.

- Have a regular stall in your local market or high street—this is a useful access point for new people that might want to participate in the campaign. It is also a means of information sharing. It can be valuable to have a good sup-

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO CAMPAIGN

ply of articles to give to people. Information can empower people to fight the lies being churned out by the other side.

- Help the campaign to stay alive and interesting, even the fastest moving campaign can flag. People are unlikely to get bored if the group stays active and keeps doing new things. People can also get tired (see 'burnout' in campaign article) or plain fed up with writing endless letters so be creative and be inventive. One vegetarian group set up a stall outside McDonalds and gave out free veggie burgers and an anti- superstore campaign dressed up as giant vegetables, turning their leafletting into a bit of street theatre. Have some fun and be nice to the public, make 'em smile and they're more likely to read your leaflet than throw it into the nearest bin. Notice when problems or personality clashes arise within the group, if people are getting frustrated, try to find out what is going on and all work together to sort it out asap!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

For more information contact Genetics at
<genetics@gn.apc.org>

Subscribe to 'Splice' or 'Genetics News' as both these publications will keep you abreast of the latest developments in the GE world. They go into more depth than Genetix Update—and the print is bigger!

- You can receive multiple copies of Genetix Update for your group. You will automatically get 10 copies if you are on the contact sheet. Let us know asap if you want more or less though we encourage people to photocopy their own where possible.

- Make the most of GEN—let us know what you are up to and we probably know of other people in your area who want to get active and we can then let them know that you exist!

And before you know it you'll have an up and running grand group! Good Luck.

WAR:



YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER CONSCIOUSLY OBJECTING

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Free/Donation

IRAQ ATTACK

"The best way to hurt him is his core infrastructure. We're not going to leave that alone as we have in the past. But there will be far fewer bombing runs than during the last Gulf war - probably less than 400 a day" - Senior US officer

The US and Britain are preparing to let loose their war machine on the people of Iraq in order to maintain their dominant position in the Middle East. Having crippled Iraq with seven years of sanctions that are estimated to have killed two million Iraqis, half of them children, Clinton and Blair are concerned that world opinion is increasingly calling for sanctions against Iraq to be lifted, allowing Iraqi oil to compete with US and British controlled oil. The war being prepared for - and the horrors it will hold for the Iraqi people - will have nothing to do with standing up to an 'evil dictator'. It will all be about profits.

The excuse for going to war being fed to the public in Britain and the US is that Saddam Hussein cannot be trusted with 'weapons of mass destruction'. While there is enormous doubt about whether Iraq has any such weapons there is no doubt about who does.

The United States and Britain have massive stockpiles of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The US and Britain arm, train and subsidise brutal dictatorships throughout the world. They are currently amassing a force of 30,000 troops, aircraft carriers, stealth fighters, B52 bombers, cruise missiles and much more in order to bomb Iraq, "back into the stone age", as they did in 1991. The 'smart bombs' sent to Iraq in 1991 hit 28 hospitals, 52 community centres, 676 schools and 56 mosques. 400 civilians were burned alive in a bomb shelter in Amirya. Now who was it that can't be trusted with 'weapons of mass destruction' again?

There is growing opposition throughout the world to US and British war plans. The idea that a country should be bombed into oblivion for breaching United Nations resolutions is viewed with interest by Cubans, who have seen the UN pass five resolutions in the last five years calling for the US to end its crippling embargo against Cuba only to see the US ignore them all. A clear majority of Americans oppose military action. Explaining France's opposition,

their foreign minister said, "That is not just the French position. It is the position of all Europeans apart from the British. Obviously it is also the position of the Arab world, the Russians, the Chinese." One lot of people still keen to go to war, however, are own politicians - in a vote on Tuesday less than 4% of MPs voted against the government's plans for war.

Opposition is strongest, of course, in the Middle East. Last Sunday, Palestinians in the Deheishe refugee camp took to the streets to oppose US and British war plans. Referring to continuing US support for Israel's illegal occupation of south Lebanon for the last 20 years, one of the protesters said, "The US is pulling out all the stops to make Saddam comply with UN resolutions, yet could you imagine the difference it would make if the US applied the minimum of pressure on Israel to comply with UN resolutions?"

The current attack against Iraq is the latest chapter in the long history of the carve-up of the Middle East by the superpowers. The United States, with its ally Britain, maintains its dominant position by arming countries like Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey so they can suppress popular, democratic movements in the region. From the Palestinians and Kurds denied their right to a homeland, to the Iraqi child dying for lack of medicines banned by sanctions, the peoples of the Middle East suffer poverty, displacement and war as a result of this continuing carve-up.

Before sanctions were imposed, Iraq was one of the most developed countries in the Middle East. For years, Saddam Hussein was supported by Britain and the US in order to 'contain' Iran, the threat to 'stability' at the time. Up until February 1996 British taxpayers paid £696m to arm Iraq. Things only changed when Iran became less anti-American and Saddam Hussein showed signs of independence from the US. The 1991 Gulf war took place to ensure that an autonomous, oil-rich Iraq did not emerge to challenge US and British dominance of the oil market.

Since the war, sanctions have cost

While the media would have us believe that the country backs another Gulf War, people have been demonstrating. On Valentines Day anti-war protesters encircled the Ministry of Defense in Whitehall, whilst on the following Monday, protesters blockaded Northwood Joint Deployment Force HQ.

Rapid Response: If an attack is launched by there will be demos at noon on the day, and noon every Saturday @ Downing St.

The National Peace Council have set up an emergency response network 0171 354 5200 npc@apc.org *In Brighton there's a series of meetings against the drive to war. The first one on Monday (23 Feb) 7.30pm The Cricketers Black Lion St. For details of other meetings contact the Peace Centre (01273) 620125 * Faslane Peace Camp, protesting outside the home of Trident for the past 15 years, have been given an eviction date 1st April Ring 01436 820901. * ARROW (Active Resistance to the roots of War) has been deliberately and openly breaking the sanctions by taking medical supplies directly to Iraqi hospitals. 0171 607 2302

There are more nuclear waste transports planned at Ahaus in Germany. The convoy is due to arrive between 23-26 March. The nuclear mafia hope the half-forgotten Ahaus site will attract less protest than Gorleben, scene of massive protests last year with a 20 year history of resistance. So.... Spread the news: 0031 [0] 4645 24803 (Rampenplan) or 0049 [0]2561 9617-91/-99 (Ahaus activists)

Iraq over \$90bn in lost oil revenues. Iraq currently owes Russia \$7bn and France \$4bn, money that these countries can only recoup if sanctions are lifted. An independent Iraq trading its vast oil reserves in alliance with France or Russia or any other European power would undermine US dominance of the region. This is why the US and Britain are so keen to decimate Iraq, whatever the human cost.

Last week 7,000 Turkish troops, backed by US-made Cobra attack helicopters, invaded the Kurdish part of northern Iraq killing around 20 PKK guerillas. On Monday Israeli troops evicted dozens of Bedouin families from their homes on the West Bank, where they have lived since the 50s, to make way for the expansion of a Jewish settlement. Iraqi children continue to die from sanctions and next week could be dying from missile attacks on their homes. If they do, it will be one more chapter in the superpowers' war against the people of the Middle East.

New Labour's Welfare to Workfare Roadshow is coming to town this Saturday (21st) Meet 12 noon Pig & Paradise, Queens Rd.

Chicken in the Kitchen

Alan Bowkett, chairman of the company that owns Magnet Kitchens, is suffering from some noisy neighbours. A chicken farm [un] officially opened by sacked Magnet workers next to Bowkett's £1.5 million estate is driving the poor old fat cat mad. The farm was set up to evade the secondary picketing laws, and to annoy the man who gave himself a £124,000 pay rise last year. Unfortunately, one of the feathered protesters met an untimely death on the A428 after escaping and his surviving brothers have staged a coop sit-in to mark his death. A medieval 'pageant' is also planned in the fat cat's village this Saturday, complete with a karaoke session featuring 40 years of chart songs with chicken references! The cockerel capers are the latest episode by the 350 sacked workers, who have been on strike now for eighteen months over a three-year wage freeze and deteriorating working conditions. They need your support - Don't buy a Magnet Kitchen and check out their web-site at www.gn.apc.org/magnet strikers or give 'em a call on 01325 282389.

[GO] SLOW Learners

On Wednesday 4th March, there will be an educational shut down, with possibly two million students walking out of lectures nationwide, in protest of the new tuition fees. The Government plans to introduce fees of £1,000 a year as part of the teaching and Higher Education Bill, but this money will not go back into education. Applications for further education have dropped by 20,000 since these plans were first unveiled - the equivalent to the intake of 4 Universities. If you want to support the shutdown contact your local Students Union. Locally, Northbrook College, Worthing will be holding a party in the car park at the Durrington site on the Littlehampton Rd, Worthing contact Jo or Jim on 01903-207888

*Sussex University will have picket lines, workshops in the SU and trade union speakers, a party to unite with colleges across the south. Donations on the door, all monies to a local children's Educational Charity.

3 Strikes, you're out

A claimant has been found guilty of Breach of the Peace in Edinburgh for delivering a "3 Strikes" warning letter to a dole office worker who has been consistently abusive to claimants. A demo outside the court, included 20 people wearing masks made from a photo of the said interviewer! Sentencing the claimant to 150 hours community service, the judge described the claimant as a 'Robin Hood figure' and said that he had been considering a 3 month prison sentence, as this was a "premeditated and clearly illegal attempt to undermine the operation of the Welfare Benefit System".

Edinburgh Autonomous Centre 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh, EH7 5HA

ANARCHIST DOUGHNUT

The Anarchist Teapot has moved to the old Dunkin' Doughnut, on the London Road near the Open Market.

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

tel/fax (call before faxing): (01273) 685913 e-mail: schnews@brighton.co.uk e-SchNEWS: <http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/>

Whilst your questioning everyone and everything don't forget to question yourself

Happy Pancake Day everyone

SchNEWS in brief

Greg Sams, that waggish Stonehenge Campaigner, inventor of the Vegi-burger [true] and Chaos Theory Fractal explorer has written a book called Uncommon Sense [The State is Out of Date]. Published by Chaos Works at only £6.99 a jolly good read, with chapter headings such as 'Emptying the Corridors of Power' and 'What Would an Alien Think' www.xaos.demon.co.uk ***Calling all Britonians and all you 'dahn fer the weekend-[ers]' following our piece on the Zap Club [Ish153/4] we were sent this info on the owners; Simon Kirby is a Conservative Councillor for Rottendeau and Martin Webb used to be in the Metropolitan Old Bill, those well known 'custodians' of free party parties. ***The free festival of Global Rights is holding a benefit gig at The Rocket (Halloway Road Tube N7, £8/£7) on Sat, 28th of February. The Party is called The Big Sexy Festy Part, it combines Circus, Techno, Dub and House and all proceeds go directly to the free festival of Global Rights. ***Bradford Festival 98 there will be a public planning meeting at Conway Hall Red Lion SQ London WC1 26th Feb 7.30pm ***The Land is Ours Mass Trespass 28th/ 29th March 1998 Meeting point 1pm Luton Railway Station by the taxi ranks. At 1.30 coaches will take people to the mystery site, all the usual stuff, bring tents, musical instruments, banners and food to share. Contact the office on 01865 722016 so they can book coaches ***'Disappearances' are a popular state tool for suppressing dissent and occur in dozens of countries worldwide. To join in the International Committee Against Disappearances campaign, go along to their vigil in Trafalgar Square @ 5-6.30pm this Saturday 21st Feb. Also coming up is a meeting: Political prisoners and Human Rights in Chile, provisionally @ 7.30pm, Tuesday 10th March, @ Conway Hall, London, WC1 ***The Police Review have bravely published New Orleans Police's catalogue of errors. Amongst their 1400-strong force, ten are suspended for bodyguarding major cocaine dealers, one is under investigation for 200 serial murders and one faces trial for shooting a colleague. ***Reading Roadbusters were back at the Newbury Bypass on 9 Feb. They blocked the site entrance with crap collected from the verges + heartily insulted Costain ***Check out the Big Blether on March 28-29 at Monimaie in Fife for a "DIY" weekend promising fun and frolics. Try your hand at drumming, take part in workshops, share experiences and generally indulge in some good ole blethering! For more info call Grace on (01555) 820555. ***Free Rob Cannabis was arrested on 11 Feb outside the Home office during a press conference outlining "The truth about Cannabis" info 0966 396444 ***New Norwich Newsletter 'The Butterfly' 01603 661038 a very cool banana.

ARROGA LYMINGE FOREST eviction day very close 01303 265 737/0410 536 592

RIGHT ON ARREST !!!! During a mass trespass at an airbase, a copper who stole a banner found himself under citizen's arrest. He was led to the back of a van until other police were summoned. Whilst being informed that his right to silence had been eroded by parliament, the alleged criminal exclaimed. "I wish I hadn't come out now.". He returned the banner and was released.

Witches Spell Trouble

White witches gathered at Hillgrove Farm [suppliers of cats for vivisection] and performed a 'cleansing ritual' on owner Christopher Brown by burning his effigy, "Dispel any murky black energy around and evoke the Earth Mother". "Demonstrate outside Hillgrove on 22nd February - transport from Brighton 8.45 am outside Harvest Forestry, behind Sainsburys* The campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences [animal testing] have temporarily disbanded the camps to concentrate on demos and target supporters and investors in HLS such as the Co-operative Insurance Society [yes, the Ethical Bank]. Campaign No. 0589 026 435 *A National Demo against Live Export in Dover [which handles up to 8000 sheep in a day.] is set for 20th March, 10.30am

...and finally...

A couple of SchNEWS scribes were surprised to find themselves 'special guests' of Chumbawumba at the glitzy Brit Awards last week. We'd been outside with the Revolutionary Communist Group and other trouble-makers, throwing eggs at the stretch limos and playing British bulldog with security and celebs as part of the Reinstate Nigel Cook Campaign. While the celebs were sitting at the £5,000 a table awards, packers for Polygram CD's earn as little as £3 an hour, have to stand for 12 hour shifts, with no sick or holiday pay. Nigel was forced under the Job Seekers Allowance to take the job. When he complained about the conditions and tried to organise a trade union he was sacked. Polygram in 1996 made £3 billion and paid its directors £6.2 million! As Polygram are behind the Brits, we thought we'd join the picket to let the stars know, what's really behind the glitz. The plan was if Chumba won an award, two sacked Liverpool dock workers would accept. They didn't - so SchNEWS crew headed for the stage with megaphones, while Chumba's Danbert NoBacon headed for John Prescott with a bucketful of ice. SchNEWS got spotted and thrown out the door, Mr. NoBacon was more successful and the rest, as they say, is history.

*We wonder if Mr.NoBacon knew that last week was National No Bacon Week organised, not by the Prescott fan-club, but by animal rights group Viva! and Babe - that great film about a talking pig. According to Viva! the film's sequel shows that Babe is into direct action, rescuing factory farmed piglets.

*An animal-rights activist was nicked last Friday after throwing a pie in the face of John Pepper, Chief Executive of Procter & Gamble at an awards ceremony. His company likes a bit of vivisection, so Melynda Duval from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), let fly. PETA commented "Sometimes a polite word doesn't get you anywhere." "Meanwhile, Noel Godwin renowned anarchist ringleader of the International Brigade Patisserie has been at it again. A group of 30 attacked Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates, hitting him 4 times in the face with cream pies. "We are comical terrorists and the pie is symbolic. The victim is only injured in his self-esteem."

disclaimer

Do not attempt to read SchNEWS. It is intended to be used only as an ornamental table mat and not as an organ of serious philosophical debate.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER GLOBE TROTTIN'

Le SchNEWS

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Friday 26th FEB 1998

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UNITED COLOURS OF GLOBAL ACTION

There's a woman from the Peruvian guerrilla group Tupac Amaru chatting to a Russian environmentalist. Nearby, activists from the Brazilian land squatters movement are doing some funky moves on the dance floor with a guy from the Filipino seafarers' union. Then some Brits brashly challenge a bunch of Maori indigenous people activists to a drinking contest. To where on earth have all these people come?

This is Geneva; city of Rousseau, banking, and the U. N. But alongside the city's international stature as the 'capital of capital', there exists the lesser-known reality of a place with more squatted social centres than probably any other European city. And now many of these have become venues for the first People's Global Action conference, for which grassroots activists from over half the nations of the world are trickling together; a confluence of radical currents taking place where Geneva nestles between the mountains.

Attending the gathering is like a political shot in the arm. So maybe just because half the world's radical movements are clinking beer glasses here, doesn't mean that tomorrow afternoon will see the downfall of global capitalism. But the breathtaking diversity of folks here are all awakening to each other's struggles, and sizing up their common globalised enemy with a fast sharpening sense of purpose. Beneath the flaming Spanish guitar and ethnic drumming of the evening's entertainment, it's possible to hear the tantalising sound of people's perspectives broadening.

"We were all fingers, now we're going to make a fist", enthuses Olivio, one of the organisers of the gathering. The 400 or so participants are taking forward the same process of determined international networking that was going on at the Zapatista-inspired

Encuentro ('encounter') in Spain last summer, where the idea for the People's Global Action was born. This time, the focus is clearly defined: action against the World Trade Organisation as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in May. In Geneva we are lathering up our collective forearm; the UN's institutional lackey of global capital is about to receive a global grassroots fisting.

On Wednesday in Geneva 500 people marched in carnivalesque style to the headquarters of the WTO, blocking major roads. The effervescent mixture of some of the world's most marginalised peoples came directly to the heart of the beast - the very building from whose corridors a handful of suits quietly plot the onset of world corporate domination. Activists blockaded the car exit and scaled pillars, dropping anti-free trade banners over WTO's gateway. A handful of cheeky activists sneaked into the building, eventually being chucked out after bringing up their concerns with people inside.

An inspiring few days then. Look out for actions and campaigns coming outta this one over the months to come. In the words of another of the PGA participants

"We must realise our small struggles are part of the global struggle. 1998 must be a new spring, such as that of 1848 and 1968"

Yer SchNEWS scribes felt so inspired by the experience that they're just dying to spread around some of that international energy. So we're putting together a booklet of interviews with many of the amazing people who were in Geneva, packing those diverse struggles told in their own words, into one easy-to-read volume, with plenty of subversion, and loads of pop pix n' fax.

"We are writing the constitution of a single global economy"
Renato Ruggerio, World Trade Organisation

DIARY DATES

7-8th March Zapatista Challenge Conference, Praxis Centre, Pott St., London E2 (Bethnal Green tube) 0181 682 2402***18-20th May demos against the 50th anniversary of the WTO playfair@asta.rwth-aachen.de***People's Summit May 15-17th Birmingham to get your head round Globalisation 0161 224 4846***June 14-16th Reclaim Europe! Cardiff against Eurosummit 98, the finale of Britain's six-month UK presidency Contact 115a Jerningham Rd., New Cross Gate, London SE14 5NH www.geocities.com/rainforest/5581***An impressive little booklet produced by A SEED Europe called Hot Spring '98 Copies from P O Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands, Tel. +31 20 668 2236 www.antenna.nl/aseed

Trade agreements are not exactly sexy material, but here's yer quickie SchNEWS Economics Lesson.

First there was GATT - the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, opening the doors of 'free trade' to multinationals, since renamed the World Trade Organisation. Different name, same insanity. The WTO has been a vehicle for multinationals to squeeze blood and tears from every corner of the globe. Following its 'success' NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) was rushed through in 4 years and is now rampaging through Mexico and Canada.

Now we have the MAI- the Multilateral Agreement on Investment stitched up by the 29 richest nations of the world behind closed doors. (SchNEWS 141)

If you can't get your head round all this then steer well clear of the TRIPS-

Trade Related Intellectually Property rights, which give the big boys the go ahead to patent life. The 'gene rush' has already started, with American corporations already buying up blood samples of the indigenous peoples of Ecuador! And the big boys are getting bigger....the newly merged United Bank of Switzerland earns 23 times more money than the Swiss government itself!

Fair Trade? All these agreements make the assumption that a small Indian peasant farmer is on the same level playing field as a multinational company.

UNHOLY ALLIANCE

"We are marshalling the Peasantry" The Duke of Northumberland

The 1st Countryside Rally, held last July, kicked into action the usually complacent county fat cats. Michael Foster's Wild Mammals Bill (Hunting with Dogs) is symbolic of more than the protection of our wildlife. Important as that is, it is the first battle in the war on the elusive 1% who own between 50-75% of the land we live on. (Because of evasive tax laws nobody knows the true figure). This time around however, in an attempt to gain the sympathy of us 'townies' the rich Landowners are hiding behind the very real grievances held by the rural population: 93% of villages have no railway, 71% no buses, 80% no doctor and 1 in 3 agricultural workers live in tied accommodation (homes that go with the job). Are we to believe, then, that the hunting fraternity has suddenly decided to stand up for the rights of the 'peasants'?

"With just over a week to go, we are aware of 1,891 coaches, and 23 chartered trains with block booking and extra carriages on a further 40 booked by local hunts." Janet George, Countryside Alliance.

The buying pack of an endangered species depends on London this coming Sunday (1st March). This, the second event to be organised by the Countryside Alliance claims to be able to attract some 150,000 pissed-off country folk. "It is the purpose of the Countryside Business Group (CBG) to provide the necessary financial resources to restore the balance" Hugh Van Cutsem, Chairman.

Restore the Status Quo more like. Who are the Countryside Alliance? Well, The British Fields Sports Society are easy enough, their members are the scum who like to kill things. The Countryside Movement was set up to counter animal rights campaigns. The Countryside Business Group is the most interesting. In an alliance of everything British, we find the founder is the American millionaire Eric Bettelheim, the chairman is Dutch and their press officer Janet George is Australian! SchNEWS has found it almost impossible to find out who is in the CBG, but we do know that the companies who are members are using a green lion logo in their advertising (check out 'Country Life').

Yet hiding behind all of these, (you won't find their name on any publicity), is that modest little group The Country Landowners Association. Lord David Steel, ex Liberal, is their spokesman for a cool £90,000 a year, and one known member is the Duke of Westminster, the countryside's biggest landowner and leaseholder of much of the high value property in London. Hmm, just the sort of people that you would expect to be concerned about farm labourers wages or the lack of a local bus service. It would seem that the main agenda remains the same, i.e. preserving the rights of a privileged few to do as they please in their own homes on their own land (which their ancestors stole from the commoners in the 18th century Enclosure Acts). The fact that the inclusion of certain issues in the C.L.A.'s agenda smack of blatant hypocrisy seems to have passed them by. For example, according to its own publicity, the C.L.A. represents 'people dismayed about plans to allow speculative building on greenbelt land'. The owner of the Sutton Estate in Newbury upon discovering that the

bypass was to cross his land, was so 'dismayed', he requested permission to build 1,600 houses, an hotel and an 18-hole golf course next to the road. A letter from the House Builder's Federation, to the C.L.A. professes full support for hunting: 'The intrusion of urban activists into country sports, surely equally offends most right thinking people in the towns as well as the countryside'. He goes on to state that he wishes to counter 'the deliberately misleading impression that thousands of square miles of Britain's rightly cherished heritage is under threat from house building'. According to the C.L.A., everyone attending the march will be there to air some grievance relating to the countryside. What they fail to mention, funnily enough, is the fact that many people are being ordered to attend by their Feudal employers, under threat of losing their jobs, and in some cases their homes, as many rural workers still live in accommodation tied to their work.

Stately Roams

Welcome to the SchNEWS 'Places to visit' section. Under the 'conditional exemption' scheme owners of historic houses, and landscapes and sites of scientific interest, do not have to pay inheritance tax or capital transfer tax on them if they agree to preserve and maintain their properties and 'allow reasonable public access to them'. However, because of 'taxpayer confidentiality', the scheme has been shrouded in secrecy ever since its introduction. We, the public, are not allowed to know where these properties are, much less take advantage of any 'reasonable' access. But, SchNEWS' best friend Mark Thomas has sent us a list! Each week we will publish an address for you to visit on those sultry summer week-ends. First two coming up:

*Sorn Castle, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA5 6HR TEL: 01292 268 181.

Open by appointment

*Bradley House, Maiden Bradley, nr Frome Tel: Estate Office 01803 866633.

Alternative Countryside Rally

Sunday March 1st, 10.30am, at the petrol st. on A272/A24 junction, east of Cowfold*London Animal Action Embankment tube 9.30am. *Also demo outside Parliament on Wed 4th March 1pm. For more info 0171 278 3068

Demolition Derby

After Derby Council demolished the Grade 1 listed Mill Flean for a 'Filter Rd'. Locals reclaimed the city centre site at 6 in the morning last Saturday telling the buses they were setting up a party, (try that down south!) One of the plod pointed to a Section 6. "We know what you're up to, we're just here to monitor the situation and make sure you don't interfere with the public and they don't interfere with you". The site was bequeathed to the people of Derby by the Bass family as a wildlife site. There are already 20 people on site with tree houses being built and nearby residents donating food and beer from day one. A local television comp. ran a vox pop which turned up 8 locals against the road for every two that wanted it so it should prove to be a lively one. Contact: Friends of the Earth 01332 727237

Masts madness

Mobile phone masts have been torn down by angry locals in Ireland in recent months. Using portable angle grinders, Leprecauns [those Irish cousins of the Newbury Pixies] took five minutes to waste a mast. Phone company, 'Orange', often work at night to avoid publicity. There is concern over the health effects of mobile phones - they are pulsed at the same frequency as the cells in your body use to communicate (the "bioband" - 0-400 Hz). Health authorities say that more research is needed. The mobile phone companies translate this as: Business as usual. Contact: Colette O'Connell +353 58 41910

SchNEWS in brief

Noel Molland of the Gandalf 3 has a new address: CK4321 HMP Channings Wood, Denbury, Newnton Abbot, Devon TQ12 BDW***The case against 41 of the 44 innocent sabs arrested for the Hunt Retribution Squad action against the Hursley Hambleton Hunt back in Dec 97 has been dropped. A support campaign for the three who were charged has been set up. Contact PO Box 1119, Dorchester, Dorset***In NW Devon, thousands of mink are calling YOU to attend a peaceful demo on Sat 14th March @ 11.30am, near East Youlstone, near Bradworthy. For more info call 0370 430989.***The Advisory Service for Squatters really need people to answer the phones, they are desperate. Help 'em to help you, coz if you dont, next time the police or bailiffs are kicking your door in and you need help and all you get is an ansaphone, you'll know who to blame - won't you? ASS 0171 359 8814***Got any wood you don't want? Need some really cheap timber? Then the Brighton & Hove Wood Recycling Project is for you. Volunteers also needed. For more info call 01273 276000***Fans of Sainsbury's superstores beware: BUDD and the Stop the Store Alliance are meeting weekly to discuss the Brighton proposal's 4-day Public Inquiry which starts @ 10am on March 24th at Brighton Town Hall. To get involved or just listen in, go to the Ray Tindall Centre, Upper Gardner St @ 6.30pm on Mondays ***Revolutionary anarchism '98 will take place Sat 14 March 10am - 5.30pm at Conway Hall Red Lion Square London. The nearest tube is Holborn. More info and advance bookings from ACF 84b Whitecapel Street London E1 7QX.*** LONDON ORGANIC FOOD FORUM are holding a meeting on 3rd March @ 7.30pm, St Anthony's School, 90 Fitzjongs Ave, Hampstead, Tubes Finchley Rd/Hampstead, Call 0181 968 1699 for more info.***

...and finally...

Orange - a necessary mixer A bid to allow RUC constables to pinch alcohol at processions such as The Orange Order Parades may have been blocked in the Lords thanks to Lord Fitt. Having lived in Belfast most of his life, he explained how Orangemen need alcohol at the end of their marches due to having to listen to, "...the most boring speeches they've heard all year". Wouldn't it be better if they forgot about marching and just got pissed instead.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to spend hours at international gatherings, writing manifestos that try to capture the aspirations of diverse movements, but to stay at home content in the knowledge that there is no-one out there worth talking to, Honest!

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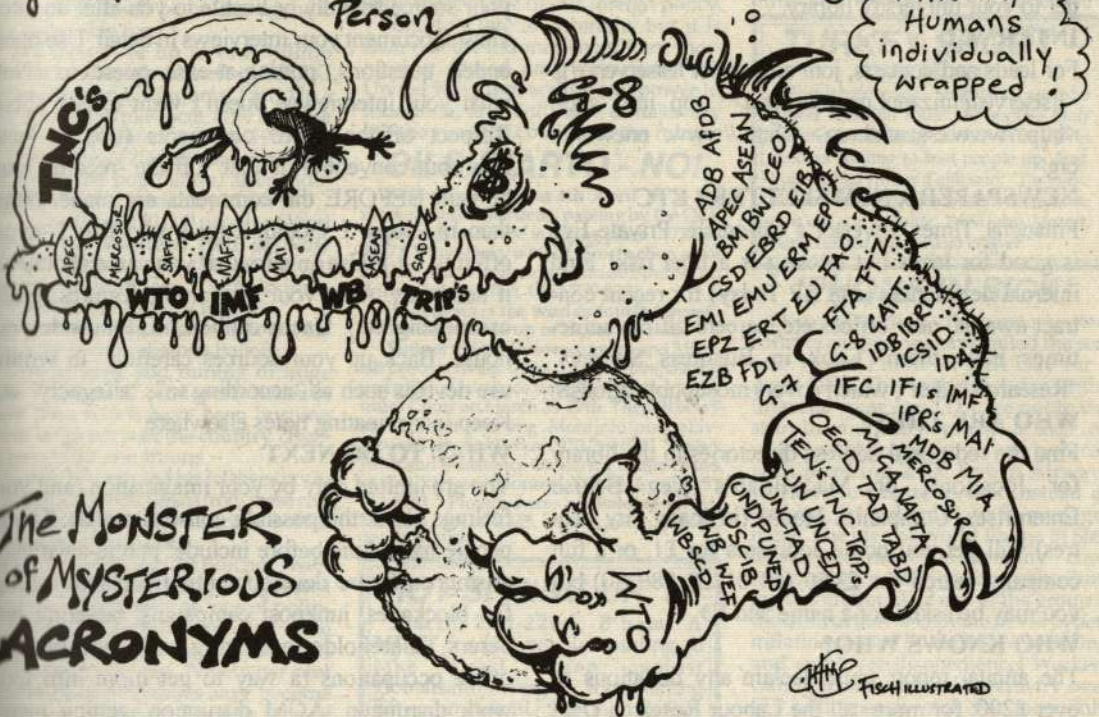
STOP PRESS National Front will be marching through Dover again, 12 noon Saturday 28th. For counter demo 0121 554 6947

HUMAN DIVERSITY

The Next Generation



GLOBALIZATION in Person



The MONSTER of MYSTERIOUS ACRONYMS

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO DO COMPANY RESEARCH

"The Earth is not dying it is being killed. And those who are killing it have names and addresses." - Utah Phillips.

BEGINNING

Important: check with other activist groups in case they've already done the work!! Start with the company's annual report-they will send it to you if you ask them nicely. If a non-PLC, look up the relevant business directories for structure, try Who Owns Whom for production info, try Kompass vol 1, market research guides and industry reports. Always note your sources to insure against libel.

LIBRARIES

As well as the business section, check out reference-look for Who's Who, the Directory of Associations and Professional Bodies, trade journals (e.g. Mining Journal, The Engineer), and local history books. If you can get into London, visit the City Business Library, Westminster Reference Library, or the British Library Business Info Service. Alternatively, get to your university library.

INTERNET

For leads and contacts, join an activist listserver, e.g. <listserve@mizzoul.missouri.edu>* top info sites: <<http://www.essential.org>> <<http://www.oneworld.org>>

NEWSPAPERS, NEWSLETTERS ETC

Financial Times, Investor's Chronicle. Private Eye is good for leads but quoting is a libel risk! Find internal newsletters (e.g. BP Today) for recent contract awards, new offices etc, careers offices sometimes have them. Look in Business Surveys' "Research Index", which covers most publications.

WHO ARE THEY?

Find the red postal address directories in the library for locations, or MacMillan's Key British Enterprises. Companies House (in many city centres) will get you home addresses for £1, or a full company search for £3.50 (tel 01222 380 30) but you may be asked for a name and ID.

WHO KNOWS WHO?

The annual report must declare any donations of over £200; for more call the Labour Research Dept (tel 0171 928 0621). For lobbying activity, try the Directory of Associations & Proff. Bodies. The register of Members' Interests should tell you who ben-

efits from what.

PR STRATEGY

Find this out in PR Week or Marketing, or the PR Consultancy Yearbook.

FURTHER RESEARCH

Once you have your basic profile, examine it for anything dodgy or interesting, and follow up. Ask questions as...a journalist, a student writing a thesis, a job-hunter...pick a flattering angle the company (their community projects/ 'green' image-improving etc to win confidence. Visit: see what lorries stop, look through windows, check rubbish bins, try walking straight in and being lost(!) Talk to employees. Get a job with the company, if you can stand it!

INVESTIGATING TIPS

Always be friendly with accountants and secretaries. Look for enemies of the company. Interview company reps last, when you have a good case & it's harder for them to lie to you. Brush up on the jargon and background knowledge. Anticipate possible responses. Decide beforehand if you wish to leave your source friendly or hostile to you after an interview. Document your interviews in detail. Use open-ended questions, putting-at-ease questions. Note what your interviewee doesn't want to talk about. Respect off-the-record comments (use as leads only)-but convention is that "off-the-record" must be said BEFORE the comments are made, rather than in "oops, I shouldn't have said that"! -avoid offering o-t-r. Use an alias that you can elaborate on if necessary. Alter your memorable features (glasses/smoking etc). Use a callbox NOT outside your house. Back up your sources carefully. In writing use devices such as "according to", "allegedly" etc. Keep incriminating notes elsewhere.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

You are limited only by your imagination (and your feelings about the possible consequences!). Things people have done before include: public-awareness raising on future developments, freephone calling, fax blockades, junkpost campaigns, targeting tenderers, shareholder-educating, site occupations, office occupations (a way to get more info too), work disruption, AGM disruption, getting media onto company dodginess and corruption, taking companies to court for false advertising and illegal operations.



WAKE UP! IT'S YER NICE ETHICAL POLICY ROBIN, MATE

SchNEWS

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Issue 157/8

Friday 13th March 1998

COOK IN WITH THE BUTCHER

He's broken loadsa UN resolutions. He's a ruthless dictator who has murdered hundreds of thousands of people. He has invaded neighbouring countries and is armed to the teeth. His name is General Suharto - the butcher of Jakarta, and dictator of Indonesia for the last 33 years.

So are the UK about to declare war on him and his people...er, no. In fact he's coming to Britain in April for the Asia European Summit Meeting (ASEM). The summit will be focusing on trade and investment, however it is rather doubtful if other more humanitarian matters will be on the agenda. He's responsible for-

- * The deaths of up to one million members and sympathisers of the PKI (the Indonesian Communist Party) in a state-sponsored massacre, after he came to power in a military coup in 1965.

- * The deaths of 200,000 East Timorese (a third of the population) after Indonesia invaded the country in 1975.

- * The deaths of 150,000 people of West Papua (the Western half of New Guinea, also known as the Indonesian province of 'Irian Jaya'), after Indonesia invaded the country in 1963

- * The thousands in jail without trial for political and religious beliefs.

- * The logging and mining of huge tracts of tropical rainforest, massive forest fires which have been burning across large parts of the country creating smog like conditions

- * Lining his own and his relatives pockets with the ill-gotten gains from these corrupt operations, making Suharto one of the richest men in the world.

But all is not rosy for 'the Butcher', with commentators describing the present situation in Indonesia as 'one of political, social and economic free fall'. The rupiah is worth less than a quarter of its value of a year ago. Ninety per cent of Indonesian companies have become technically bankrupt, leaving tens of millions of people out of work. This has

led to widespread unrest, with food riots in East Java and daily demonstrations in the capital, Jakarta. So why is Britain gung-ho when it comes to Saddam Hussain but rather less outspoken when it comes to Suharto? Well, Britain is currently one of the main arms dealers to Indonesia - remember the Ploughshare's women smashing up British Aerospace hawk jets destined for Indonesia? Or Alvis and GKN, the Royal Navy, Vicars and Royals Royce...it seems inevitable that Britain will be using the opportunity of Suharto's presence at ASEM to further their sales of arms to the country, despite the rhetoric of our foreign policy.

Suharto's fate is uncertain, but it is clear that the Indonesian military, thoroughly armed and trained by the United Kingdom are the real power in Indonesia, and will have a major say in who runs the country in the future.

OI! SUHARTO - NO!

Demonstrate on Sat 4th April @ 11 am meet at Jubilee Gardens, passing by the QEII Centre where ASEM is taking place 0171 281 0297 * If you fancy a bit of direct action meet at 8 am Victoria Station (outside Smiths) on Friday 3rd. Contact 0171 739 2301

Indonesia is the worlds fourth largest country made up of 17,000 islands!

* Support 6 East Timo rese exiles and 3 British peace activists up in court for trespassing on British Aerospace land @ Lytham Magistrates Court on March 23-27th. There'll be a 9 am vigil each morning. More info / phone Liverpool Catholic Worker 0151 264 8741 *Easter Faith and Resistance Gathering against sales of Hawk jets to Indonesia 11-13th April 0151 264 8741 * Ploughshares are holding HAMMERS & SPANNERS, 18-19 April in Oxford. 0161 226 2996

HOT SPRING UK '98

March 21st-22nd, B'ham. A MUST for UK people wanting to take direct action against globalisation. Targets: forthcoming G8 summit & EU Summit in Cardiff. Contact 0161 224 4846

DAUGHTER OILS THE SLAUGHTER

SchNEWS talked to Ceu Brites from East Timor Relief Association, who has been in exile for 22 years.

"In 1998 East Timor is still under military control. We have to ask permission to move around. They used to use sticks, but since the Dili massacre they use gas. We are forced to sell our land because Tutu, Suharto's daughter, is selling this oil-rich land, our land, to multinationals to exploit it. We also have the rarest marble in the world. The health situation is very bad. We can send only 2 doctors to East Timor who can stay for just three months. Tuberculosis is rife because of lack of treatment and expensive medicines.

In Lisbon this May we will hold the Timorese Congress - like the African National Congress - to look forward towards forming our own government. It could happen in just a few years time". info: www.pactok.net.au/docs/et/

TURKEY SHOOT - in A Minor

Turkish riot cops - 'Steel Force' - are to be piped classical music to soothe their "paranoid and twitchy" moods as they sit in coaches waiting to beat people up. Asst. Police Chief Kutlay Celik said: "The music will have a calming effect on the brains of those who are not so polite. We'll play Mozart, Beethoven but definitely no Wagner"

'PHONE IN SICK!

Decadent Action - the consumer terrorist organisation - have called the second World Phone in Sick Day for 6 April 1998. This is the first day of the financial year - and DA are out to destroy the monetary system...at their leisure! Last year the group was credited with inspiring 2,000 British Airways workers to phone in sick instead of striking, in a dispute with management. The idea of World Phone in Sick Day is to damage the economy - costing employers millions and contributing to inflation. The aim of the group is the destruction of capitalism via hyperinflation caused by excessive spending and employee disobedience! Workers calling in sick costs UK industry over £13 billion each year. For more info send sae to Decadent Action, BM Decadence, London WCIN 3XX.

ActiveFM 106.6 - from 6pm Fri 13-Sun 15 (SchNEWS Sat 4pm)

NEW DEAL OR RAW DEAL



"Have you ever thought how profitable your business would be if you didn't have to pay out any wages?"

Letter sent out by Brighton & Hove Federation of Small Businesses

In April New Labour's Welfare to Work will go nationwide promising to put hundreds of thousands of the unemployed back to work as part of Tony Blair's 'full monty' welfare reform. But welfare to work is in reality a major step towards the introduction of a US style workfare system. The government are selling the scheme as the answer to all our problems, but as every new scheme to 'benefit' the unemployed has been announced, the politicians begin sounding like a Persil advert - 'Yes, it's our new *improved* brand which will really get rid of those nasty greasy unemployable stains this time.

With the Adam Smith Institute, who have always opposed the Welfare State and the NHS, calling Welfare to Work "the most successful public policy initiative of the century" then alarm bells should start ringing!

"SO WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?"

Initially aimed at putting 18-24 year olds into subsidised jobs or training, there will be an 'intensive job guidance and counselling' programme lasting up to 4 months, before people have to choose one of four schemes.

These are:

1) Work with an employer. The employer gets a £60 a week subsidy to employ someone for six months at a standard wage. The job must include a one day a week training for which a grant of £750 is paid.

2) Full time study on an approved course for up to a year

3) A six month job in the voluntary sector (Any voluntary organisation taking part will get paid £3,200 a person.)

4) Working for the Environmental Task Force.

These schemes are compulsory

Refuse and you'll lose your benefit.

"It's a new National Service, there is no fifth option apart from drugs, crime and homelessness."

John Fillis Lancashire Labour councillor

"SO WHAT, I'VE GOT A JOB!"

But it's not just the unemployed who will be affected. The New Deal is a massive extension of "casualisation" - creating a whole section of the workforce who only have a six months contracts, which will undermine everyone's wages and conditions. Employees will inevitably take advantage of the scheme to replace workers with cheap labour taken off the dole queue. Even the Employment Policy Institute director John Philpott warned that employers with a high labour turnover were bound to try to use the subsidy "There is a risk that the scheme could end up validating the revolving door labour market." This is already happening in trial areas of the scheme. For example, in Eastbourne Anglo Dutch Meats have taken on 20 people under the New Deal - despite making 10 staff redundant before Christmas.



"We have become incapable of making judgements about what is useful work. The profit motive drives our economy so anything that makes money is considered work, even when it is socially and environmentally destructive. Conversely, anything that does not make money or is not paid is not considered work, regardless of its real human value.

New Labour's vision of work is fantastical. To suggest that selling hamburgers and cleaning cars is a panacea for social ills is a fairy tale solution. The real challenge is to decide as a society what work is important, and then to share it, and the proceeds, fairly" Molly Scott Cato Green Party

While France debates the 35 hour week, the UK lags behind with the longest working hours of any European country, an average of 45 hours a week. Despite a recent report by the TUC which found that nearly half the workforce is suffering from some forms of stress New Labour talks about the work ethic with an almost religious zeal. The reality is unemployment is here to stay...after all wasn't this meant to be the so-called 'age of leisure'?

People in the creative industries - bands, theatre, festival organisers etc. - have used the dole as an informal system of support to gain artistic and technical skills. But this is seriously threatened by the New Deal. Key figures in the music industry for example, such as Alan McGee, (Oasis' label boss) and the International Managers' Forum, have already voiced grave concerns about it. They even praise the current system because it allows people to be "creative without being bureaucratized."

The New Deal doesn't just affect the £50 billion-a-year-creative industries. Smaller projects which run on a voluntary basis and which make considerable contributions to community life may well be decimated. Any change to the welfare system should recognise the contribution of the creative community without destroying it.

The poorest 10% of the population get £13 a week less than 20 years ago. Yet, thanks to tax cuts the top 10% get an extra £900.

The Economist

Don't believe us, take a look at what's happening in other countries that are using Welfare to Work.

"Hadie Hartgrove was laid off from her part-time custodial job with the Nassau County government. As a result, she ended up on welfare - and back at her old job as part of her workfare assignment, with far less pay and no benefits."

In Ontario, Canada the government has passed a law which now makes it legal to force the unemployed to work for less than the minimum wage with no breaks or holiday pay, no right to start or join a union, no health and safety protection, or protection from discrimination. In other provinces that have already legalised workfare, hospital workers, teachers and other public and private sector employees are being replaced by workfare participants. Thousands of jobs are lost in favour of replacing them with unemployed persons on welfare and Employment Insurance. In Saskatchewan for example entire shopping complexes are built by unemployed carpenters, plumbers, labourers etc.

In America, the city of Baltimore has replaced an estimated 1000 of its workforce with workfare 'trainees' who earn less than the minimum wage. The Baltimore public school system alone has 208 'custodial trainees' who earn the equivalent of £1.50 an hour.

New York City budget cuts in 1994 forced the Department of General Services to eliminate half its 300 full time cleaners, replacing them with 140 people on workfare. New York has 75,000 currently on the Work Experience Programme with eventually half the City Council's workfare expected to be employed on the programme. One workfare administrator admitted that while he knew workfare slots weren't supposed to replace real jobs, it does happen.

In Britain as part of the Project Work for-your-dole-scheme, The Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh's main general hospital, is using around 30 placements in catering, portering and cleaning.

The American Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation compared people on normal benefit with those who were required to work for their benefits, in a study lasting 5 years. The results concluded that people who were required to work for their benefits were no more likely than the other welfare recipients to get real, paying jobs. Most workfare programs do not create real jobs. If anything they replace real jobs with free labour.



"One Work Experience Program worker from New York city area described it not as an experience in work but an experience in slavery."

Sandra White is a young woman who began work at 14 until 1995 when she was 'downsized.' Unable to find a job, she was forced onto welfare, and sent to the Sanitation Department. At 7 am the Work Experience Program workers are taken by van to a location, from which they are to sweep their way back to the Sanitation Department. One sweeps the street, while the other pushes a wheeled garbage can and picks up the material. These workers are outside all day. They receive no uniforms or protective clothing and no sanitary or eating breaks. Any person complaining about their conditions is threatened with the sack and loss of unemployment benefits.

Nick Le brow is a middle-aged man. In the Work Experience Programme (WEP), he is assigned to the Bronx Parks Department where he does maintenance work on the parks. He uses gas operated mowers and trimmers, trash compactors and other power equipment. Despite constantly dealing with dead animals, broken glass, hypodermic needles and other toxic and dangerous materials he receives no protective equipment. During the winter weather, he and other WEP workers were given ex-prison uniform coats!

Henry Dlugozima Jr. a middle-aged man with a 30 year skilled work record was sent to a Recycling Centre. He received no job training and given no protective clothing other than a pair of cloth gloves. It is dangerous work. At least one worker has lost a hand after being caught in the conveyor belt. Mr. Dlugozima works 20 hours a week / 80 hours a month for \$120 in food stamps. This amounts to \$1.50 an hour! (about 95 pence)

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 1 million Businesses in the UK and with just 2 weeks to go before the launch of "New Deal" only 2,000 companies have signed up. In other words 99.8% haven't

"So I guess it's just a cult then?"

**Labour say
"there will be no fifth
option".
We say there is-
RESISTANCE!**

In France thousands of unemployed people have been marching in the streets and taking direct action demanding amongst other things, an increase in benefits. If worked, with the government recently announcing £5 billion worth of extra cash. Meanwhile, in Brighton the claimants group helped make sure that many charities in the area wouldn't touch the Project Work-for-your-dole scheme with a barge pole.

But Welfare to Work is the cornerstone of the government's programme, and is going to be a lot harder to defeat. While some of us might find individual solutions, it is only through collective action that things for change. Don't leave it to someone else - get involved!

Haringay Solidarity Group
PO Box 2474
London N8
0181 802 9804

Edinburgh Claimants
Peace & Justice Centre
St. Johns
Princes St
Edinburgh EH2
0131 332n 7547

Groundswell OUWCU
East Oxford Community Centre
Princes St. Oxford OX4 1HU
(info on groups around the country)

Sheffield Claimants
PO Box 446
Sheffield S1 1NY

Unemployed Workers & Claimants
Belfast 01232 439 869

**Brighton Against Benefit Cuts
meet every Tuesday 6 - 7 pm at
George Beard Pub, Gloucester
Road, or you can contact them at:
PO Box 2791, Brighton, BN2 2TT.**

**A New Deal or a Raw Deal? Conference
Saturday 28th March at Friends Centre, Ship St., Brighton
10am - 5pm**

TRAINSTOPPING

With the annual nuclear waste railway season fast approaching in Germany, naughty trainstoppers have been at it again. In the early hours of March 2nd, three main railway tracks in northern Germany were sabotaged, delaying train circulation for half a day. Tracks around Berlin were also wrecked the week before. German Rail wonder whether they should continue transporting as it's getting a bit expensive, help them make up their minds. It's confirmed now that the authorities would like the waste to reach Ahaus on the 25 March. Anyone interested in going please ring up the SchNEWS office, there might be transport organised, or let us know about spare places.

PARK KEEPERS

Bristol City Council has leased 20 acres of the Ashton Court park to Pioneer Aggregates, an Australian multinational, who want to expand Durnford Quarry, against the wishes of locals. The project is scheduled to begin any day and will destroy 20 acres of land, leaving a 100 metre deep hole. Pioneer have agreed to transplant parts of the park, which supports a diverse habitat, including several rare species, however RSPCA officers have stated that there is an badger sett in this field and the heavy machinery needed to prepare the site will traumatise the badger cubs. A camp has been set up. Contact (0117) 939 3039 Write c/o 10-12 Picton St. Montpelier, Bristol BS6 5QA Website: <http://www.gn.apc.org/cycling/ashtoncourt>

ARMY WANTS PEACE SHOCK

Two days before the shooting of three Palestinians by the Israeli army led to rioting, 1,500 soldiers and police signed an open letter to Netanyahu's government. The letter, published in an Israeli newspaper this week, called on the government to "choose peace with the Palestinians".

BREAKOUT OF THE WEEK

Mystified prison officers spent thousands of pounds on changing the locks at Castington Young Offenders Institute in Northumberland after a spot check turned up a set of high quality keys. Turned out one of the wily young tykes had a photographic memory and memorised the shapes of master keys "within seconds".

OKASIONAL CAFE

Manchester Earth First! have set up a squat cafe in the former local temperance lodge. EF! initiated the squat to be run as a non profit making cafe, meeting place, entertainment venue, and information centre. A local businessman, who alleges he is the owner, obtained a swift eviction order, which may be served at any time, but considering that the O.Kasional Cafe is only intended to stay in any one place for only a month, this is unlikely to happen. And Mancs have welcomed the cafe in their hundreds, making it a re-sounding success. Contact 305 Oxford Rd, Manchester, mobile phone 0966 464606.

Subscribe!

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

tell/fax (call before faxing): (01273) 685913 e-mail: schnews@brighton.co.uk e-SchNEWS: <http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/>

Hello Gail Curly-Wurly

SchNEWS in brief

This year's BRIGHTON DANCE PARADE is off, due to ££losses last year. But fear ye not! Dance Parade UK 99 promises to be even "bigger, smoother and more colourful". Hardened addicts look out for a CD - The Vibe, A Decade of Love Parade 1989-1998, in September, and regular club night @ the Honey Club, Seaford Arches, Brighton: Thurs 19th March, ***RANT AND RAVE is back @ the Rocket, Holloway Road, N7 on 21st March, 10 til 6. It costs £8 or £6 concs (inc. SchNEWS readers) and b4 11pm and promises a cheap bar and trillions of fab acts - all in aid of Squall magazine. For info on Squall call 0181 5093353/0171 7131494 *** An alternative infoshop and reading room has just opened in Ljubljana, Slovenia, holding info on everything from direct action to bioregionalism(!). A space for like-minded people to meet and they're in need of donations of reading material. Send stuff to: Skrati c/o Retina, Metelkova 6, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia or email skrati@kud-fp.si *** Sat 28th March is a Global Day of Action against veteran vivisectors PROCTOR & GAMBLE. 17 countries will be involved, with 30 events in the UK alone. Contact 0114 2350020 *** MAY-DAY98 conference in Bradford (1st-4th May) big parade kick off, promises to be real food for thought. Write to MayDay 98, PO Box HH57, Leeds LS8 5XG *** FORUM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE in Southampton at the Joiners Arms, St Mary's St on the 5th of April 01703 570509. Bands, talks, workshops. (This is a SchNEWS benefit) *** Alternatively, try the GATHERING VISIONS, GATHERING STRENGTH II conference at Manchester Uni, 3rd-5th April, a forum for activists to gather and pool ideas for social change. Fees depend on income (£3-£18) and there will be cheap vegan food and free accommodation 0161 8348301, email gmdcnd@gn.apc.org *** The CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY's Eco-Cabins, a project which in 7 years has housed 11,000 school children for a week of interactive learning about energy and nature is in urgent need of renovation. If you can spare £5, £10 (or all £40k needed!) you won't find a worthier cause! Write to CAT, Llwynwgern, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 9AZ or call 01654 702400 *** Faslane Peace Camp's SPRING GREENING FESTIVAL 20-27th March with Equinox celebration a demo and action, workshops from shiatsu to gardening. 01436 820901 *** Interested in PERMACULTURE? check out Naturewise's 'Design for Sustainable Living Now'. The introductory weekend is 21st-22nd March, 10-5.30 Fees variable according to income. Call 0171 2813765 *** THAT STUPID CLUB presents 'Homo-phoney?' @ 8pm, The Lift, 11-12 Queen's Rd, Brighton on Wed 25th March. Starring The Divine David, Tania Glyde, Neil Cross and others, it costs £3.50/£3 in aid of the 'Bolton 7' campaign, tickets from Paul Bearer and Waterstones *** A reminder not to miss Bristol Earth First!'s profun, freedom and friends LOVE AND ROCKETS. Starting @ noon on Good Friday 10th April, (meet Band Stand, Castle Park) there will be workshops on the theme 'the city' until 8pm then a FULL ON FREE PARTY (check @ Grapevine or meet 10pm in the foyer, Temple Meads train station) going into all-day URBAN DIY ACTION early on Saturday 12th - meet 12 noon @ Castle Park if you oversleep. Info: 0831 657985. *** The case of the M25 THREE, who

are currently in jail for a murder they didn't commit, is the subject of Rough Justice, BBC 1, 10 p.m 25th March. *** RECLAIM YOUR RIGHT TO ROAM! The Land is Ours are organizing a Mass Trepass, March 28th/29th. Meet @ Luton Station, 1.30 pm on 28th. Info 01865 722016.

PARK KEEPERS 2

Remember the Poplar trees Fairclough Homes wanted to trash because they spoil the view of the Thames from their newly built luxury development? Well, Fairclough are really pushing for a decision because although they've sold the homes they can't move anyone in till the trees are safely (sic) removed. A SchNEWS source says that 2-300 security have been booked from 16th March onwards, (SchNEWS note: Although the company is called Project Security it's actually Reliant hiding behind a subsidiary name). There is a Council meeting on the same day, and with a large presence from the 16,000 locals who signed the petition promising to attend. It should be a fun day out Canbury Gdns, Kingston, 0378 498 257

ROAD RAGE

A group of DIYers in Israel are producing publications in Hebrew. They need info on how to stop roads, organise street parties and network with local communities. Any web sites, publications, etc. contact DIY Alternative Press POBox 3607 TEL AVIV 61036 ISRAEL email: gbo@myhideout.co.uk *** MIDLANDS AGAIN SUPER HIGHWAY need people to squat buildings along the route of the proposed Birmingham North Relief Road. Clearance work begins 3rd April. Info 07970 932224

...and finally

RAPED ENVIRONMENT LED POLLUTERS ON SHOCK

In their opening statement in Washington, the defense representing Pacific North Construction & Lumber Corp, argued that their client was not at fault for the rape of 30,000 acres of virgin forest, claiming that the forest led the company on with, "...an eager and blatant display of its rich, fertile bounty. While obviously it is extremely unfortunate that this forest was raped, it should have known better than to show off its lush greenery and tall strong trees in the presence of my client," said the defence attorney "if you're going to tease and encourage like that, openly flaunting your abundant natural resources, don't be surprised by the consequences." The situation is being closely watched both by timber-industry lobbyists and victims' rights groups across the U.S. "The P. N. C. & L Corp. had every reason to believe that forest wanted it bad," said one logger. "What were those trees doing in that kind of remote spot if they weren't looking for trouble? Believe me, this is no virgin forest." Those siding with the timber company also cite the forest's history, claiming that it has "A reputation for being easily exploited".

disclaimer

SCHNEWS warns all readers never to talk to strange dictators covered in dodgy medals especially if they start talking about a New Deal in a tree burning cult

Readers- we need your recycled or new A4 envelopes please.

Fact sheet

Young People (18-24 years)

What young people need to know about the New Deal

You've probably heard of New Deal, and have some idea what its all about, but now you need some specifics. This sheet has been produced to give you some propaganda and put you off the scent a bit – **New Deal is great!**

What is New Deal for young people?

Its a programme to help us cut unemployment figures and social security spending and to force young people into badly paid (or even not paid at all) jobs.

New Deal is just that – a deal, a raw deal. What it offers you is a work placement paid well below the minimum wage and what we expect in return is absolute obedience. Although the Welfare to Work schemes in the USA on which the New Deal is based have been found not to lead to people getting real paying jobs we would like you to believe that New Deal here will be different, helping young people into real, lasting, worthwhile employment.

Who's providing New Deal?

New Deal is not being provided by bureaucrats or remote departments. Instead, local companies, voluntary organisations, training providers, local authorities, Jobcentres, environmental organisations and others will be getting your time and work for free. The Employment Service has been contacting them with offers of free labour and hopes that they will form a network of local slave labour employees.

Is New Deal for me?

If you're aged between 18 and 24 and have been claiming JSA for six months or more, you'll be conscripted onto the New Deal. Some people can have earlier access if they want it. We want to give you the chance to willingly volunteer for the New Deal but don't forget –

New Deal schemes are compulsory

Refuse to comply and you'll lose your benefits



new deal

What happens first?

You'll normally get told when we decide you have to start. You'll then meet your Employment service New Deal Personal Adviser – someone who'll stay with you throughout your Workfare scheme.

What will my personal adviser actually do?

Your New Deal Personal Adviser will be your point of contact with New Deal right through the programme.

Their first task will be to ensure that you get extra hassle, harassment and threats to force you into taking *any* job. They may provide you with this service themselves or refer you to someone in another organization who is better placed to bully you.

Either way you get direct, personal harassment, starting with someone finding out anything about you, what you will do and how far you'll do as you're told. You must follow whatever recommendations we make to improve your chances of getting a job. As that Labour councillor said the only other option is "drugs, crime and homelessness". Whether it be getting your hair cut, improving your attitude and 'obedience skills' or lowering the level of wages which you will be happy to accept, your personal adviser will do their best to make sure that *you* do whatever it takes to get off the dole.

Basically we will do our best to persuade you that you really want to work for the lowest possible wages with no employee rights and will offer you the most casual, non unionised, badly paid jobs that we can find.

If you *still* cannot find a job during the first few months of being on new Deal, your New Deal personal adviser or the adviser with whom you are working in this gateway period will force you on to one of the other options which New Deal provides.

There are four options

- A job with an employer who receives a government subsidy for six months after which time they sack you and take on someone else on a subsidy.
- Work with the Environment Task Force to improve the Environment of your community (this is very similar to a Community service sentence for a criminal offence and is likely to consist of litter picking).
- Work in the voluntary sector (for example making tea in the Back of a charity shop)
- One of a far narrower range of education and training courses than are available at the moment.

Can I choose which option I take?

You can certainly say which option you'd prefer, and we might do our very best to help you get it. But in reality you'll probably still end up with the crap one.

Although we can't guarantee that we will try to offer you anything like what you asked for we will do everything we can to offer you the illusion of a real choice.

Can I just go back onto JSA?

No, of course you can't, what do you think we are - a charity? It's important that you play your part too by participating actively in the New Deal.

What about training?

One of the key ways that New Deal is the same as all previous options such as YTS and ET is that it provides a pretence of useful training which will lead to future employment. Obviously this is a con as New Deal does nothing to tackle the real reasons for unemployment and there'll still be about 2 million people unemployed when you come off the scheme. In fact you'll probably end up back on the dole yourself, but that's not our problem.

What about money?

You shouldn't really be thinking about money as you don't deserve any when you're not working but we'll be generous and let you get JSA for the first few months on New Deal. Then you'll have to work for your dole.

Clearly if you get a job you'll get what you're given. Your boss will get a £60 a week subsidy to employ you so that's probably what you'll get - more than your dole and as much as £2 an hour! If you work on the Environment Task Force or for a voluntary organisation you'll get your giro and a little more - for your 30 hours work a week you could be earning up to £1.50 an hour!

If we agree to let you do one of a very limited range of education or training schemes, you can still get the equivalent of your JSA, we're being intentionally vague about this one still, to try and make sure that it doesn't end up being a bit cushy.

New Deal pocket money will not affect your entitlement to other benefits such as Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit because we've got other plans to cut those anyway.



new deal

When does it all start?

There have been trials going on since January and New Deal will start everywhere else in April 1998. For the first four months everyone will be on the `gateway` section of the scheme (similar to `intensive jobsearch` for the recently abandoned Project Work scheme) after that New Deal will begin in earnest and *if* the providers have enough placements to put people on (for Project Work they had extensive backlogs) people will start being put on workfare schemes.

Where can I get more information?

Brighton Against Benefit Cuts meet upstairs at the George Beard Pub (behind the Gloucester) every Tuesday at 6pm.

They, and Brighton Claimants Action Group, can also be contacted at PO Box 2536, Rottingdean, BN2 6LX

New Deal for young people is co-ordinated nationally by the Labour Party on behalf of their friends

BULLSHIT fact 28467#
PP3/64748/43647/56

November 1997

new deal



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SMUG

SchNEWS



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Free/Donation

Told You So !!

...the same provisions against investigative journalists." As one activist told SchNEWS "This could be the thin end of the wedge. If they get away with using these laws against animal rights activists then it will give carte blanc to attack anybody involved in the direct action movement." The Protection from Harassment Act

Issue 126
July 1997

On 25th February, three animal rights activists became the first protesters in the country to be taken to court under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 - a law introduced to protect women from stalkers.

Last year Peter Harrison, the owner of Cornyhaugh Mink Farm in Northumberland took out an injunction banning Newcastle Animal Rights Coalition and anyone connected with the group from demonstrating near his farm, from using the highway which runs alongside the farm and from phoning or writing to him! The campaign against the mink farm followed an undercover investigation in 1997 which revealed the appalling conditions in which mink are kept.

A whole month after taking part in a candlelit vigil outside the farm, Stephen Tindle and Elizabeth Crocker were arrested and charged with the 'continual harassment' of Harrison. In Court they were accused of repeatedly trespassing on Harrison's land and of leaving him and his family feeling 'threatened and distressed.' (but not as distressed as the mink) A third person, Laura Nicol was also nicked when a policeman lied and said he had seen her with Steven, despite her being in jail at the time for non-payment of fines!

After a three day trial, Stephen and Elizabeth were found guilty and given absolute discharges with £100 costs. But were also given restraining orders preventing them from going within half a mile of the farm, under the threat of up to five years imprisonment.

The case sets a dangerous precedent, and could affect all types of protest. In theory anyone protesting against the same person more than once could be accused of harassment and arrested.

Now that the Act has been successfully used against demonstrators, then it's surely only time before police forces across the country start queuing up to use it. On Wednesday evening, two more people were arrested outside the mink farm during a candlelit vigil, charged under the Act and given 7.30 pm - 7 am curfews.

And one woman has been charged for demonstrating outside the home of Hillgrove Farm owner Christopher Brown - the man who breeds cats for vivisection.

Liz Parratt from Liberty told SchNEWS "Using the new Act in this way will detract from the aim of protecting genuine victims of harassment whilst adding to the arsenal of criminal sanctions already available against legitimate protest. One wonders how long it will before the same provisions are used against investigative journalists."

* Demonstrate outside a Dorset mink farm this Sunday (22nd). Travel available from Brighton, meet 9 am outside Harvest Forestry.

NEWS GAG

Liberty last week failed in the High Court to overturn the convictions of three people who were monitoring a hunt. The three, who were doing nothing more than filming, failed to comply with a police order to leave the area. Liberty said the ruling would be a threat to others such as investigative journalists.

Stopiwcw ddinistrio Eithingol!

'Possession Forthwith' has been granted to Bangor Council on land squatted by greenfield protesters. The council intend to build 300 social housing homes on a 30 acre green site that has been used as a village green by the local community for thirty years. People are angry because despite there being countless brownfield sites around, Bangor Council have ignored pleas to review planning policies not updated since the Fifties. A full-on camp has been set up for five years now with total local support, the camp say. "It's a beautiful site, lovely locals, bring usual eviction tat."

Camp Mobiles 0836 563 980/01248 388 018: Student Union 01248 388 018

MOUNTED COPS IN SPY CAMERA SHOCK

Mounted cops in Cleveland have become the first police force in the country to run trials with new surveillance equipment video cameras. The tiny cameras, with a lens the size of a shirt button, are fitted to specially designed helmets.

Developed by Helmet Integrated Systems (HIS) a military equipment supply company based in St. Albans, the images are stored on a Walkman-sized device that is attached to the officer's belt or kept in the horse's saddlebags. The picture can also be sent by a microwave link up to two miles away, so that colleagues can monitor the situation and offer advice.

The wide-angle camera is fixed behind the helmet visor and is almost invisible to an onlooker. A tiny high-powered microphone provides the option to record sound, all operated by the flick of a switch worn on the finger.

Inspector Ros Sibley said "The main reason we are planning to deploy this technology across our mounted force is because offices on horseback are 9 foot off the ground and have a wide range of vision. They are also most often in crowd-control operations, such as football matches or riot situations, where we think that the technology will be most useful."

Eric Staples, in charge of HIS police-products division believes the applications for the system are almost limitless. "We definitely see this as something that goes wider than the police" Over in America, a similar system is being developed. Semco Systems have unveiled an in-car video system, which links a camera being worn by an officer with a recording system in a patrol vehicle. This means that if cops give chase to someone, a flip of a switch on the body-worn camera, will record the action up to half a mile away.

The cost of the trials has been justified because the police reckon they will be able to prove they are innocent when it comes to fighting harassment allegations made by the public. Whether the cameras will mysteriously break down when the police step out of line, is of course anyone's guess.

Note: During the last Brighton Reclaim The Streets all the police CCTV cameras 'mysteriously' broke down...

ILL-Legal Aid

"Justice should be there for all of us, not just the well off or very poor". Funny way to begin a report that basically says justice won't be there for all. Our old mate Lord Chancellor Irvine (the man who spends your money on his wallpaper and hangs public works of art over his mantelpiece) has rethought plans to abolish Legal Aid for compensation but don't start to celebrate, since we see the first phase of cutbacks come in during the summer that will affect 60% of personal injury and accident claims. Obstacle one to justice for all. It means accident victims will have to take out legal insurance to begin a case, the fee being worked out on the odds the insurance company see on your chances of winning (Ladbroke's Law?) These fees are likely to start at £100. Lawyers will be asked to take on cases on a 'no win no fee' basis to cut the number of cases getting to court. So if you are seeking compensation, your first problem is finding a solicitor who thinks you have a chance of winning and as one said to SchNEWS, "you can't take on anything but a sure-fire winner". The poorest, weakest, most disadvantaged, who most need to take legal action will have no hope. The real winners in this situation will be the insurance companies who will profit every time. E.g. a case might begin with the client asking for £10,000 in damages. They could then be offered half that amount and no matter what is involved the insurance company could force a client into accepting the lesser sum by refusing to give cover to continue with the claim. Aid for medical negligence cases is to stay for the moment but this will be phased out in the future. The Government also plans to set up a fund for cases that are 'in the public interest', yet they will determine what is in the public interest P.S. Don't forget that you can take a 'McKenzie Friend' to court or tribunal for moral support. A McKenzie Friend can be anyone, even yer old mum!

ASPE-VALLEY ACTIONS

The start of the action season (does it ever end?) is also noticeable in the Aspe-valley in the Pyrenees, where people keep on fighting the same old fight; to stop a very destructive road from passing through one of the most beautiful and unspoilt valleys of the Pyrenees (it's the last Brown Bear habitat in Western Europe, too). From April 24th to May 5th, there will be actions and activities, with a BIG DEMO on May 2nd! It's a brilliant place! Go there!!! A Theaterstraat bus is being organised from Utrecht (NL).

Info: P'tje: +31-30-2721351 or Rymke: +31-30-2722650.

Detention

The Chief Inspector of Prisons, after checking out Campfield Detention Centre in Oxfordshire reckons, "The UK asylum system is a shambles...". He has condemned the way private security company Group 4 are running 'the lock up' and condemned the Government for, "Not controlling Group 4." Campfield is where asylum seekers are held, in prison conditions, when they arrive in the UK. When detainees recently demonstrated about conditions, 5 ended up in a real nick, 2 in a young offenders unit and one 17yr old was put in a secure psychiatric ward after attempting suicide. "Ethical Foreign Policy Eh, Robin?"

*Monthly demos Campfield
01865 558 145

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Any one witness an arrest at the Labour Road Show? ring Mark 621 693

SchNEWS in brief

Here's one they cloned earlier..Following on from offering kids a trip to watch the launch of Cassini plutonium rocket, Blue Peter are now offering a jumper knitted from the cloned Dolly's fleece. Whatever next will the trainee consumers be offered? Answers on a postcard *** Essex Pigeon fancier Ken Andrews thought he'd plant some bird seed in his 1 acre field to attract some of his feathered friends. But he got more than he bargained for, when the field sprouted 13,000 Cannabis plants with a street value of £700,000! Andrew told a court he was against drugs and that there was no label on the packet, he'd bought for less than a fiver, only a picture of a bird! *** Whilst we were researching last week's Kingston story we spoke to Dennis Doe the local Tory MP who told us "If we were still in power the trees would be down by now". The next day he rang back: "What I meant to say was things would have been sorted out by now". *** The Grey Owl Centre for New Ideas are organising a 'Norman Invasion' and 'Right to Roam' picnic as part of their campaign against the proposed Hastings by-pass (in reality part of the Trans-European Super Highway feeding the jaws of the Channel tunnel). The road will destroy the landing site of William the Conqueror and most of the 1066 historical sites The 2nd Battle of Hastings Coalition: 01424 719 671 *** There's a HUNT SAB BENEFIT @ The Albert, Trafalgar St, Brighton, @8pm Saturday 4th April, for £3. Feat. Oi Polloi, Chineapple Punx and Haywire *** THE SPIONAGE BENEFITS @ THE LIFT: Monday 23rd March 8.30 pm: £3/2 starring Rochelle (Dub Star) - Full Pack + D.J.'s Queens Rd / @ THE ALBERT: Tuesday 24th. 8.00 pm £2 Punk/Ska nite with Unslug - Seka - D.J.s Fek & Hedrix *** Calling FRIENDS OF PETER PG/ GAISFORD Some of you will remember Peter either from the Quercus Circus camp at Newbury (evicted with style, custard pies and eco-down) or one of many other actions. Following his untimely death in December last year, his girlfriend is compiling a book of remembrance and wants to hear from anyone who has something to add. Lucy Robbins, c/o 27 Berkegey Rd, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5JE 01635 523637

CALLING ALL SHOPPERS

Remember the Sainsburys proposal for a 38,000sqft superstore, business units and housing on the Railtrack site behind the main station? The council and 1000s of locals rejected the proposal, with all the usual arguments why the store shouldn't be built. But if you're still not convinced, get along to The Ray Tindle Centre, Upper Gardner St @6.30pm this Monday (23rd) for the last meeting before THE PUBLIC INQUIRY. (from 10am, Tues 24th-Fri 27th March @ Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square), Turn up, even if only for a couple of hours. Contact BUDD for creative alternative uses for the site (01273) 622277.

FASLANE PHONE IN

Faslane Peace Camp, protesting outside Scotland's Trident nuclear base for the past fifteen years, are in court on April 1st. They want people to ring up and ask 'Where are Councillors Dick Walsh and Bill Petrie going to get the £400,000 needed to evict Faslane Peace Camp?' Ring 01546 604263 to find out!

Battye Golf

Oldham Council leader John Battye woke up on Valentine's Day to find parents teaching their kids crazy golf on his front lawn. The fun action was in response to the Council backtracking on promises to keep dodgy stuff out of a land fill site. The Beal Valley, an important wildlife site (home to birds on the endangered list), is scheduled to become a golf course and the council, eager to save money on creating nice little humps and valleys, hit upon using earth from the M66. "I must reiterate... that no radio-active material will be brought onto the site." Dir. Economic Development. Despite this assurance the Environment Agency, the council and the waste company kept changing the rules and now have admitted that they will allow 'special waste' at the site. In a long list of dodgies are: cyanide, arsenic, asbestos and radioactive cadmium and berium "...but only in safe levels" Oldham Council. What? Battye is now sulking and won't talk to the local paper because they didn't warn him about the protest beforehand.

INSIDE SCHNEWS

Vanunu, an Israeli imprisoned after revealing to the Sunday Times details of Israel's nuclear arms, has been released last week from solitary confinement where he has been for 12 years, supposedly because he had 'more secrets to reveal'. The Campaign to Free Vanunu is going to celebrate on 28th March, from 6pm onwards, at the George IV pub, Portugal St, London WC2, near the London School of Economics. Vanunu becomes eligible for parole next month, after serving 2/3rds of his 18yr sentence, so increase pressure on Israel to grant him parole and join the vigil, from 12 till 2 every Saturday in Kensington High St, opposite the end of Palace Green W5, near the Israeli embassy. The BBC Rough Justice programme about the M25 three, wrongfully convicted of murder is now on the 25th, BBC1 @ 10pm. To get involved in the campaign call 0171 7352985

...and finally

Once it was Moscow Gold funding commie agitators. Then it was Colonel Ghaddafi payrolling anyone the government didn't like. Now, according to Bristol 'anarchist pub quiz' host Iain Bone, that popular beat combo the Levellers are responsible for financing SchNEWS. Obviously rich bastards can't understand people doing anything if there's not a profit in it (that's why they believe that everyone from strikers to road protestors must be getting paid for it) but we would have thought Bristol's anarchist quizmaster extraordinaire would get it right.

Good quiz apart from that - especially if you know the names of every Crass member (one point for that) and the answer to "Do they owe us a living?" (A: "Of course they fuckin' do!" - one point, none without the "fuckin'")

* We reckon it costs us around £15,000 a year to keep going!

** Iain's trying to organise a "Enemies of the State - 30 years of struggle" tour. seeking tour between May & August. Give him a page on 01523 160145 if you wanna organise a local date.

disclaimer

Oh, can't be bothered, nick us if you must.

Surveillance Watch

text and photographs by Alan Lodge



Intro

"It's not paranoia... if they're really after you!"

In recent years, surveillance techniques have been developed, they say, for the catching of criminals in criminal acts, further, to provide evidence for their prosecution. I

think society at large would argue, that that's fair enough. Fingerprint detection, after all, seems to be acceptable to most!

Now, however, these same surveillance techniques are being much used to inform those trying to control 'dissent' in this country. It should be pointed out that dissent and protest are not crimes here, yet!

Since CCTV has mushroomed across western civilisations' public spaces (and many of its private ones!),

awkward questions are being raised about its purpose and to whose advantage it all operates for... Is it 'haves', watching the 'have-nots', 'goodies' watching the 'baddies', Corporations spying on each other and their employees for commercial advantage. Or perhaps, 'Vested interest' in powerful positions maintaining the status quo and public order?

Most of this seems to imply that authority reckons itself to be the goodies. But, speaking as someone with concerns, it doesn't look like that from here. Unrepresentative baddies hanging on to their power.

Imagine (an extreme case): a 'Nazi' party in some shape or form get elected! (Well, it has happened before). It is obvious that these enhanced databases and surveillance techniques on the population would enable such a state, instant repression and targeting of the troublemakers. Not just notes on past criminal conviction, but also intelligence on associates, beliefs, political activity, spending habits, library records, what TV you watch, internet sites visited. These are obviously very powerful technologies, which, like nuclear power, genetic engineering etc, I'm not sure we are grown up enough yet to operate. The prime motive appears to be in trying to keeping the population 'down', rather than operating in their service and the maintenance of their security from crime.

Security Services Act

Actually, you see, my extreme example of a nazi state is not so wide of the mark.. Michael Howard (bless him!), Home Secretary in the last Tory government brought the operation of the Security Services, normally tasked to look into terrorism, security of the state etc. into police operations, without however, equivalent accountability. Much to the annoyance of the police themselves. They felt that their 'turf', was being invaded!

Oh! there is some accountability, a commission to oversee the investigation of complaints about surveillance by these services. Should a complaint to this tribunal be made, an individual would not be told whether or not they have actually been the target of MI5 surveillance. Under current procedure, they are only told if the tribunal considers MI5 to have acted wrongly. In effect, filling in one of the complaints forms, available from most police stations, simply alerts the security services to the fact that the individual suspects they are being watched (or

perhaps, therefore, should be!).

At that time John Wadham of Liberty pointed out that:

"A little noticed clause in the Intelligence Services bill, allows information obtained from bugging and surveillance by MI5 and MI6 to be used in court. This very important amendment demonstrates a crucial change in direction for these services. In future we will see more and more agents giving evidence from behind screens in ordinary criminal trials."

How the hell is it possible to cross question witnesses under these conditions? The jury, and for that matter, the accused, can't see into their eyes. Justice hardly being seen to be done. Further, perhaps, inducing an impression of unquestionable authority to any presiding jury.

The Security Services Act 1996 has re-targeted the work of the security services, with their intelligence gathering capabilities, to peaceful protest. They are to investigate "Serious Crime." Again, fair enough one might think. There are some pretty heavy people out there!, except that serious crime is now severely, 'redefined':

(Section 4) It shall also be the function of the Service to act in support of the activities of police forces and other law enforcement agencies in the prevention and detection of serious crime.

The act now provides a definition of serious crime, I'm quoting the relevant section here, since I want you see how it has been deliber-

ately cast so wide to enable the authorities to proceed against any group it may fell like. Not too democratic!

(Section 3B) Conduct is within this subsection if it constitutes (or, if it took place in the United Kingdom, would constitute) one or more offences, and either:

- it involves the use of violence;
- it results in substantial financial gain, or;
- IT IS CONDUCT BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN PURSUIT OF A COMMON PURPOSE.

How I find this quite scary. Do they mean a football crowd, civil insurrection, a high street full of shoppers, a trade dispute, protest or rave? With such a definition, they can make it up as they go along!

I thought it particularly scary to discover that MI5 had been handing surveillance information to the McDonalds Corporation. Special Branch's Animal Rights National Index (ARNI) is monitoring any political activism remotely involving animal welfare. The integrity of these information gatherers was again proved questionable during the McLibel trial. As revealed in court, Special Branch freely offered information on certain protesters to McDonalds, after monitoring protest pickets outside the Corporation's UK headquarters.

Really! Hardly a proper use for their activities.

Matters have developed yet further. Under the provisions of the 1996 Police Act, MI5 is now involved in police operations in monitoring the activities of environmental protesters. The National Criminal intelligence Service (NCIS) has been formed to centralise much of their evidence gathering and 'oversee' this relationship. Det Supt Brian Drew, of the NCIS, stated:

"These groups are diversifying. They are using the tools that the Internet provides. Interception of these communications is very difficult." (NCIS - Annual Report 97)

The Defence Research Agency is now working on behalf of the police and security agencies to develop equipment to covertly intercept e-mails as they are sent and to track an individuals internet use.

During the arguments, prior to passing of this act, John Alderson, ex-Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Police, cautioned:

"It is fatal to let the secret services into the area of ordinary crime. MI5 are not under the same restraints as the police.

They infiltrate organisations, people's job and lives. They operate almost like a cancer, infiltrating and destroying trust and security between people. Howard is putting the building blocks in place for an East German-style Stasi-like force where half the population finishes up spying on the other half.

At the moment the acorn of a Stasi has been planted but it is there for future governments to build on. No government in my lifetime has ever given liberty back. It is not in the nature of governments to grant liberty - they are all about power."

For us to have arrived at such a state of affairs, I thought it appropriate to review some of the stages leading here.

"the secret services... operate almost like a cancer, infiltrating and destroying trust and security between people"

John Alderson

Some of the story so far

To be capable of independent thought. To publish. To congregate with others to draw attention to an issue of concern. These were believed by most to be the obvious manifestations of a free society. Personally, I've never believed this crap myself. Free? My life experience, (since I was first hit round the head by a police truncheon at the festival in Windsor Great Park in 1974) is that they are always there, on my case! Especially when I gather with friends.

Not for my criminal activities you understand!

But because I am interested in getting together with others of a similar cast of mind. Then to run experiments in events, lifestyles alternatives and entertainment, that could well contribute to the saving of the planet. To try and make a difference!

Naturally, the 'vested interests' both inside and outside of government are perpetually lobbying to move the law about to *their* best, frequently, commercial advantage. To squash deviance and dissent as it arises, by redefining what's a crime this week.

The use of police in para-military fashion was first tested on a national scale during the miners' strike (aside from the Second World War!). The police were somewhat overwhelmed by the unrest in the inner cities during the early 1980s. However, within a couple of years, the sciences of 'field manoeuvres' and surveillance techniques were learned. These were then applied to a wide

variety of groups with equal vigour.

Tony Benn drew attention to the existence of the "Public Order Tactical Operation Manual". Drawn up by Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), and approved by the Home Office, the contents of which had been kept secret. He said:

"The manual provides for the training of the police in para-military operations, including instruction in methods of incapacitating demonstrators by the infliction of actual bodily harm, or the use of police horses to canter into crowds and the tactical use of noise to instil fear, all of which are in clear breach of the law". (Hansard, 22nd July 85)

ACPO produced this paper after event in Brixton, Bristol and Toxteth, Liverpool in 1981. He made it clear to the Commons, that:

"Through the manual, police were given instructions, descriptions of tactics and manoeuvres on the use of long and short shields which laid them open to charges of assault by the rules as they stood." (Hansard, 22nd July 85)

However, during this period, British officers had been seconded to the Royal Hong Kong Police and the South Korean Police, to see how they dealt with disturbance in the street. May I say that this was a severe departure from the way Britain was policed.

With the experience of the miners' strike and the attack on travellers on the way to Stonehenge for the annual festival, the 1986 Public



Order Act was passed. It is from this time that the state sought to gather information on ever larger numbers of individuals and their activities, thus creating huge databases. The collation of information had much improved. Taken with advances in communication technologies, the police were now able to operate as a national force under the direction of 'ACPO'. An un-elected body, ACPO pressured for each of these pieces of legislation to assist in tackling crime. However, all measures continue to be used to deal with dissent.

The Battle of the Beanfield, near Stonehenge, was the watershed for my own community. It was the year after the miners' strike finished in 1985. The violence deliberately orchestrated by the police the frighten the blue blazes out of us; and those that may have wished to have associated with us. This of course, resulted in the complete collapse of our economy.

Operation Solstice

When ACPO had another meeting in early 1985, it was resolved to obtain a High Court Injunction preventing the annual gathering at Stonehenge. This was the legal 'device' to be used to justify the attack at the "Battle of the Beanfield" on the 1st June in Hampshire. Well it wasn't a battle really... It was an ambush!

The scenes there were recorded by media, including myself, that had evaded the police blockade. The story was international news. 'Dixon of Dock Green' type policing

was dead. That which Britain was noted for had now changed to para-military operations against minority groups.

Kim Sabido, a reporter used to visiting the worlds 'hot spots,' did an emotional piece-to-camera for ITN as he described the worst police violence that he had ever seen.

"What we - the ITN camera crew and myself as a reporter - have seen in the last 30 minutes here in this field has been some of the most brutal police treatment of people that I've witnessed in my entire career as a journalist. The number of people who have been hit by policemen, who have been clubbed whilst holding babies in their arms in coaches around this field, is yet to be counted... There must surely be an enquiry after what has happened today". (ITN News, 1st June 85)

There wasn't.

Now, I'll go into media management a little later, but I mention this case here to show that this has been going on for a while now. I want to point out, that in the civil case we took later to call the police to some kind of account, sections of the police radio log given in evidence were missing and the videotape from the helicopter had also been messed with. Sections missing. No one has any idea how long.

You see surveillance is not impartial. This material, had the batteries not failed, or a tape being changed would have been very useful in proceeding with our action against the police on a number of points. By keeping the prying eyes of journalism out of the way, many aspects of the story remains told only by their own, very partial, cameras.

When the item was nationally broadcast on ITN news later that day, Sabido's voice-over had been removed and replaced with a dispassionate narrator. The worst film footage was also edited out. When approached for the footage not shown on the news, ITN claimed it was missing. Sabido said:

"When I got back to ITN during the following week and I went to the library to look at all the rushes, most of what I'd thought we'd shot was no longer there. From what I've seen of what ITN has pro-

vided since, it just disappeared, particularly some of the nastier shots." (Operation Solstice documentary)

Some, but not all, of the missing footage has since surfaced on bootleg tapes and was incorporated into the Operation Solstice documentary shown on Channel Four in 1991.

Public knowledge of the events of that day are still limited by the fact that only a small number of journalists were present in the Beanfield at the time. Most, including the BBC television crew, had obeyed the police directive to stay behind police lines at the bottom of the hill "for their own safety".

One of the few journalists to ignore police advice and attend the scene was Nick Davies, Home Affairs correspondent for The Observer. He wrote:

"There was glass breaking, people screaming, black smoke towering out of burning caravans and everywhere there seemed to be people being bashed and flattened and pulled by the hair, men, women and children were led away, shivering, swearing, crying, bleeding, leaving their homes in pieces. Over the years I had seen all kinds of horrible and frightening things and always managed to grin and write it. But as I left the Beanfield, for the first time, I felt sick enough to cry."
(Observer, 9th June 85)

Observer photographer Ben Gibson, was then arrested (please see list of media hassled later).

We had felt watched for some time. For a period of many years living on site, every day to be watched through pairs of binoculars, patrol car at the end of the lane taking vehicle reg numbers, 'routine' checks on vehicles always providing the police with the opportunities of conversion, to see what might 'bubble up! The racket from a helicopter, frequently deployed to watch over people with as few as a couple of vehicles, two goats and a dog!

Because of not being able to trade, people were driven back to claiming the dole, something people had been proud of themselves not to do. Now, however, further monitoring information was gathered via social security offices. The working party report on Itinerant Claimants

prepared for the DHSS advised that "in the interests of advance warning and the safety of staff, we recommend better liaison with the police."

A 1993 internal Benefits Agency bulletin (issue 24/93) headed 'New Age Travellers' and marked "not to be released into the public domain", stated:

"Offices will be aware of the adverse reaction from the media following the treatment of claims from this client group last summer [Castlemorton]. Ministers are concerned that the Benefits Agency and Employment Services take all necessary steps to ensure that claims from this group are scrutinised carefully."

The bulletin reports that a National Task Force has been set up to "monitor the movements of such groups of Travellers," now extended to 'environmental protesters' and to "inform relevant district managers of their approach and numbers". These arrangements are still in force.

In the back of the bulletin is a list of telephone numbers for all the regional police contacts in both the Northern New Age Traveller Co-ordination Unit and the Southern Central Intelligence Unit. (More on this lot, later.)

Police operations were dedicated and focused on us for our lifestyles, not our terrorist inclinations!

Operation Nomad

Parallel to the crackdown on travellers and those attending the festival at Stonehenge, 'Operation Solstice' was 'cloned' in 1991 by Avon and Somerset Police to deal with a large and regular free festival at Inglestone Common near Bristol. Gathering at the original site was prevented by the 1986 Public Order Act sect 39 etc.... the anti-traveller bit. The police mounted a huge operation on the ground to deal with people approaching the area. Starting with the database developed from their experience of Stonehenge matters, Operation Nomad was initiated.

The police provided for the intensive monitoring of individuals and traveller encampments across all of the South West of England. I and many hundreds of other were searched, photographed and generally hassled.

Latter the following year (in 1992), I was anonymously sent a copy of a document, marked 'restricted' and titled: 'Operation Nomad Bulletin'. Operation Nomad was a surveillance and information gathering exercise looking into the activities of New Age Travellers and now 'raves' such as Castlemorton. In this document, officers are instructed to beware of my activities and that I photograph and tape record police operations.

At this time, I represented the welfare teams - Festival Welfare Services and the Travellers Aid Trust. We set these outfits up to provide health and welfare provision to help support those the state did



nothing for. This support, together with my interest in photography to document peoples lifestyle and the opposition to it, resulted in me being mentioned in this police document as "someone to be watched, and handled with care."

Mention is made of my involvement in photographing and the bringing of civil actions after the 'Battle of the Beanfield' incident near Stonehenge in 1985. Further, 'Her Majesty's Dirty Tricks Department' added that they suspected that I was a dealer. A device, calculated to inconvenience my work.

I believe that this information was inserted so as to make my work as jobbing photo journalist more difficult. It was also calculated to undermine my position with FWS and TAT in their liaison with various authorities.

Against this background, I brought an action against the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police in the High Court in Bristol for 'Malicious Falsehood.' I had been granted legal aid (no aid being available for anyone to bring an action for libel). I have recently concluded the case. It did however take six years! (Duncan Campbell had covered the story in Guardian Wednesday, 2nd September 98)

So there you have it, police methods of information gathering and surveillance are not infallible in their accuracy! Because of my treatment at the Inglestone event, I had registered a formal complaint and that had been upheld.

So much for my complaint, an apology and being told that the police acted unlawfully. This all seemed a little hollow when discovering this document. All this showed was, that they had not considered the original complaint

at all seriously and that I was now viewed as a troublemaker. I imagine I still am so listed. Perhaps they have opened yet another file.

Operation Snapshot

Operation Snapshot was a further intelligence gathering exercise on Environmental Protesters and Travellers, but now organised on a national basis. Also, the 'Rave Scene' was now included. Designed to establish a database of personal details, names, nicknames, vehicle registration numbers. Undercover operations were carried out. More photographs taken.

This information was used as a backbone for an ongoing intelligence operation begun by the Southern Intelligence Unit (SIU), operated from Devizes in Wiltshire. (Fancy that! Coincidentally, the same base as 'Op. Solstice.') In the minutes of a meeting held at Devizes on March 30th 1993, the objectives of the operation included:

- Looking for a system to prevent Forces such as West Mercia (Castlemorton), being initially left bereft of intelligence.
- The development of a system whereby intelligence could be taken into the control room, and the most up-to-date intelligence was to hand.
- To give Commanders immediate access to the most up-to-date intelligence, enabling them to develop the best strategy to combat the illegal activity which accompanied such events.

After a short period the Northern New Age Traveller Co-ordination Unit, designed to cover the north of Britain, was established and operated from Penrith in Cumbria.

The meeting was attended by constabulary representatives from Bedfordshire, Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Dyfed-Powys, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, South Wales, Gwent, Staffordshire, Thames Valley, Warwickshire, Surrey, Suffolk, West Mercia, West Midlands, Ministry of Defence and the National Criminal Intelligence Service (Hampshire and Essex sent apologies).

Papers that told of this operation included this para-

graph:

"Detective Superintendent Fraser described how, if the need arose, an operator would be sent the scene with two lap-top computers. One for input and the other for information contained in the main database. Supt Fraser affirmed that the system could contain over ONE MILLION RECORDS."

This, of course, far exceeds the numbers of people that have acquired criminal records from the groups in question. The rest of the capacity it clearly for chit-chat and intelligence, rather than evidence, hence my concern.

The paper requests: "Any information, no matter how small, on NAT's or the Rave scene should be forwarded to the unit immediately." Among information about New Age travellers and ravers are some of the following examples:

- Spiral Tribe, one of the best known rave organisations, are targeted for special attention. The bulletin notes their plans and asks: "Does this mean they are going to be more organised this year? If so, we will have to be alert!!!"
- "Suffolk Police object to all applications for rave parties," one bulletin says. Their officer suggested that: "fire services were useful in producing prohibition notices."
- Surrey Constabulary's policy is that: "raves will not happen, illegal or otherwise."
- Gloucestershire police reported that an organisation called Fayre Events Limited has ap-

plied to Forest of Dean council for a nine-month site for travellers at a farm. "Believe it or not, this may well be granted," the bulletin says!

So this is not just about surveillance then, but serious attempts at manipulating the situation. The document adds:

"The intelligence unit has been seeking a method whereby 'weekenders' could be 'weeded out' from other computer records."

I was amused to read PC Keene delivering a final exhortation at the end of the meeting:

"It's yours, it's new, lets give it a go!"

I wonder how they're getting on?

Liberty has challenged this police monitoring at the European Court of Human Rights. Andrew Puddephatt said:

"To collate information on computers about individuals who have not committed offences and on the mere basis of their choice of lifestyle infringes on their right to privacy and freedom of expression."

He added:

"Targeting the whole of the travelling community is beyond the European Conventions' limitations. Just because someone is a 'new age traveller' doesn't mean that they are involved in crime." (Squall 15)

Forward Intelligence Teams

Set up by the metropolitan police to monitor growing violence by gangs at football matches, throughout the 1990s. The Euro 96 football championship events meant a testing for four or five years consolidated experience.

They say numbers of 'organised gangs' are travelling across international frontiers. With the previous lack of, and the inadequate sharing of information, resulted in local commanders bemoaning the fact that they were bereft of intelligence to head off or prepare for trouble.

The football season is played out through the wintertime. However, the establishment of this specialist squad, with acquired skills in the surveillance of crowds, maintenance of a database, infiltration and befriending, resulted in a surplus capacity in the summer! Thus, the same squads use same techniques on matters of dissent in the summertime: protest, festivals, raves and direct action at large.

This model of 'organised gangs' (I'm sure that this is how they are viewed!) is mirrored by eco-groups who would say that pollution is not confined by frontiers! and co-ordinate actions accordingly. Last year 'Reclaim the Streets' held street parties as an idea of taking back public space for the public to enjoy. They sprouted up in a number of cities. The issue is of course far beyond road traffic pollution, but the inhumanity of 'globalisation' at large.

In Britain, RTS parties have been occurring in London and many provincial cities at an accelerating pace since the Camden High Street bash in 1995. Parties sprang up and perplexed the authorities in many cities: Berlin, Birmingham, Brisbane, Dublin, Geneva, Lyon, New York (wow!), Paris, Prague, San Francisco, Seattle, Stockholm, Sydney, Toronto, Vancouver. All over the place in fact.

The obvious public support that these events have been attracting, taken together with the influence that they have undoubtedly had on government policies on road building etc, means they they're taken very seriously. Governments, road haulage and building lobbies, security and the vested interests, all felt their authority challenged.

Officers from the FIT raided the RTS offices. The raid

followed months of photographic surveillance and the monitoring of their mail and telephones. Their computer and discs were also seized. Not only, of course, to try and get evidence, but also in serious attempt to disrupt the organisation. A number of people later faced incitement and conspiracy charges.

There have recently been a number of incidents that seem to demonstrate the concern the authorities feel for the use of electronic communications. When addressing a seminar on the subject at the Police Staff College at Bramshill, Chief Superintendent Davies, head of the Met Public Order Branch says:

"They (the protesters) are well educated, ingenious, organised, articulate and well informed on environmental matters. They use inventive tactics to achieve their aims. Forces are having to deploy increasingly sophisticated techniques in the policing of environmental protests" (Police Review, 21 March 1997).

This has now advanced to forming a combined organisation, The National Public Order Intelligence Unit has now been established. Based in Scotland Yard, it is expected to be headed by Commander Barry Moss, head of Special Branch. In addition to its activities dealing with football hooligans, it will also track 'green' activists and those going to public demonstrations. These 'eco-warriors' are becoming increasingly disruptive, he said. The intelligence squad, now built on the foundations of the Forward Intelligence Teams, will use information from Police Special Branch officers, and MI5, it will compile profiles of protesters and organisations considered to be potentially troublesome.

Under the same 'umbrella', it will also include a further three existing police teams. As I have already mentioned, the Southern Intelligence Unit has been monitoring New Age Travellers, festival-goers and people who occupy land illegally. In the north, a team has been logging details of hunt saboteurs and, of course, the Animal Rights National Index,

Targeted individuals and groups will be listed on the Schengen Information System, the Europe-wide computerised database available to all police, immigration and border officials.



During Britain's Presidency, the EU joint home affairs council, chaired by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and composed of EU interior ministers, agreed without debate on 26 May 1998, on a program of "joint action with regard to co-operation on law and order and security." It requires all 15 EU countries to share information on the size, routes, nature and objective and background of all "sizeable groups which may pose a threat to law and order and security (which) are travelling to another member state in order to participate in events." Examples of targets, likely to be included are those attending pop concerts, raves, environmental and other demonstrations, sporting events, campaigners against road building, live animal exports, protesters at industrial disputes, hunt saboteurs and far-right groups. The unit will also draw up plans the Chief Constables can introduce to head off potential disorder.

Check out this site: The European Surveillance Union:

<http://www.telepolis.de/tp/english/inhalt/te/1667/1.html>

The co-operation on sharing intelligence and surveillance across the EU is now based on a concept of policing, defined as: "Public Order: Conflict Prevention." Now it seems that:

"Conflict may be defined as any act that is contrary to the general public's perception of normality in that it has the potential adversely to affect the status quo."

Wow!

Assistant Commissioner Anthony Speed of the Metropolitan Police, who chairs the Association of Chief Police Officers' Public Order sub committee said:

"Experience shows that the same people are involved in demonstrations - whether it's disruption of building works and motorways, runways, live animals for export, or people 'reclaiming' the streets. It tends to be the same people who support them and travel around the country. It's about keeping a database on them - identifying the main individuals."

Tony Bunyan said:

"The threat to civil liberties and the right of free assembly is clear."

He added:

"This idea of conflict affecting the status quo would be laughable if national and EU

officials were not taking it so seriously." (Guardian, 21 September 1998).

Further, John Wadham, director of Liberty, argued that:

"The unit would inevitably spend much of its time monitoring peaceful protest. The problem is, without a right of privacy and right of protest, there will be inadequate controls and regulations." (Independent, 7 November 98).

They both argue the right to demonstrate and travel freely was being undermined.

Since the wide application of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, the UK made life bloody awkward for Travellers to follow their chosen lifestyles and just live. Additionally, of course, there are people wanting a festival, the free party folks, etc. have been travelling to mainland Europe and beyond in search of a party! The culture thrives, my son tells me, in the south of Spain and the Technival events.

Well, they're on to this! The aim is to target known activists in the same way as convicted football hooligans - and use the most modern technology available. Experience shows that people with an interest in one activity are frequently to be found active in another.

Ch. Supt. Davies added:

"It is clear to officers policing these events that a number of environmental activists are professional protesters. Some subjects have been seen at protests all over the country and abroad. One protester was spotted at 18 separate protests last year." (Police Review, 21 March 97)

Was that you?

I have heard a number of stories from around the country on folks contact with FIT officers. In exchange for information on fellow 'conspirators', people have been offered 'help' with their outstanding charges, if they informed. I understand that money has been offered. The figure of £50 has been mentioned to me a number of times. (Don't seem much, does it?) On one occasion, someone said that when they were offered money, they asked; how much? The officer replied, "Tell us what you know, and I'll tell you what it's worth!"

Environmental Policing

There are, of course, a number of units looking into environmental groups' activities. The Metropolitan Police are fully aware that London is a focus for many 'actions'. I understand that over the last 6 years, 600 separate policing operations were classified as being concerned with environment groups. London is the base of embassies and multi-national HQs which attract actions in response to incidents abroad. Intelligence has lead them to suppose that environmentalists, concerned about the activities of Shell Oil in Nigeria, would attempt the boarding of ships on the Thames and use bridges over the river for aerial protest.

Squatting also appears to be within their remit! Michael Burke, of the Thames Division, Metropolitan Police describes the operations against the 'Guinness' squatters in Wandsworth:

"The Special Operations Maritime Team has conducted, or made a significant contribution to a number of overt and covert operations.

"During their eviction of large numbers of squatters from an 'eco village' in central London, there were concerns that a number of the squatters would secure an adjacent jetty on the Thames which was joined to the village by a gantry. It was likely that it would be dangerous for the squatters and police officer trying to remove them.

"The jetty had already been occupied by the squatters, who had built a small structure equipped to house and feed a number of people for a long period of time, and so potentially extend the police



commitment and costs. Under cover of darkness, the 'Spec Ops' Team, conducted surveillance and profiled the area.

"During the initial raid, team members boarded the jetty from the water using hook ladders, high access rope skills and distraction, and secured the jetty. The gantry had been destroyed by the squatters, effectively cutting the pier off from the ground. The outcome was that, without injury, the potentially long policing operation was brought to a rapid and effective conclusion." (Police Review, 7 March 1997)

Well done lads.

CCTV and the Mandrake system

On their web site, they say that:

"Mandrake is a neural network based product which provides an ability to recognise faces by comparing templates. The system can take into account variations of head orientation, lighting conditions, skin colour, spectacles, make-up and earrings, facial expressions, facial hair and ageing. In a secure access environment, for example, no special skills are needed to compare faces if a face recognition

system fails, unlike all other specialist scanning systems. Facial recognition is also the only biometric technique which can be applied covertly. A 'gallery' of images can then be displayed of the 'top ten' by confidence factor. Mandrake has many applications for Law and Order, Access Control, CCTV Monitoring and other security systems."

<http://www.ssi-ltd.co.uk/mandrake.htm>

Apparently, the system indicates a percentage score of how convinced the computer is that the person spotted is the same when compared to the one in the database. The company's man, Bob Turner of Software & Systems International Ltd, said: "You can set it to alert you at different percentage levels depending on outside conditions. For an outdoor camera, 70-75 per cent will trigger threshold."

He didn't say anything about its accuracy when raining!

Patricia Oldcorn of SSI said:

"It is important to remember that the system is only as good as the cameras used to pick out the suspects. In that sense, the system works like the human eye and the human brain. If a person can't quite see who he is looking at, he will not make a positive identification." (PA News, 6 October 98)

The first people to be targeted by Mandrake will be suspected muggers, burglars and shoplifters

whose photographs are in police files, but it is believed that the system may also be able to work with e-fit pictures. Liberty is worried about possible breaches of human rights and data protection legislation.

This is all off the testbed now. It is alive, well and operating in Newham High Street in East London since October 98.

Newham has a network of 140 street cameras as well as 11 mobile camera units. Further, the council is to add yet another 89 camera on the surrounding estates. Images are sent to the council's security centre in East Ham where they are compared with a database of target faces supplied by the police. The system can isolate the targets from the crowd of people appearing on the CCTV screen. When a match is made, the computer highlights the target and sounds an alarm. Attention drawn, the operator then decides if the police should be contacted, or indeed, the image in question being piped through to the local division control room.

The authorities reassure the public yet again, if you've nothing to hide, you've nothing to fear. Only convicted criminals will go onto the system, they say. However in the same breath say they think it could be very useful in tracking down missing persons. I think with these capabilities, how are we to be sure that this particular Genie can be kept in its bottle! Their word? With a little imagination, it can be marvelled at the potential for abuse of the system. How about the tracking of 'undesirables' of different sorts, crimes and convictions aside? Big Brother just wanting to know.

It is only in the last couple of years that information obtained from a 'videograb', taken of moving faces from a CCTV camera is of practical use for matching. Colour and definition achieved by equipment had improved considerably. However, operating such new technologies, the company agrees that the computer will not always strike a perfect match. A company spokesman said:

"We do expect that we will get a little bit of difference in interpretation because sometimes it will pick up a face at three-quarters angle. We will need to use the human element to check the authenticity of the picture."

Now it is this risk of error that should bother us all. Being lifted off the high street, by a patrol, sent to the scene by some kind of 'identification robot'. Driven to a police

station on the other side of the country, only to have another policeman say, "That's not him!" on your arrival. God, this sort of thing happens enough as it is!

Such risks of error also greatly concerns, Liberty. Their Campaigns Manager Liz Parrett said:

"The accuracy of facial mapping is very limited. For example, you only need look at a handful of photos of celebrities to see how different the same people look in different photos. The claim that those who have nothing to hide is rubbish. What the police call an 80% success rate is what we would call a one in five chance of a mistake." (Guardian, 15th October 98)

She added:

"Of course a balance need to be struck between the need of law enforcement and individuals privacy - our view is that this strikes the wrong balance." (Guardian, 15th October 98)

Another 'Mandrake type' system has been established to deal with hooliganism at Watford FC soccer ground and is being piloted by Hertfordshire Police.

Introduced by the same company, Software & Systems International Ltd, the Face Recognition System uses further advances in the technology to rapidly identify known troublemakers in the crowd.

Its built-in camera is designed to allow police in the control room to focus on, and capture, a 'live' image of a suspect. The system then scans a database of stored images of known troublemakers to find a match - at a rate of upwards of 250 images per second.

The blurb says that even if offenders try to disguise their appearance, the system will still identify them, as it is based on recognising facial structure, such as the spacing between the eyes, nose and mouth. It takes into account, and disregards, variations of head orientation, lighting conditions, skin colour, make-up, facial expression, facial hair, spectacles and ageing.

The system is also intended for use in access control for sporting events, the workplace etc. Trials are proceeding apace. In this mode it is designed to authenticate a claimed identity either by entering a PIN or passing a magnetic stripe card through a reader. This causes a

specific record to be selected. The image associated with this record can then be compared with the 'live' image in the camera to confirm the identity.

Very surely, a national system, that might be used at airports, stations or public events to 'spot' targets, is developing. The head of research and development at British Telecom, Peter Cochrane, is another who is convinced that:

"Within four years there will be a system that will allow police the ability to put a name to any face picked up on any closed circuit TV in the country." (Independent, 3rd March 97)

Cameras do not only measure faces of course, Optical Character Recognition imagery describes the letters on a number plate. In their heightened alert to the treat of terrorism, City of London Police have had a system running for a couple of years now, where all traffic entering the City is so recorded. Registered details are then compared with Police National Computer (PNC). The results of this cross-match are available in 4 seconds. Thus, so to aid the tracking of individuals they feel to be of interest. An added bonus for them of course, is that the registration record is also be compared to the stolen vehicle index and road fund licensing. (Police Review, 8 September 1995).

Plans to expand such a system are well advanced. Simon Davies, Director of Privacy International says:

"For the next five years, the Home Office will oversee the

construction of the world's biggest road and vehicle surveillance system. When completed, it will identify and track the movements of nearly all vehicles in Britain. Thousand of number-plate camera will be installed on motorways, main roads, key junctions and tunnels, as well as all ports and airports nationwide." (Daily Telegraph, 10 Sept 98)

With the advance of surveillance installations on this scale, taken together with the exponential coverage of public spaces, many now expected in the normal course of their day. On the bus, in the shopping centre, waiting for a train. But they've not finished yet!

With all the excitement over drug use in nightclubs, the last government supported Barry Legg's Private Members Bill. This is now an act. It provides for the immediate withdrawal of licence and hence, closure of a club, where such activities are discovered. Public acceptance has now passed the stage where, people going out to a club or pub can expect to be on CCTV, and they put up with it! Well, it's normal!

Simon Davies points out that:

"Some cities are so enthusiastic about this technology that they are even demanding that companies install CCTV as a condition of their licence to operate. In Brighton, for example, police require camera as a condition of the granting of a licence for a pub or club."

Miniature surveillance cameras and developments

Developments in the further miniaturisation of equipment has recently enabled Gwent police to commission a system where patrolling officers are to carry surveillance cameras attached to their uniforms. The system will operate from early in 1999. (Police Review, 11th December 98). The camera, about the size of a 'Gameboy', will use mobile phone communications to transmit pictures of what the officer is seeing at the incident back to the force control room. Future development anticipate the transmission of sound.

Cameras on buildings and up poles in the high street will be fitted with control devices that will enable officers, with their camera/viewer unit, to be able to call up a particular camera and view its image their in the street, or in their vans. Everything, of course, patched through to HQ for command decisions and recording.

Chief Constable Richard Thomas of Gwent said:

"It is a flexible mobile system that reduces CCTV surveillance costs to a few hundred pounds."
(Police Review, 11th December 98).

Obviously an enthusiast, Mr Thomas also Chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers project on CCTV.

The main development here, of course, is the falling costs and size of equipment to allow for its widespread use throughout a force. As early as 1995, the Metropolitan Police were developing equipment for officers filming at public order situations. They say they used this camera system for the first time at the M11 protest and evictions in East London.

The 'Virtual Vision' equipment allows a cameraman to film a demonstration or incident, while remaining behind the shields. Higher Photographic Officer Paul Alsford said:

"Our problem has always been that we can't photograph or film through shields. It's a major problem for us, having to step out from behind the shield which puts us in a position of danger." (The Job,

July 95)

This equipment then uses a tiny screen which projects the image directly on to the retina of the eye. This screen is hooked onto a visor worn in the same way as sunglasses. A small wire connects the equipment to a hand held video camera that then can be poked out from behind a shield, or provide a normally unseen view round the corner.

Miniature surveillance cameras applied covertly

Undercurrents: the Alternative News Agency, have discovered the police operating such systems, 'in the field', clearly beyond the pilot stage.

On their web-site, they describe having obtained dramatic covert video footage, which was secretly shot by undercover police officers using hidden cameras, at the national demonstration that took place at Hillgrove cat farm in April '98.

They describe the video saying it shows demonstrators attacking the farm house and tearing down the 10-foot high steel fence, erected around the farm in an attempt to prevent activists from breaking in and liberating the cats that are bred there for vivisection.

Undercurrents say:

"At one point in the video, the infiltrator films another undercover police officer, whose face is hidden with a face-mask, black hat and dark glasses. The officers can be seen talking to each other and then later on in the film they can be heard on the soundtrack, pointing out particular activists to film. To date, six activists have received prison sentences for their part in the protest, and another twenty are still awaiting trial on charges of violent disorder."

Media liaison officer for Thames Valley Police, Richard Goodfellow denied any knowledge of the secret video-footage, but said of the policing of Hillgrove: "...we think it is the right thing to do because it goes right to the core of Thames Valley policing, which is keeping law and order."

It is thought that this activity was part of a police operation code-named 'Style'. It involved a total of 25 separate video-cameras, as well as officers from Scotland Yard's Forward Intelligence Team.

Evidence

At a number of public order incidents, where there have been a large number of arrests, prisoners have been lined up with their arresting officers and a Polaroid photograph taken of the happy couples. This is to avoid, they say, previous confusions that had existed. It has not been unknown, for the wrong arresting officer to be presented to the court, with the wrong defendant!

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 empowers the police in such circumstances to take photographs, which must be destroyed if the subject is subsequently released without charge. Destruction of any photographs can then be witnessed. (Not sure about the copies though!)

However, the same act also says that:

"Force may not be used to take a photograph." PACE: Codes of Practice - Subsection 4(3).

However, I have heard of many tales were it has.

The record photography of traveller vehicles and sound system components is now commonplace.

Manipulation of the media

I thought it appropriate here to make a mention of the authorities' manipulation of the media to their agenda. You see, if you ask officers why they are photographing, or videoing a situation, they (if they could be bothered!) would say that they are gathering evidence of the scene, to strengthen prosecutions. Further, it provides for evidence should there be complaint about the officers concerned!

Well, why does this situation have to be so partial? There is a double standard going on here. I think most readers of this piece will have had the experience to appreciate that when the police overstep the mark, their cameras always seem to have just run out of batteries, pointing the other way, mid-way through tape/film change, deleted/edited etc.

When conducting the recent eviction of the protest camp on the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, the Under Sheriff of Staffordshire called upon the services of the mysterious men-in-black, ex-special forces veterans, who specialise in climbing things and tunnel evictions.

He ordered the screening off of the eviction site at Moneymore Cottages on the route of the proposed Birmingham Northern Relief Road. The move by the Under Sheriff prevents impartial observers including the media from being able to view what methods the authorities were employing during the evictions.

Protestors claim that the last time

this happened at Manchester Second Runway people, including journalists, were subjected to violence. One of the first people to leave one of the camps at Manchester was a BBC Wales cameraman who complained of being struck with a truncheon. He was seen by millions of TV viewers with blood dripping from his head. Many protesters were repeatedly punched in the head by the men-in-black while lying on the floor attempting to shield themselves.

A protestor, Video Tony, said:

"I have video evidence that the authorities tied a rope around the ankles of somebody locked on down a tunnel. They then tried to pull this person out in a most brutal way for 45 minutes. I was surprised that these people resorted to such violent methods in evicting peaceful protesters."
(BNRR Newsletter)

It now looks as though similar tactics could be used in Birmingham and this time if the Under Sheriff has his way, the evidence may not be captured on camera. Referring to the media, Ch. Supt. Davies of the Met's Public Order Branch says:

"Like all forms of modern protest, experience has shown environmentalist to be highly organised and media friendly. It is almost standard now that the media will give protesters cameras, both video and still, to record a protester's eye view. This would almost certainly result in a significant propaganda victory for the protesters as they are selective about what they release." (Police Review, 21st March 97)

Well, I never! Would you say the positioning of the screens at Birmingham was anything other than 'selective'?

Police are increasingly using various legal 'devices' and violence to remove photographers from the scene of actions where the police feel that they may be portrayed in a less flattering light! Arrest on a spurious 'holding' charge, later to be released without charge, having missed deadlines is a favourite one:

- Alan Lodge see the rest of my web-site for details: from Stonehenge, the Battle of the Beanfield resulting in civil case, Reclaim The Streets, Operation Nomad and yet another civil case... and bloody onwards...!
- Ben Gibson of the Observer: Arrested for obstruction

at the 'Battle of the Beanfield' near Stonehenge. Charges later dropped.

- **David Hoffman** freelancer: Frequently arrested (and assaulted) by the Metropolitan Police. Welling east London, Poll tax riots, Dockers / Reclaim The Streets etc. Has been awarded damages against them.
- **John Warburton** freelance on job for Daily Telegraph, working with New Age Travellers in the SW England. Arrested while covering traveller site evictions.
- **Nick Cobbing** freelancer: Arrested and removed from scene while trying to cover the eviction of environmental protesters at proposed site of Manchester Airport. Again at an animal rights demo, Oxford.
- **John Fraser Williams** HTV producer: sustained two broken ribs after being truncheoned while reporting at Manchester Airport.
- **Roddy Mansfield** of 'Undercurrents': recently arrested for the sixth time while recording events at a street party by the group 'Reclaim The Streets' in Bristol. Again at an animal rights demo, Oxford.
- **Simon Chapman** (photographer): Arrested after covering a protest against genetically modified crops at Totnes, Devon. Deadlines missed, later released without charge.
- **Ben Edwards** (i-Contact Video): Arrested after covering a protest against genetically modified crops at Totnes, Devon. Tapes seized at time, deadlines missed, later released without charge.
- **Paul Smith** photographer: Protest at proposed site of Manchester Airport. Charges latter dropped.
- **Campbell Thomas** Daily Mail freelance: Bilderburg meeting, Scotland 1998. charges dropped.
- **Martin Palmer** video journo from Portsmouth: Hillgrove Farm, anti-vivsection protest. Tapes seized and returned 6 months later no explanation or charge.

Well, good grief! It seems OK then, for the police to go undercover as demonstrators etc. and film activists in action covertly. They then get to use that material in prosecutions and intelligence with their 'spin', as they see fit with little restriction.

However, they appear to find it convenient to think that a photographer covering an action or demonstration where they may feel their work might be critical of police, might in fact be an undercover demonstrator! Police say the media is sometimes a cover for activists. To form this opinion is, of course, a useful ploy.

Press credentials are, not accidentally, but deliberately,

being ignored by police. It suits their purposes you see. Without outside prying eyes looking into their activities, they can feel free to be that bit rougher with the citizens protesting on an issue, than they would be if 'eyes' of different persuasions were watching. Precisely, of course, why investigative journalism is supposed to be allowed in a free society. Keeps everyone on their toes. For an example, watch the national news on TV when there is a story concerning, say a human rights demonstration in south-east Asia. Watch the reaction of the police to the presence of a camera while their buddies carry on behind them. The embarrassment is obvious, followed by the inevitable violent assault on the cameraman and the grab for the film! Many of us have seen exactly the same expression through the viewfinder here.

The NUJ General Secretary John Foster with now be writing to all Chief Constables, asking them to remind all their officers of the working of the Press Card.

David Hoffman, a photographer from the list agrees:

"We really need to argue a case to establish that the business of recording public protest is a proper & necessary part of a democratic society."

Undercurrents say that a video documentary exposing police suppression of the news in the UK, will be the debated in the European parliament on October 7th.

The Council of Ministers have received the following question in 11 different languages and will offi-



cially reply in Strasbourg to the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Patricia McKenna who will officially present the question.

The text of the question is:

"Is the Council aware that the UK police are mistreating members of the National Union of Journalists, especially freelance members, by, not recognising their Press Cards, arresting them for trespass or obstruction or even under the Harassment Act (intended for preventing stalking), assaulting them, holding them until the passage of their deadlines, preventing them from taking pictures, confiscating their photographs with court orders and erasing their video material, as well as restricting their public access during protests?"

"Video-journalist Roddy Mansfield, arrested for forgetting his press card PIN while covering a protest in London; HTV producer John Fraser Williams, sustained two broken ribs after being truncheoned while reporting

on the Manchester Airport protests. Is the Council further aware that while written Police guidelines do exist for relations with the Press, journalists have not been allowed to see them? Do such activities breach the Treaties, including Amsterdam, in particular the Justice and Home Affairs articles, for which the Council is largely responsible? With a view to being taken seriously outside the EU on such matters, will the Council instruct the Commission to ensure that journalists can operate freely within the EU before pursuing that issue elsewhere?"

Press restriction is not the only problem here though. The press photographers and cameramen can be viewed as less than benevolent to an action in some circumstances, and their work amounts to surveillance. Let me explain.

If the journalist/photographer is from the tabloid media, then I think most concerned in actions would agree that they would not expect to be portrayed favourably. They are, of course, working to their own agenda and are more co-operative with the authorities. The 'qualities' try to proceed with a little more honour and frequently taking trouble to explain the protesters case. Again, within their own agenda.

One of the main objectives of direct action on an issue is to create a media 'stunt'. So we invite ourselves to be photographed. This is the 'hoop' we all jump through to get attention to the issue at hand. It is really sad but... 'no stunt, no story.'

So, on the whole, concerned photographers like myself have been welcomed, in trying to help explain the circumstances of an action. However, our work can so easily turn into surveillance footage, (useful to the enemy?).

In 1990 after the Poll-Tax Riots in Trafalgar Square, police made a number of requests for film from photographers present. The NUJ immediately advised all members not to supply un-published film. Further, that freelancers should either send their film to the NUJ or send it abroad, or destroy it. Judge Neil Denison, sitting at the Old Bailey, ordered 25 newspapers and TV companies to

hand over material under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). The only ray of hope here is that the judge did not just 'rubber stamp' these orders, but asked for a high standard of justification. (British Journal of Photography, 12 April 90).

Investigating detectives under Det. Chief Supt. Ramm gathered 70 hours of video and 2,500 pictures of suspects. Operation Carnaby then had 134 officers pour over these. As a result of 'wanted' requests, publishing some of these in the national press and TV, produced them a further 56 arrests. (Police Review, 25 May 90). A few are still wanted. Police compared these photographs against the data held in the previous operations I have discussed. This included visiting traveller sites, squats, and mingling with those gathering for the annual Stonehenge Festival and the Castlemorton rave..

An implication of such High Court Orders is that in a public order situation, some folk would deduce that the work of the photographer, of whatever view, could end up as additional surveillance for the police or evidence against participants in court cases. The consequence has been an increased risk of violence against all cameramen from numbers within a crowd.

Although this is all supposed to be about surveillance, by the inclusion of this section, I'm trying to show there are broader implications than perhaps would be first thought.

Where is all this going?

New driving licenses issued will contain a photograph of the holder. The driving license is the closest thing (at the moment!), to the national identity card, with social security bringing up the rear with proposals about cross-referenced information using the national insurance number. They too, may shortly develop a card with photo, to help deal with benefit fraud. Data protection aside, this cross-referencing, taken together with the equipment and techniques I have been discussing, implies some pretty powerful tools for the boys to play with. In due time, photo-identity may be established for nearly all the population.

An important 'convergence' has just occurred. Taken together with the connection, via the internet, of all CCTV cameras in the streets, shops, petrol stations etc. across the country. This databasing of mug shots may enable police to know the whereabouts of an individual by inputting his image onto the computer for comparison. This would of course apply to anyone the police have a photograph of, whether guilty of crime, or not. This possibility is now much advanced after the government has announced that the new driving licence will contain a "standard passport photo with a digital copy held in Swansea". This digital copy would of course be available for transmission and use within this system.

Many of the police operations I have discussed here, have been first practised on minority groups, but in due time, extended to the rest of the population.

On two occasions in 1998 police mounted the biggest ever road-block operations in peace-time Britain. In an attempt, they say, to drive thousands of dangerous vehicles off the road and capture hundreds of criminals, alcohol smugglers, illegal immigrants and benefit cheats.

The one-day operations, code named 'Mermaid', are conducted nationally in conjunction with immigration officials, benefits agency inspectors and customs officers, who will be waiting at the roadside to question suspects. Watch this space, there is more of this come.

Liberty feels such tactics were a "gross invasion of privacy." They

said it was looking to bring a legal test case to show that such questioning could be unlawful. Liz Parratt of Liberty, said people could not be compelled to answer questions from other authorities after being stopped by police for road-safety checks. But, she said:

"Most people won't know their what their rights are when they are being questioned and will be far too alarmed or scared to refuse. We would be happy to advise anyone who has been a victim of this abuse of power."
(Independent, 12th August 98)

A benefits agency spokeswoman said the tactic was extremely successful:

"The police officer will stop the vehicles and our fraud officers will ask the people for their name, national insurance number and any benefits they are claiming."

Operation Mermaid, which is backed by ACPO, began in 1995 and has mushroomed as more police forces have recognised its effectiveness in trapping dangerous vehicles. This year, all forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will take part in the exercise with an unprecedented amount of support from other government agencies.

It is co-ordinated nationally by a West Midlands police traffic intelligence officer, Bob Nockalls, who said the road-blocks should properly be called "road checks". Mr. Nockalls said fears of civil libertarians were unfounded and that Mer-

maid "will remain a road safety operation". He added:

"People are in no way detained for anything other than road traffic matters. While they are in that check then people like the Benefits Agency will speak to the occupants. Nobody can make anybody speak to the Benefits Agency." (Independent, 12th August 98)

Well, who do you believe? Do you know your rights? Do you feel more or less secure? Police argue that the presence of immigration, customs and other officials is essential to the efficiency of the operation. Police officers finding evidence of other criminal activity are obliged to act, and if illegal immigrants or contraband goods are found in a vehicles then other agencies can be quickly called in while police continue with safety checks.

The moral dilemma that remains here, is that the police should be able to investigate crime and have the tools to do so. However, the same techniques are now frequently applied to control dissent on many issues. Information and communication technologies have enabled the exercise of social control. Now, in this country, as in many others, there is cross-referencing of databases held across all government departments.

How much longer before health records are included?

In the extreme case I started with, oppressive governments are quite nosy about the affairs of their population. One manifestation of this, is if a policeman can walk up to you in the street and simply say "Papers!" I loose sleep over this possibility. With these examples, are we really that far away it?

The 'ground rules' are really beginning to shift. To give you a further idea of what I mean with respect to accountability. It now seems, as a Home Office spokesman recently stated, that because data protection and tapping laws were made before the widespread use of the Internet, police are trying to get around the 'problem' of obtaining a warrant by asking the service provider for copies of an individuals e-mails before the information gets to the telephone system, were the law then requires a warrants. E-mails are frequently stored for at least 2 years and can easily be made available for inspection (so mind how you go folks!). It is obvious that the law lags well behind here. I mean, what is the point, of having a warrant procedure to hold authority to some kind of account, if because of modern technologies, they can

just casually 'walk around' such obstructions?

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has announced Britain will seek greater co-operation from Europe on the interception of criminal encrypted messages. Mr Straw said:

"EU ministers should give law enforcement officers the technology to intercept encrypted messages. We are using 19th century procedures to pursue 21st century criminals." (Guardian, 29 Dec 97)

This announcement follows the consultation paper issued, in March 1997, by the Department of Trade and Industry. It is proposed that copies of encryption keys must be deposited with a state authority.

Personally, I lack trust in their motives. Always have done. I'm just trying to help save a planet.

I'm with Judge Hoffman here:

"Civil disobedience on grounds of conscience is an honourable tradition in this country and those who take part in it may in the end be vindicated by

history." (Lord Justice Hoffman, commenting during the Twyford Down appeal)

In conclusion, and after such a weighty opinion, a quote from a man that has long involved himself in environment action. I was stood next to him while he was being interviewed by a journalist:

"There's no need for the police and MI5 to break in - I'm not ashamed of anything I do. Tell 'em to knock on the door, I'll get the kettle on." - a weathered road protester.

Please: don't let the bastards grind you down.

Alan Lodge (Tash) - Photographer

<http://www.gn.apc.org/>





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER WATCHIN' THEM WATCHIN' US

SchNEWS

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SPY'S GRRRL

On the 2nd April the US National Security Agency will appear in the High Court to prosecute peace activist Lindis Percy for breaching an injunction at the Menwith Hill spy station. In a case of "Davinda vs Goliath"

Lindis faces a heavy prison sentence for exposing the activities of the Big Brother of all global spy installations.

In January a STOAS (Science & Technology Office of Assessment) EC report stated that "within Europe all e-mail, telephone and fax communications are routinely intercepted by the US National Security Agency". The report reveals that all diplomatic, economic, and political communication traffic is monitored through a massive US global spy web.

Since 1951, the giant NSA base outside Harrogate has occupied land in a "secret relationship" between the US Air Force and the MOD. Information intercepted "from the European mainland via the strategic hub of London then by satellite to Fort Mead in Maryland" goes "via the crucial hub at Menwith Hill in the North York Moors of the UK". With its personal surveillance room inside Menwith Hill, GCHQ staff filter through "key word" information, then pass any juicy segments onto the likes of M15, Special Branch and Scotland Yard.

NSA ENEMY NO. 1

In February peace activists Lindis Percy and Annie Rainbow were outside the Menwith base to remove by-law signs declared "unlawful" by York Crown Court. These signs aimed at "criminalizing civil trespass" are the NSA's attempt to sabotage protests both inside and outside the base.

As she stepped just off the footpath, a police vehicle pulled up and served Lindis with a court order for breaching nine injunctions around the base. Orders for her arrest were passed from NSA officials, to the MoD, right down to the local Harrogate police. Annie says the signs were moved intentionally "to entrap Lindis for breach of the injunction".

The reason: the National Security Agency is determined to imprison Lindis for exposing the unlawful, corrupt and unaccountable activities of the worlds largest spy network. Two years ago Lindis broke court history records by suing the USA directly for

assault outside the US Mildenhall base (see SchNEWS 98). When questions regarding this assault and the accountability of US military bases were raised in Parliament, the ex MoD minister Nicholas Soames refused to answer on grounds of "disruption to the operational activities of the station and for security reasons".

So while the Big Brother NSA have the technology to spy, monitor and record on most of Europe, they are being protected by a conspiracy of silence from Labour ministers, GCHQ, and the MoD right down to the local plod. Leading Italian magazine *Il Mondo* reported this week that international surveillance watchdog group Privacy International are preparing to take the issue to the European Court of Human Rights "in an attempt to force the NSA to disclose its activities". The bully boy Big Brother agency knows they are on their last legs and are desperately clambering for a scapegoat. It is not Lindis Percy being prosecuted in the High Court on 2nd April but the NSA, and the eyes and ears of Europe will be on 'em.

*Get down to the High Court, the Strand (nearest tube is Temple) on Thursday 2nd April and show yer support for Lindis.

*For further detail contact the Campaign for Accountability of American Bases (CAAB), Indigo, 8 Park Row, Otley, West Yorks, LS21 1HQ. Tel no 01943466405

E-mail: caab.lindis.annie@virgin.net. Yorkshire CND, Yorkshire CND office, 22 Edmond St, Bradford, BD5 0BH. Tel: 01274 730796.

"Coming soon to a Town near you."

The GANDALF Liberation Tour kicks off on 6th April in Lancaster, then: 7th-L'pool; 8th-Manchester; 9th(& 10th-demo)-Nott'ham; 11th-B'ham; 13th-Oxford; 14th-Guildford; 15th-Portsmouth; 16th-Brighton and 17th-London. Paul Rogers and Robin Webb are due to be tried on 27th April on the same charges - 'conspiracy to incite persons unknown' - as the Gandalf 3. For four venues and times call 0956 694922

Ahaus - in the middle of the tracks

'It's Madness' - Last Friday the residents of Ahaus with a little help from their friends, gave a warm welcome to six Castor Containers, (Cask for Storage and Transport of Radioactive Materials), along with its escort of 30,000 police. It was the biggest police operation in postwar Germany, surpassing last year's action at Gorleben.

As the anti-nuclear movement set out for their well-prepared week of action, German authorities reacted with a desperate attempt to take them by surprise and sent the transport five days early. This led to the mobilisation of about 5,000 protesters instead of the expected 15,000, but still caused massive confusion amongst the police. They used border guards, elite anti-terrorist squads, and the infamous Berlin riot squads. One protester recalls, "they jumped out of their vans, crying 'It's waarr!' and charged. They beat people up just to shock the crowd."

Lots of inspired actions held up the train for the whole day, and it reached the "storage" site, where they hadn't even completed the perimeter fence, 13 hrs late. Nuclear fuel companies are only allowed to run their plants if they can provide a site yet there is no final destination that's why temporary sites like Ahaus and Gorleben, originally designed to take the waste for a couple of years are now supposed to store it for the next 40 years. In Neckarwestheim, where part of the convoy began, there was a demo 300 strong. Two people tunnelled under the street. In Ahaus, locals found their town cut in two as police sealed off the track, not even letting ambulances pass. Locals, looked like they'd never usually raise a hand against the authorities, "...literally threw anything they could get hold of. The windows of the police carriages following the Castor-Containers were smashed." About 700 people were nicked. Police blocked roads to keep out protesters arriving throughout the day. However, over 3000 people charged onto the tracks and began digging up the rails with their bare hands. Trees next to the rails were also occupied. It took 3 hours to clear the tracks, and another hour to repair the damage. Next day saw a 12,000 strong anti-nuclear demo in Munster near Ahaus. Despite the Castors getting through, the resistance was a massive success: the authorities were hoping to find a quiet storage place, as it was getting too difficult at Gorleben. It isn't just Germany's problem, as waste from their plants is transported across France and ends up at Sellafield. As one activist said "This is the nuclear industry's weak spot and we'll carry on hitting it!"

106.6 SMURF FM - is the new B-Right-On radio station going out on April 1st

ANTI-COPYRIGHT - INFORMATION FOR ACTION

◀ TRENCH TOWN ROCK SHOCK ▶

Helicopters and riot police hit Kingston at 5.30am on Tuesday to evict the Peoples Popular Front from a 53ft tower, a tree village and tunnels (SchNEWS 143). Activists have dug in to protect the 56 poplar trees. A figure of £100,000 has now been cited as the value for a riverside view. SchNEWS spoke to protestors via mobile phone as tree climbers worked to pull them out one by one: "Police have been punching people in the face. We are in the top of the tower and they are coming up the ladders as I speak. There are climbers all around and others smashing at the bottom with sledgehammers."

More than 100 police, 140 security guards and 35 sheriff's officers arrived on the first day of the eviction. Two people, Justin & Elf, were still in the tunnels today (Thurs morn). Police offered a deal - if they came out, 30 people would be allowed on the site for a media stunt. One campaigner told SchNEWS: "The consensus was 100% - 'fuck off'". Only 20 trees still stand and feelings are running high amongst local residents.

* **Canbury Gardens, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.** Tel: 0181 287 3118 or 0441 149388

◀ Charis in the Palace ▶

As protestors are evicted from Kingston, they are taking up the invitation to join the camp at **Crystal Palace Park**, just ten miles away. The Grade II listed park, on the highest point in London, is about to be carved up to make way for a £56m, 20-screen multiplex cinema with 9 bars and parking for 1,000 cars

John Prescott, as head of the Department of Environment, has OK'd the venture without a public enquiry. Last July 594 out of 600 people at a public meeting voted against Bromley Council's proposals. Five thousand residents have since signed a petition against the development. Friends of the Earth said Mr Prescott had "lost the plot!"

Planning permission was agreed on Tuesday. The architect Ian Richie, told disgruntled residents: "I'm glad people don't like it - it confirms my belief that it is a good design."

The development sets a precedent for the new gov't buzz word 'park-stripping', whereby areas of a parkland can be sold to developers to pay for the upkeep of the rest

* **Get there!** By train: Crystal Palace Stn; by tube: to Brixton then No3 bus [20 mins]. Tel: 0181 761 7826

* **Stevenage** - Hertfordshire County Council are building 10,000 houses west of the town. The scheme will destroy an area of unspoilt countryside: 01438 315210 / 01438 367452.

* **Torby** - Town centre by-pass (issue156) 10 tree houses up F.O.E 0133 272 7237

* **Bangor** - Unnecessary greensite development, more friendly locals than you could shake a talking stick at. Kate 01248 388 018

* **Peacehaven** - Last stretch of undeveloped Sussex a coastline - Save the Valley Campaign 01273 582 467



SchNEWS in brief

If our article on the people behind the Countryside Rally (SchNEWS 156) whetted your appetite, then maybe you should read 'Animal' (Issue 3 available for £1.20 from PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX) and 'A Real Future for our Countryside' - a Friends of the Earth briefing about the real threats to the countryside (SAE to 26-28 Underwood St., London, N1 7JQ). If you want to get involved in improving access to the South Downs, the new **SD Freedom to Roam Group**, which is determined to do so, needs YOU. Call 01273 388392 for info. *** **CAMBRIDGE** will be reclaiming the Streets on Saturday 25th April @ 1pm. Meet Cambridge Railway Station to take the roads from the cars. *** Last week 7 people from the **UK Oil Overthrow Association** blockaded the entrance to B.P.s largest UK refinery at Coryton, Essex. Two activists locked on to the underneath of a car, preventing oil tankers from entering or leaving for two hours, (short time, but loads of lost revenue). Meanwhile the other four grilled the refinery manager about pollution, global warming etc. until all 7 were arrested for obstruction *** **Swansea University** has refused to pay the high security costs required to keep vivisectionists attending a congress on April 1-3 safe from animal rights activists. The poor buggers have had to relocate to Jersey!! 1, 2, 3, Aaah... *** The 'Cycle Lanes Not Fast Lanes' rally in Birmingham on March 14th proved a wheel success. Campaigning against the B'ham Northern Relief Road and for more cycle facilities, 50-odd cyclists held up all lanes at a walking pace for an hour and a half on the inner ring road *** **DAN, the Disabled People's Direct Action Network**, are staging their tenth national action in London from Sun 5th - Wed 8th April. The two biggest issues on their agenda are New Labour's welfare plans for the disabled and the Dept of Transport's unsatisfactory proposal that public transport (i.e. buses) should be accessible to all - by the year 2020!! Call 0181 883 6963 *** **SchNEWS Night Benefit** coming up - on Sat April 4th @ the Lift, 8.30pm - feat. SchLIVE and Kyra's Tortoise. Admission is £1 b4 9pm, £3/2 after. *** Ever heard of **Sibyl**? A woman's mag for women who aren't interested in lipstick ads, Sibyl is available from **Agender**, call 0171 2262160 *** President Suharto that nice dictator from Indonesia (SchNEWS 158) is NOT coming to London on April 4th, but 'stuff' is still going on Coaches organised by **Brighton Peace Centre** £6/5. Tel: 01273 692880.

Kicking off - German style

But remember - don't!

- 1) There is less division between tactics, and room for all sorts of opinion, from sit down pacifists to masked-up full-on Autonomes. (Naughty Gnomes)
- 2) People help each other out; Fluffies holding banners in front of Police cameras for masked Spikies, linked arms stop Police snatch squads and Autonomie snatch squads stopping filming!
- 3) Affinity Groups - People looking out for each other, different groups had flags and code-names (e.g. 'Pizzal' or 'Volvo') to shout out loud when you're lost, so it was easy to find your mates in a crowd. Also debriefing a very important aspect for affinity groups

Inside SchNEWS

Kevin Marks (aka Rambo) is inside HMP Altcourse thanks to a number of alleged offences relating to the Manchester No Runway 2 Campaign and fines relating to the Bingley Bypass road protest camp. Drop him a line - CH5481, HMP Altcourse, Fazakerley, Liverpool.

Kevin (Kieven) Hickey was found guilty of handling stolen goods and sentenced to 12 months inside. The goods? Margaret, a rescued cat from Hillgrove cat-breeding farm. Please write to Kieven in support: AP7904, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4.

* The campaign to close down Chris Brown's establishment, which breeds cats for vivisection continues, with a demo on April 18th World Day for Laboratory Animals. Meet at the gate @ 1pm, Dry Lane, Witney, Oxon (and wear black). The police can barely afford to protect Hillgrove - the harder the pressure the sooner the fall!

More Crap Sentences

* A woman is in Holloway Prison because she cannot find £400 for bail Her crime: non-payment of a £14 taxi fare.

* A woman recently received four months - for nicking a pair of socks!

'ANOTHER STATELY ROAM'

Under the 'conditional exemption' scheme made public by Mark Thomas, owners of historic houses, landscapes and sites of scientific interest, do not have to pay tax on the condition they allow you to visit, but they don't advertise this fact. Go on treat yourselves to a luvverly day out on *The Quantock Hills* (the hunt roam freely here, why shouldn't you?) Fairfield House, Stogursey, Bridgewater TA5 1PU. 01278 732 251.

...and finally...

Oi! Drummers, buskers and squeegee-merchants! NO! That's what the headline Council of Brighton & Hove say, and if you don't agree you'll get fined £500 mate. Yes, Lord 'Squatter' Bassam continues to embrace Zero Tolerance by officially adopting model Home Office bye-laws for 'Good Rule and Government' this week. This says that "...no person shall annoy any other person by shouting or singing, playing a musical instrument or operating any radio, gramophone, amplifier or tape recorder". And be careful taking yer SchNEWS off anyone in the street - you may be conspiring to cause an offence, because "no person shall in any street or public place for the purpose of... advertising any article... importune to the annoyance or obstruction of any person". However at the same meeting, the law against "spitting in public urinals", passed by the Mayor Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Hove on 13th July 1950, was revoked. Are they taking the piss, or what?

DISCLAIMER

SchNEWS warns all readers who get lost in the woods to ignore all satellite dishes never mistake them for the home of a kindly soul who watches a lot of sport, they are the spawn of an evil nose-parker who will lock you up in a cell, fatten you up, then eat you - probably.

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tel/fax: (01273) 685913 e-mail: schnews@brighton.co.uk e-SchNEWS: <http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/>

Don't forget 'New Deal or Raw Deal?' Conference this Saturday (28th) at Friends Meeting House, Brighton 10 am - 5 pm

CASTORS, COPS AND CHAOS!

Resistance to Nuclear Waste Transport in Germany

In March 1998 a number of us who are involved in the ecological, anarchist and anti-nuclear direct action movements in the UK travelled to Ahaus, Germany to take part in the resistance to the transportation of nuclear waste. After our return a number of us wrote this leaflet; and its primary aim is to inform people and provoke thoughts on the events at Ahaus. With its publication we hope to continue to play a small part in helping to increase the effectiveness of our actions and campaigns here in the UK - whether of an anti-nuclear focus or not.

Recent History

Germany's nuclear programme - and the fight against it - began in the late 1970's with the construction of nuclear power plants. From its inception the resistance to nuclear developments in Germany was strong and was heavily influenced by Germany's powerful and radical environmental movement. However despite these early protests the German nuclear programme continued and today has expanded to produce a 1/3 of Germany's total energy requirements - as well as exporting considerable amounts of power abroad.

German nuclear power plants are legally required to deal with their nuclear waste and without evidence that they can safely store or dispose of this waste the plants are not licensed to operate. The waste storage sites at Ahaus and Gorleben in the North of Germany are the only legally designated sites where waste can be stored before being shipped to either Sellafield in the UK or La Hague in France for reprocessing. It is for this reason that they are so critical to the continued functioning of the nuclear system.

Storage sites for nuclear waste have existed in Germany for over 20 years and they have served as the focal point of resistance for local communities and Germany's large anti-nuclear movement. Nowhere has such opposition been as widespread or imaginative as in Gorleben. Three CASTOR transports to Gorleben have been met with increasing opposition so far culminating, in March 1997, with 15,000 activists being confronted by 30,000 riot police. 7,000 people blockaded the entrance to Dannenberg railway station, attempting to prevent the successful transfer of the CASTOR from rail to road. Train powerlines were felled and burning barricades constructed. A 70 strong tractor demonstration and a giant cross, made from 'liberated' railway girders, were used to effectively obstruct the road and delay the CASTOR's progress. It was, in part, the protests at Gorleben which inspired the resistance to be built in Ahaus. These developments in terms of size and effectiveness appear to be the result of historical context (well-established anti-nuclear and environmental movements) and organisational developments (the networking of local communities and other protest groups) as well as the growing momentum and politicisation of the nuclear issue in Germany.

A transport of nuclear waste consists of CASTOR containers (See 'Freaky Facts' box) each capable of holding 19 highly radioactive spent fuel rods from the core of nuclear reactors. The transport of waste to Ahaus in March 1998 consisted of 6 CASTORS - 3 from Grundremmingen nuclear plant in Bavaria and 3 from Neckarwestheim in Southern Germany. The CASTORS were taken a short distance by road to Walheim where they were loaded onto a train for the 600km journey to the storage depot just outside Ahaus. Ahaus is a small town with a population of 34,000 in the state of North-Rhine Westphalia near to the Dutch border in Germany. It seems that compared with the widespread protests at Gorleben the date expected there would be less resistance to the CASTOR transport to Ahaus since the storage site already contained 305 CASTORS. However substantiated rumours of this nuclear waste transport to Ahaus began a year ago, and inspired by the resistance at Gorleben, anti-nuclear groups from all over Europe responded by spreading information and mobilising people to come and protest in Ahaus.

Resistance to the CASTOR transport in Ahaus was co-ordinated by the BurgerInnen-Initiative (BI) - a town's peoples anti-nuclear group. They are linked with similar groups across Germany - including ones at Gorleben and Neckarwestheim - and all these groups had been meeting frequently to plan their resistance to the transport. They co-

ordinated Sunday marches to the Brennelementezwischenlager (BEZ) - the storage site at Ahaus - which often involved walking along the train tracks, sometimes with spontaneous sabotage happening. The BI also set up a protest camp opposite the storage site about 6 months before the transport was due.

Rumours abounded that the shipment of waste to Ahaus would take place over the period of the 23rd to 29th March. These rumours were fuelled by the fact that all police leave had been cancelled for this period - and the dates were later confirmed by the German government. Two demonstrations were organised for Saturday 21st March; one in Munster (the nearest large city to Ahaus) and one in Neckarwestheim. The plan was for people to then move onto camps in the area around Ahaus and prepare for actions the following week. The camps would be organised regionally and/or according to the different types of action people wanted to do.

This was not to be though, as to many people's surprise the German Interior Minister - Manfred Kanther - announced on Wednesday 18th March that everything was ready for the transport, and it would begin on the night of Thursday 19th. The CASTOR alarm was called on Wednesday night and people from all over Europe rushed to Ahaus, many only making it on Friday morning just before the CASTOR was due to arrive.

We had planned to leave the UK on Friday morning to arrive in time for the demonstration in Munster on Saturday, however, due to the CASTOR transport being early we ran around and just managed to get everyone together so we could leave on the Thursday night. After a night's driving and no sleep, we arrived in Ahaus just in time for the action at 8am on the Friday morning. Here's our version, as much as we can gather, of what actually happened there...

Diary of Resistance

Thursday 19th March

★ The CASTORS are ready to leave Neckarwestheim and Grundremmingen nuclear power stations by road, to be moved to Walheim where they are loaded onto a train.

★ In Neckarwestheim 200 demonstrators block the entrance of the power plant causing delays and 2 activists dig a tunnel and lock on under the road out of Neckarwestheim. The police dogs refuse to enter the tunnels. The police threaten to use CS gas - but don't - and the activists aren't removed until the evening.

★ In Ahaus at midday 500 kids bunk off school and carry out a sit down blockade of the train station and this is later joined by more locals. At 4pm 5000 protesters begin a demonstration in the town centre.

★ Police evict the camps around Ahaus; 3 are declared illegal for being within the 500 metre exclusion zone around the train tracks and 2 others are evicted with 9 arrests. 1000 riot police surround one of the remaining 2 camps - 'X8' camp - onto which about 1000 people had moved during the day.

★ At 4pm in Grundremmingen the 3 CASTORS leave the nuclear plant for Walheim.

★ In Ahaus 150 people managed to blockade the private tracks to the storage site, and are arrested along with a number of people caught barricading. A tractor convoy of farmers from Gorleben on their way to support the protests are stopped and held by police who deflate their tyres.

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Punks, pigs and pressure points - blockading the rails at Ahaus.

Friday 20th March

★ At 2.39am a riot police officer, Christian Lang who had been on duty securing the tracks for 20 hours near Würzburg in Southern Germany, is killed by a passing train that he failed to notice. D'oh!

★ At 3am the CASTOR transport leaves Walheim in a convoy watched over by helicopters. It is stopped soon after leaving for 45 minutes by people locked onto the tracks.

★ By dawn Ahaus is an occupied town. Roadblocks and train cancellations make it difficult for people to travel to, or move around in, Ahaus. Police are everywhere and significantly outnumber the protesters.

★ At 8am the level crossing on Schorlemerstrasse is blockaded in a protest which lasts for 6 hours. Police cordon off the protesters - but are then cordoned off themselves by masses of arriving people. They bring in water cannons and baton charge people. At 9am 150 people are arrested and taken to Coesfeld police station.

★ At 12 noon in Ahaus the Bahnhofstrasse (main high street) near the train station is blockaded.

★ At 12.30pm news comes that the transport has passed Kassel, and is therefore expected in Ahaus by 3 or 4pm. Protests are taking place in most of the larger towns along the route.

★ At 2pm the SEK (special anti-terrorist police unit) march onto the Bahnhofstrasse after a police prisoner transport vehicle has its tyres slashed and number plates ripped off! They violently break up the blockade using CS gas and batons.

★ At around 2pm people gather in the town centre and though nothing has been organised, a large group decide to move towards the town's outskirts. They blockade the southern tracks at a level crossing near the Kurt-Schumacherring. It is soon confirmed that of all the possible routes for the CASTOR to take this is the definite one. More than 1000 people dodge the police cordon and occupy the tracks and soon the numbers grow to at least 3000. People start to remove the gravel beneath the train tracks to make them unstable - and one particularly enterprising bunch of Autonome (anarchist/anti-fascist types) use a hydraulic jack to lift the tracks up! Police bring in 5 water cannon vehicles and a barricade breaker.

"To be standing on the tracks and see thousands of people swarm through the police lines to join us was amazing - there were kids, old people - it seemed as if the whole town was there."

★ At 2.30pm the chart-topping German band 'Toten Hosen' draw up to the blockade at Schorlemerstrasse to play a gig and have their van windows smashed by police.

★ In Legden, a few miles south of Ahaus, 4 people lock onto the tracks, and the CASTORs are briefly delayed. The tracks have to be replaced and repairs take until 5.30pm. Water cannons are used against the crowd.

★ All through the afternoon protests continue on the southern tracks at the Schumacherring. The infamous Berlin riot police slowly clear the blockade of the tracks, and reinforce their cordon using water cannons, baton charges, dogs and CS gas. Some people throw stones at the police slowing their attempts to clear the tracks. Others climb trees next to the tracks, but police chainsaw the first

"The experience of seeing a high ranking cop announce himself as the Chief of Berlin Police - only to be greeted by a hail of bricks and bottles - filled me with the utmost inspiration."

tree down with the person in it and threaten to do the same to the others if they don't come down - they come down! 4 more people lock onto the tracks. Military style police helicopters - most carrying extra reinforcements from areas where the train has already passed - are in the air the whole time and some are shot at with flares.

★ At 5.45pm the train heading the convoy arrives at the Schumacherring to test the tracks. The blockade is now cleared, but the tracks need considerable repair.

★ At 7.30pm the CASTOR finally reaches Ahaus and passes the Schumacherring crossing where there is now a stand-off between police and people.

"When the CASTOR finally rolled past in deathly silence people stood and watched - powerless to delay it any longer. With techno music in the background and spotlighted by overflying helicopters it was a surreal and sinister sight I will never forget."

★ Around this time a sit-down blockade takes place at the entrance to the storage site. During this a barricade breaker rolls over the foot of a woman protester who is severely injured.

★ At 8.27pm the CASTOR finally reaches the storage site - just outside Ahaus.

★ Later that night in Munster people demonstrate outside the police station where many of those arrested at Ahaus are being detained.

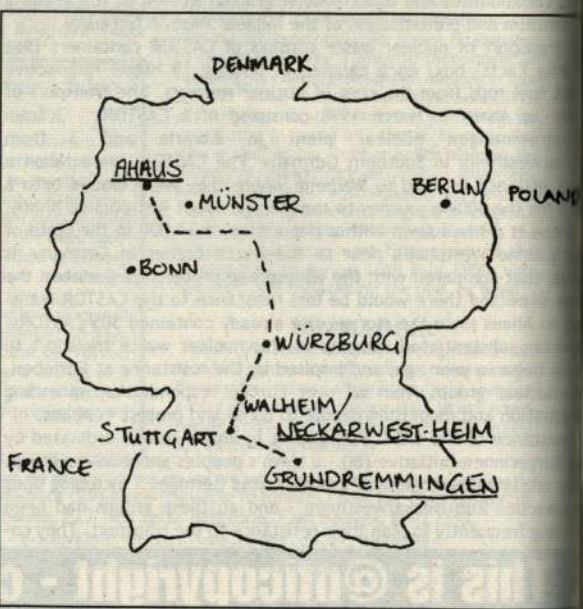
Saturday 21st March

★ Police roadblocks are set up on the roads into Munster and many vehicles on their way to the demonstration are stopped and searched. Our vehicle is stopped and we are asked if we have any molotov cocktails(!) - they then search us, confiscate our flag pole and let us go. In Munster the planned demonstration goes ahead with around 12,000 people marching through the city - there is significant 'black block' (anarchist/autonome masked faction) and some scuffles with the police.

Sunday 22nd March

★ In Ahaus around 4000 people join the 'Sonntagsspaziergang' Sunday stroll - to the storage site.

★ Police rampage their way out of Ahaus, trashing the wooden 'X' set up in gardens as a symbol of resistance and dumping rubbish in the camps.



What does this all mean for us?

The number of nuclear waste transports that occur here in the UK has increased since the opening of the THORP reprocessing plant at the Sellafield nuclear power station in Cumbria. Some of these transports pass through massive population centres such as London; however direct action protests against them have been minimal - both in size and effect - and currently there is little prospect of mass action against them on the scale seen in Germany. There are many reasons for the limitations of current anti-nuclear activism in the UK compared with the situation in Germany. Aside from the very different political histories of the two countries (including their anti-nuclear movements) issues concerning nuclear power, waste and weapons are currently not high on the agenda of public concern and debate in the UK - and this was recently demonstrated by the disinterest over the reprocessing of nuclear material from Georgia at Dounreay in Scotland. Therefore we should not become obsessed by attempting to replicate a Gorleben or Ahaus style situation over here in the UK. Having said this we can still learn useful lessons from the German anti-nuclear protests. Some of these include:

Community Involvement

The British direct action movement has often been successful in attracting local support for campaigns and actions. However, this has usually taken the form of moral or financial support rather than actual participation in direct action. By contrast, it has been a major strength of the German anti-CASTOR protests that they were *initiated* by the affected local communities and *supported* by activists. In Ahaus, symbolic resistance - such as the campaign's anti-castor 'X' poster - was everywhere, but local people were also out on the streets resisting the nuclear transport and police invasion of their town. Most of the kids bunked off school to take part in the protests, and we even heard that an entire class and their teacher had been arrested during one of the sit-down blockades!

One British activist commented on the lack of the 'usual' division between 'activists' and 'locals' saying that it felt like the whole community was out in opposition. If our campaigns or movements are to grow beyond the countercultural ghetto they currently reside they must be based upon local involvement - not support - and community-resistance.

Organisation

The strength of the German anti-nuclear protests have clearly been the result of intense and sustained groundwork at a local, national and international level. Planning for the resistance at Ahaus began a year before the action with the participation of groups across Germany, and a lot had been learnt from previous protests at Gorleben. The effectiveness of the mobilisation was demonstrated by the fact that although the CASTOR transport was moved 5 days earlier than expected - with barely 24 hours notice - over 5000 people still managed to turn up on the Friday.

The participation of groups across Germany in preparing for the protests had a marked effect on the impact of the resistance. Rather than being a protest with one focal point - Ahaus - the organisation of resistance in towns along the route succeeded in making the CASTOR transport a national issue - a much greater threat to the State. Additionally direct action began from the moment the CASTORs left the power plants, so the transport was held up for far longer than if all resources and energy had been concentrated in Ahaus.

State Response

The response of the German State to the anti-nuclear protests can be seen on a number of levels. The size of the police operation - the largest deployment since World War 2 - and the amount of resources (see 'Freaky Facts' box) they are willing to put into containing the protests would suggest that they take these protests fairly seriously. However, since the nuclear issue is quite high on the popular political agenda it seems that the authorities are keen to try and outwit, as well as outfight, the protests - and the media were complicit in helping with this.

Like any other protest the media played out a particular role in the portrayal, and hence perception, of what was going on. It appears that there was quite an effort, in contrast to the hyping-up of Gorleben, to down-play the impact of the resistance, and we particularly noticed this in the British press reports. Another example of how our protests can never rely on the mainstream media for accurate representation or explanation of the issues involved...

The politicisation of the issue may also have been a factor in the

pronouncements by the authorities that they would use a 'softly, softly' approach to the protests. In the event there was nothing very 'soft' about the police tactics, as even random groups of people who were nothing to do with the protests were targeted by baton-wielding cops. Alongside the sheer brutality the police also used their power to simply harass demonstrators. An example of this was the police road-blocking access to the camps, and spreading misinformation about which camps existed on the Friday night, resulting in people having to wander for miles in the dark trying to gain access to the camps.

Freaky Facts in a Flash

- CASTOR stands for 'Cask for the Storage and Transport of Radioactive Materials.'
- Each CASTOR is capable of holding 19 highly radioactive fuel rods from the core of a nuclear reactor.
- This transport train was 570m in length and contained 6 CASTORs.
- From Walheim to Ahaus is a distance of only 600km and the train journey should have taken 6/7 hours.
- The transport left Walheim at 3am on Friday 20th March and arrived in Ahaus at 8.30pm - a delay of around ten hours.
- About 30,000 police were involved in the protests of which 18,000 were in Ahaus. These police included normal, transport, riot police (ex-border guards) and members of a special anti-terrorist unit (the SEK).
- One of those heading the police operation - Hubert Wimber - is a Green Party Councillor. Democracy: would you like a kick in the head or a punch in the stomach?
- Around 8,000 people took part in the resistance at Ahaus - and between 600 and 1000 people were arrested. (Official police reports count 628 arrests and 775 identity checks).
- Despite publicising a 'softly, softly' approach to the protests, the police used water cannons, CS gas and baton charges against protesters (and random gatherings of people) and had up to 16 helicopters - most carrying police reinforcements - in the air at any one time.
- Out of a school population of 12,000 in Ahaus on Friday 20th only 20-30 kids attended school!
- Police reported 33 injuries amongst protesters, the official Red Cross reported 63, and the Autonomie first aid group estimated many more - including some severe injuries. Many people are now filing charges against the police for injuries sustained at Ahaus.

Affinity Groups

An affinity group is a group of people - usually numbering somewhere between 5 to 12 - who band together for a specific purpose such as mutual protection. The composition of an affinity group can vary from complete strangers, who join together during an action for one particular task, to close friends that have known each other for years.

Whilst having some disadvantages, going on an action as an affinity group means that people can discuss things such as what they want to do and how they want to act in certain situations, such as arrest or a riot. A good way of keeping affinity groups together is the use of flags, which in Germany proved invaluable for finding our group in a large and chaotic crowd. It also showed itself to be excellent for leading off groups if you need to move in a hurry. As well as this it's a very inspirational sight to see loads of flags belonging to like-minded groups flying in the wind above a militant active crowd.

Police on the continent have a justified reputation for being much more violent than the UK police; and Germany is no exception to this. Because of this people have to look out for each other much more on actions and demonstrations. Examples of this that we saw in action included: everyone in the 'black block' on the march in Munster linking arms to stop police snatch squads, people holding banners along the side of demonstrations to stop filming and snatch squads, groups going out to actively harass police camera crews, the use of Autonomie medic teams (protesters who are trained in first aid) and good legal support who do follow up work as well as advice on arrest.

The important thing is resistance!

In the anti-nuclear protests in Germany there appears to be more tolerance of, and acceptance of the need for, varying types of action than in the UK radical direct action scene. A slogan that summed this up was the chant '*Peaceful or militant - the important thing is resistance!*' which was shouted on the demo in Munster.



The march of whose "progress"?

The original plan at Ahaus was to have different direct action camps alongside the CASTOR route. Each camp was to be organised by a different region - similar to at Gorleben last year - and different tactics were expected to be used by each one. This was supposed to mean that there was much more room for different kinds of protests to happen and so less time would be wasted arguing about what form the protest should actually take - violent or non-violent for example - as is depressingly common on many demonstrations and actions in the UK. This plan was never to be though as all but two camps were evicted before the transport arrived, and meant that everyone was jumbled together in a more ad hoc way and on the actions people just got on with doing what they wanted.

What was very noticeable was the way that the different tactics used on the actions complimented one other. At the blockade of the train tracks some people were sitting down in the way, others dug up and undermined the tracks, whilst others threw rocks at the police. If any one of these had been done in isolation it would have been far less effective than all of them happening

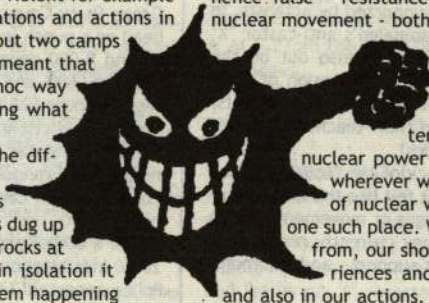
alongside each other. The people throwing rocks forced the police to wear riot gear, which slowed them down, as well as making them deploy squads for protection - thereby tying up more resources. The sit down of the tracks forced the police to clear it - taking large numbers and time - but also acted as a cover for others to dig up the tracks that significantly delayed the train whilst they were repaired.

This all may be a slightly over-positive view of the different sections of a movement working together. It must be mentioned that some of the people felt mutually inhibited by the others actions and attitudes - non-violent protesters felt threatened by militancy, and people chucking rocks had to be worried about pacifists shouting at them and drawing police attention. There definitely were tensions amongst this apparently united front. Even acknowledging these differences activists in Britain should take stock that at least in Germany they seem to try and work together on the same protests and actions without evangelical preaching about the 'right way' to do things - something we can rarely boast of.

What now?

Whilst devoting time and energy to confronting these nuclear issues, we must never become fooled into treating them as one issue isolated from others. The struggle against nuclear power is merely one area of conflict in a web of resistance to the entirety of industrial capitalism. This system increasingly dominates and endangers every aspect of our lives and any movement that fails to acknowledge and address its place in this web falls into the trap of partial - and hence false - resistance. To build on the strengths of the anti nuclear movement - both in Germany and in the UK - we must look for, find and make links with the other areas of conflict with the State and capitalism that have revolutionary potential.

To transcend this ecological world the system of hierarchical power relations that nuclear power relies on must be confronted and fought wherever we can do so effectively - and the transport of nuclear waste to the storage depot near Ahaus was one such place. We were inspired by, and have learnt much from, our short time there. We hope to carry the experiences and inspiration forwards - in our memories and also in our actions.



For details on UK anti-nuclear actions:

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and Nuclear Trains Working Group 162 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DQ. Telephone: 0171 700 2393. E-Mail: cnd@gn.apc.org
Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, Scotland, G84 8HT. Telephone: 01436 820901.
Greater Manchester CND, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS. Telephone: 0161 834 8301. E-mail: gmcnd@gn.apc.org

For information on European anti-nuclear actions:

BI Ahaus, Bahnhofstr. 51, 48683 Ahaus, Germany or Postfach 1165, 48661 Ahaus, Germany. Telephone: +49 2561 961 791. Web site: www.oneworldweb.de/castor/ahaus
For Mother Earth, Gewad 15, 9000 Gent, Belgium. Telephone: +32 9 233 4924. E-mail: office@motherearth.agoranet.be
Ecodefense! Moskovsky prospekt, 120-34236006 Kaliningrad, Russia. Telephone: 7-0112-437286. E-mail: ecodefense@glasnet.ru

It's more than just no nukes...

Earth First! Action Update, c/o Dept 29, 1 Newton Street, Manchester, M1 1HW. Telephone: 0161 224 4846. E-mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org Monthly 6 page newsletter with reports of ecological direct action, a list of forthcoming events and a contacts list of active groups - send an SAE for a free copy.
Do or Die, c/o PO Box 2971, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2TT. 164 pages of news and cutting edge analysis from the ecological frontlines. £2.50 (payable to 'Earth First!') including postage from the above address.
Schnews, PO Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX. Telephone: 01273 685913. Send an SAE for a copy of this weekly A4 newsheet covering anti-capitalist/anti-state direct action struggles in the UK and abroad.
Smash Hits, Box BM 5538, London, WC1N 3XX. A forum and airing ground for dynamic revolutionary ideas - for a copy send £1.50 including postage.

If you would like a talk done on the events at Ahaus, or for correspondence and discussion with the authors of this leaflet contact: CASTORS, Cops and Chaos! c/o Box B, Public House Bookshop, 21 Little Preston Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 2HQ, UK. Donations to cover the cost of printing this leaflet are welcome. Make cheques/postal orders payable to 'Earth First!' and send to the above address.

Rabid Radioactive Reading

★ Chapter 11 entitled 'Anti-Nuclear War. Perspectives on the anti-nuclear movement' in 'The Eco Wars. A Layman's Guide to the Ecology Movement' by David Day. (Harrap Books: London 1989). ★ 'Nuclear Power for Beginners' by Stephen Croall and Kaianders Sempler. (Writers and Readers: London 1978) Easy to understand guide to nuclear issues ★ 'Progress and Nuclear Power' by Fredy Perlman. Originally published in a special anti-nuclear issue of Fifth Estate in April 1979. Available as a pamphlet for 80p including postage from: Dead Trees Earth First! PO Box 2971, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2TT, UK. (Send well concealed cash or blank PO's.) ★ 'Strange Victories - the anti-nuclear movement in the US and Europe.' Published by Midnight Notes with an introduction by Alfredo M. Bonanno. (Elephant Editions: London 1985) An analysis of the class structure and strategy of the anti-nuclear movement in the US and Europe during the 1970's and '80's.

Thanks to all those groups and individuals who donated the money that made our travel to this action possible.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SUPER-SCOOPIN'

SchNEWS

FROM BRIGHTON TO BRISBANE EVERY WEEK



Friday April 3rd 1998

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 161

Free/Donation

JAILED EDITORS FREED! ★ BRAKES PUT ON CORPORATE GREED!

WE WON'T SHUT UP!

"I'm delighted with their release. Their imprisonment was disgraceful in the first place. But I find it very curious it has passed yet again without comment from our mainstream media"

Judith Vidal-Hall
Deputy Editor, Index On Censorship

In the week that *The Sun* began a national campaign to free the fictional Weatherfield One - Coronation Street's Dierdre - a conspiratorial silence greeted the sensational release of three UK editors jailed last November.

High Court Appeal Judge, Mr Justice Smedley, shocked a court on Friday by signing the papers for their immediate release - effectively undermining the original ruling - just four months into their three year sentence.

At lunchtime on Friday Saxon Wood, Noel Molland & Steve Booth, the 'GAndALF 3', were told they could pack their bags and were free to go. Their lawyers had simply put in a standard bail application to push for a (still unknown) appeal date.

The journalists, branded 'terrorists', had been jailed for reporting the facts of direct action protests. Although the three maintain they didn't even know each other, they were found guilty of "conspiring to incite persons unknown" on unspecified dates over a five year period to commit unspecified criminal damage. Hello, Orwell?

This clear case of denial of free speech was not lost on Index on Censorship which reprints samples of the 'offending' copy, from the radical journal Green Anarchist (GA) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) supporters newsletter, on its website www.oneworld/index_oc

The move has led to hope that their convictions may be quashed, but that will have to wait for the appeal, and even possible retrial. In the meantime, the trial on the same charges of the main target Robin Webb (ALF's press officer) - with possibly Paul Rogers - is going ahead, starting on 27th April at Portsmouth Crown Court. The whole saga has so far cost the taxpayer over £4 million!

Steve Booth told SchNEWS: "When I was told I could go the lads in the cells were cheering. People inside have a defeatist attitude - but this time it was like "Yes! You've fought the system!". I'm completely shocked and stunned by the whole thing. The guard said he'd never heard of this happening before. We've heard a rumour that the reason we've been let out was that Amnesty in the US was about to list us as political prisoners.

"I went into prison with bar of soap, biro and toothpaste. I came out with four huge binbags of letters and books

"They've not heard the last from me - jail is no deterrent. Don't do it folks! The next Lancaster Bomber, Issue 20, will be out as soon as I can do it!"

"I went inside with a bar of soap, biro and toothpaste... I came out with four huge binbags of letters!"

Saxon Wood told SchNEWS: "I think it had become too much of a hot potato - so thanks to SchNEWS and everyone who supported me. I'm writing lots of thankyou notes - if anyone needs a spare organ they can have one of mine!"

Noel Molland told SchNEWS: "If they uphold the conviction on appeal we could go back inside. The whole freedom of speech and implied conspiracy is crazy. Maybe our release is the whole case starting to unravel and hopefully Robin will walk."

* Some of the freed men will now join the Liberation Tour, a speaking tour of the two outstanding defendants, Paul & Robin, from April 6th-17th. Call 0956 694922

* A demo will take place outside the court on the first day of the trial: Mon 27 Apr @ 10am, Winston Churchill Plaza.

* London Gandalf Support Campaign meets on April 28th @ 7pm, Conway Hall.

* For full coverage of the GAndALF case, see SchNEWS website (address on masthead)

* The most infamous case involving the underground press were the Oz trails. This week marks 25 years since their first issue - Happy Anniversary from SchNEWS!

* HOORAY! Congrats to everyone.

CRAP JOB OF THE WEEK

Receptionist/Admin assistant wanted (16-18 yr old) Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm
WAGES: £40 a week!

This job was on offer at Pinnacle Office Equipment, Cardiff (01222) 363738 and advertised by Career Paths (Cardiff and Vale) Ltd, a part of the Welsh Office that sends job details out to schools and colleges.

Have you got a crap arrest/sentence/job? Why not ring the SchNEWS desk!

MAI-DAY DELAYED

Activists campaigning against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) (SchNEWS 141) were celebrating this week, as the Chairman of the Negotiating Group Franz Engering said that the agreement would not now be signed on April 27th as planned. This could mean up to a year's delay for negotiations, and gives everyone plenty more time to expose what has been described as the crudest form of globalisation yet.

The treaty would give multinationals the right to sue countries which refused their investment, regardless of domestic law on labour rights and the environment.

Lack of flexibility by the US was cited as one of the main obstacles, but public awareness campaigns forced a constitutional issue across the world from New Zealand to Canada, but not the charter-less UK where Margaret Beckett backed the monster free trade treaty and the press stayed silent. This is despite the 29 richest countries boasting that they were "writing the constitution of a single global economy".

However, this is a bit of a red herring - with even Engering admitting whether or not the MAI gets the green light, the pressure by multinationals for a MAI-like investment treaty will remain.

World Development Movement
25 Beehive Pl London SW9 7QR
0171 737 6215 wdm@gn.apc.org
Corporate Europe Observatory
ceo@xs4all.nl

RECLAIM EUROPE!

CARDIFF, JUNE 14-16 1998
info: 0171 272 9333

DON'T JUST READ ABOUT IT. DO IT!

PEACE DIVIDEND

Faslane Peace Camp are back in court next Monday (6th) thanks to their solicitors arguing that some of the caravans have been there so long they now count as homes (instead of what...doughnuts?)

The camp, which has been stationed outside the Trident nuclear base for the past 16 years was expecting eviction from April 1st before the loophole was discovered. Fools! The whole of the UK's nuclear arsenal is now stationed there, despite 83% of Scots opposed to Trident! The local authority Argill and Bute are currently closing schools and cutting jobs and services because of budget problems - but can still apparently find the £400,000 estimated to evict the camp. **Get up there now** - directions and info ring 01436 820 901

*People in Lancaster have been demonstrating every Friday about nuclear waste trains going through their town on its way to Hesham power station, asking 'what would happen if a train had an accident?' Guess what happened last week... Yep, a nuclear waste train fell off the tracks. More info BookCellers 01524 849 313

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Acme Tat Suppliers of Leeds can supply activists with their every needs. Their catalogue includes: 10mm Alloy Maillon Rapide lock gate £4.50; a Petzl Zoom Head torch £19.50; Wire cutters-folding, heavy duty & pocket sized £5.00; Operation Solstice - The Battle of the Beanfield £10.00; EcoDefense - a Field Guide to Monkey-wrenching £9.50 and 100s of other useful campaign stuff. Get a catalogue from Box R, Cornerstone Resource Centre 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Chapeltown LEEDS LS7 3HB Tel: 0113 2629365 cornerstone@gn.apc.org

*An awesome list of who to find on UK scanning frequencies can be found at

<http://www.chubs.demon.co.uk/ukscan.htm> Tune into the Formula One Racing Ligier Team Voice Link, 457.3125, or check the vodka party aboard Space Soviet Mir Space Station, 142.4000. Disrupt studio production with some obscenities on the Thames TV Production Talkback channel 86.8250. Of course you can also pick up the internal chat of all police, army and airforces countrywide - like 78.0250 RAF Greenham Common USAF Security Foot Patrols, 76.5000 Ruislip MOD Police and 30.5000 London US Embassy Security - but that'd be illegal. This info is for fun only. Really good fun!

WRITE IT!

The release of the GANDALF 3 is important to SchNEWS. It sends a signal that the underground press cannot be silenced, and shows why the underground press is so important. (We were the first to report on the trial, the jailing and the release of the three UK editors). It's a strong reason why we should continue. But we can't without your help. We are victims of our own success and we need office help before we drown in news! Even if you can only spend an hour a week (we can train you), writing & phoning it'd save some poor scribes from an early grave. Thanks. That's all. You can read the funny bits now.

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS training day: 15th April. Ring the office to book your place now.

SchNEWSers' bike stolen, urgently needs cheap one (£40-60) ring Kit at office

INSIDE SchNEWS

A Chronology of Injustice published by 'Legal Action for Women' (£4.00 ISBN 0 9517775 72) records the events that led up to Winston Silcott's stitch-up for the murder of P.C. Blakelock in the Tottenham riot "From the age of 14 the police started on Winston, for riding a bike without lights - from that day on they never stopped". Winston's mother. The book is available from L.A.W. Crossroads Womens Centre PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU 0171 482 2496.

***'Cause For Concern'** is a new book detailing corruption, stupidity and injustice in the courts. For a copy send £4 to N Scarth, c/o Gledhow Park Ave, Leeds, LS7 4JL (tel/fax 0113 2620449)

SchNEWS IN BRIEF

Everyone arrested during the **Dead Woman's Bottom** evictions (SchNEWS 151) have had their charges dropped. Could it be, as lawyers believe, because the eviction contravened articles 6 & 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights? Campaign continues with a walk to the Home Office. Contact: 01749 880 114 *** Congrats! The second of the Manchester airport **cake hole babies** has been born to pink Lizz. Ysobel Harmony was 17 days late (the same length of time the tunnel lasted for) and at the last moment she 'locked on' by wrapping the cord round her neck! *** Two more animal rights activists have been arrested under the Anti-Stalking-law during a candle-lit vigil at **Cornyhaugh Mink Farm** (SchNEWS 159). The magistrates then imposed bail conditions including home residence and a 7.30pm-7.00am curfew! *** This years **Sex Maniac's Ball** is on Thursday 9th April at the Powerhouse, Waterden Rd., London E15. It's pretty expensive and dress code is Spanish, fetish or slutfish. If interested ring 0171 460 0044 They are now online as well www.sfc.org.uk *** The Greenwich Green Party are having a meeting about the **Millenium Dome** on 7th April at Charlton House, Charlton Village, London SE7 7pm 0181 850 4187 *** Check out **Infonet**, now on its seventh issue with articles on things like, 'how protests hit company shares' and a 2 year hemp printed calendar. They're looking for contributors. PO Box 9228 London NW10 5WB *** London Greenpeace are at it again. They have produced a leaflet called **'What's wrong with the Body Shop?'** which points out that promotion of cosmetics etc. is unethical and that even claims made about animal rights and vegetable ingredients are seriously overrated. For a copy of the leaflet and a big bump of anarchist info send an A4 sae with a 31p stamp to: 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 *** London-based group "People Like Us" have done a nice little booklet about the anti-conscription movement in Spain. It gives an account of the movement's actions and victories (yes indeed!) over the past few years, focusing in particular on the Insomision Total way of *changing the world* as the movement goes further than just fighting conscription, but building up a culture of resistance. An inspiring read, it costs £2 from BCM People Like Us Publications, London WC1N 3XX ***

Don't forget **SchNEWSnight @ The Lift, Queen's Rd** this Saturday (4th). Music from Kyra's Tortoise. Buy Saxon a pint (& meet the Zombie Chef?) £1 B4 9pm £3/2 after.

WAITING LIST

The Hillingdon Hospital workers who were sacked over two and a half years ago for refusing to take a £40 week wage cut (SchNEWS 136) are organising a lobby outside Granada Headquarters, Golden Square, W1 Wednesday April 8th 12 noon - 2pm. Granada have now taken over the contract at the hospital and are advertising the women's old jobs despite Granada's Stephanie Monk being on the Low Pay Commission! The women recently won their appeal tribunal for full re-instatement, but the hospital are appealing the appeal! They have refused to be bought off for £6,000 a striker, and have led the struggle against low pay.

They are desperate for donations, send to c/o 27 Townsend Way, Northwood, Middx, HA6 1TG Tel: 0956 135311

AGAINST REASON

In a very unusual move Channel 4 are going to make a TV apology about the **Against Nature** series, which amongst other things accused the environmental movement of being like the Third Reich! The Independent Television Commission condemned the series as distorted and misleading. Peter Melchett from Greenpeace said "I have never experienced in more than 20 years, a TV interview in which I said one thing, then had it cut to make it seem as if I had said something else. The programmes were inaccurate, anti-environmentalist propaganda."

DOG FIGHT

Another protest camp has been set up outside Huntingdon **Death Sciences**, that nice firm that gets by paid by other cosmetic and medical companies to vivisect monkeys, cats, dogs, rodents etc. The **Camp for Justice** is the fourth one outside Huntingdon, and was set up on the one year anniversary of the showing of C4's **'Its a dogs life'**. The programme caused the companies share price to drop dramatically, and campaigners are hoping the camp will help to act as another nail in the coffin. This week in the US Huntingdon have been fined for violating animal welfare laws. HDSC PO Box 325, Cambridge, CB1 2UF 0589 026 435

FARMYARD POSSE

Exodus, the Luton based party crew have bought Long Meadow farm for £150,000. They now have 42 people living on the commune and intend to work towards self sufficiency over the next year *** Brighton's **Innerfield** soundsystem have finally got their rig and records back after the New Years Eve party - so a great big thank you from Hellish!

And Finally ...

'Is your tap water veggie?' asks animal rights magazine ARCNEWS. Apparently Yorkshire Water have started to use animal bones to filter their water. So far around 1,750 homes are getting the meaty aqua and ARCNEWS advises its readers **'anyone living in the above named areas should not use tap water if they are veggie.'** Pardon us for being ignorant, but SchNEWS would like to know just how much it would cost to have a regular bath in Perrier water?

ye olde disclaimer

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



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER HOT CROSS FUN

SchNEWS

FROM THE HIGH ST TO THE HIMALAYAS EVERY WEEK



Thurs April 9th 1998

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 162 Free/Donation

SHIP SHAKE!

A Canadian, German and two Belgian Greenpeace activists were last week beginning a prison sentence in Canada. The four were sentenced to 21 days and two years probation after they prevented International Forest Products clearcutting an ancient rainforest valley by locking onto machinery (the valley is home to high populations of grizzly bears and the runs of endangered coho salmon)

They had gone to the valley at the invitation of the Nuxalk First Nation hereditary chiefs and took part in a nineteen day blockade in June of last year. 14 other defendants had the same sentence suspended, whilst six more, including chiefs, will stand trial in May.

They were the first Greenpeace activists to be imprisoned since the blockage of the radioactive discharge pipeline at Sellafield ten years ago.

Meanwhile in Europe, Greenpeace have been giving Saga Wind, a ship bringing timber from the British Colombian rainforest, the runaround.

At Greenock Harbour in Scotland, four activists occupied the ship's crane.

An injunction, served after a three day stalemate, spelt out the cheeky technique activists used to occupy the ships cranes "Four men approached the vessel dressed in yellow oilskins, wearing hardhats and carrying clipboards, whereby they announced themselves to the captain of the ship as from the Department of Trade and Industry.

"The master believing the declaration true, allowed them board the vessel. They said to him they understood from information from Canada there was a potential problem with the cranes on the vessel, and that they wished to inspect those cranes. The master admitted them to ascend the crane over the hold of the vessel..."

One of the men, Al Baker from Greenpeace told SchNEWS "I hit the crane's emergency stop button. The driver came out of the cabin wondering what the hell was going on. I said 'Hello, we're from Greenpeace', and walked past him and locked myself in the cabin."

And that's where the activists remained for three days and two nights preventing any unloading.

During this time, Magnet - the UK's largest buyer of British Colombian timber - agreed to stop buying anymore.*

The ship next met a Greenpeace team at Antwerp, where they tried to paint slogans on the ship but were fought back with water cannons, and barges which threatened to squash them in their inflatables, against the ship.

Next stop, Brake in Germany on the 7th April where 6 more activists attempted to mount the same crane that had been occupied in Scotland. However, they were removed on the same day.

Eighty per cent of the valleys in the British Colombian temperate rainforest have already been logged, and Greenpeace are calling for a moratorium on the remaining intact valleys. The government meanwhile has announced more than 500 changes to the Forest Practices Code, many weakening environmental protection.

In the UK several smaller buyers are now using sustainably supplied wood, but Harcross and Jewson are dragging their heels, although following the crane antics have now agreed to meet Greenpeace. If they can be persuaded to pull out, the end of the UK trade is nigh, as any remaining smaller purchasers will not be enough to warrant delivery here.

Contact Greenpeace, Canonbury Villas, London, N1 2PN 0171 8658100

* Good to see Magnet Kitchens getting all ethical about wood. Pity it doesn't extend to the 350 workers they sacked 19 months ago after they voted to strike over worsening conditions at work. (Don't buy their kitchens)

Gandalf Liberation Tour

comes to Brighton next Thursday, 16th April at Brighton Unemployed Centre, Tilbury Place 7pm - entrance is free. Editors of Green Anarchist and the Animal Liberation Front will be speaking about the 'conspiracy to incite' trials (for simply reporting about direct actions) a move which has profound implications for free speech and the alternative press.

CRAP JOBS

Monday was the Big Day for New Labour's New Deal and we heard rumours of free alarm clocks for lazy gits in Nottingham, hypnotherapy in Hampshire for those too scared to go to work, and free cosmetics from Boots for those too smelly to get a job.

Let the SchNEWS desk know about your experiences of New Deal

CRAP ARREST

For smelling of cannabis. A girl was nicked in Kingston during the recent eviction. She was later released without charge.

✱ TURN IT OFF ✱

"Television does not relax the human mind. it subdues it.

White Dot magazine

A study by Roger Putnam at Harvard University revealed that the generations since 1950 have stopped 'participating'. People know less and join in less. From bowling clubs to national politics, people are staying home and doing nothing. The study isolated a single cause: television.

"Let's stay at home and watched it on tv."

Did you know that most people in Britain, spend four hours a day watching the box. Media is very big business. Program makers are constantly telling us how educational and informative TV is, but, just who is informing us and about what?

"We insist on a Broadcast environment that reinforces our corporate message"

General Electrics Manager.

We are 'educated' by the 'soaps' to buy into the lifestyle of the characters, documentaries are hi-jacked for multinational's interests (Channel 4's Against Nature) and large amounts of the 'News' we watch is often an "opinion from an expert".

SchNEWS gets countless calls from TV researchers desperate for, "anyone who can sound like they know what they're talking about". Television's priorities aren't to give you what you want but to make profits, "We are a company geared to increasing revenue for our shareholders every six months."

Granada TV.

Recommended Reading: Test Card F - Television, Mythinformation and Social Control E4 from AK Press, 22 Luton Place, Edinburgh, EH8

It's International TV Turnoff Week from 22-28 April. Last year four million people turned off their TVs during the week - to find out more Contact White Dot, PO Box 2116, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3LK email turnoff@mistral.co.uk www.tvfa.org

Street parties go global

"To reclaim the streets is: to take back our public everyday space from the deadening stranglehold of the car, giving the city a breath of fresh, festive resistance."

On May 16th tens of thousands of people all over the world will take back their streets. So far the tally stands at 27 towns and cities in 18 countries and counting.

Welcome to the Global Street Party: Bogota, Berlin, Bielefeld, Thuringen, Lyon, Birmingham, Sydney, Tel Aviv, Geneva, Turku, Madrid, Ankara, Brisbane, Melbourne, Berlin, Gothenburg, Dublin, Derry, Seattle, New York, San Francisco, Prague, Olympia, Turin, Toronto, Vancouver, Athens...

May 16th is also the day that leaders of the eight most industrialised nation-states in the world will meet in Birmingham, helping to increase the pace of the global market economy. But as the system is global; the resistance, if it is to be effective, must also be global.

Birmingham Reclaim The Streets May 16th Meet 4pm New Street Station Bring: clown gear, face paint, custard pies, noisy instruments and plenty of imagination.* Don't forget Cambridge Reclaim The Streets on Saturday 25th April Meet 1pm outside the Railway Station. Transport should be going from Brighton - ring SchNEWS to book a place.

DOCKERS MARCH FOR JUSTICE

The sacked Liverpool dock workers have organised a second March for Social Justice on Saturday 30th May/Meet 12 noon at Thames Embankment (take tube to Temple). Tel 0181 4420090. To subscribe to the Dockers Charter send cash to 19 Scorton St, Liverpool, L6 4AS 0151 2073388.

* Docker Re-belly-on! During the 28 month dispute, the picket line munched its way thru, amongst other things, an amazing 1600lbs of black pudding, 7000lbs of sausage, 22,922 eggs, 3,213 loaves and 700 lbs of sugar...

BANGOR EVICTED...

The protest camp near Bangor, was evicted last Tuesday involving over 50 cops and bailiffs using pressure points and quick cuffs to force protesters out of lock-ons at the Eithing housing site. There were 9 arrests, and 6 required hospital treatment. A new camp is being set up this weekend to continue resistance to the greenfield development. A Day of Action takes place on Monday 13 April Contact: 01248 35154 Site mobile: 0836 563980 e-mail: jimk@undeb.bangor.ac.uk

...FASLANE SAVED

Faslane peace camp scored a great victory this week, when the sherrif threw out the Argyll and Bute Council's eviction order against the camp outside the Trident War base. The council said in their statement that the camp was a business (selling what?), and not a home. The judge said that it was obviously not a business, and rejected the application! The council have 14 days to appeal, or they will have to go through the whole legal process again 01436 820901

STOP PRESS:
PEACEHAVEN GREENBELT SAVED!
MORE NEXT WEEK

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

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

CHEERS TO LOUISE FOR THE XMASS CARD WE'VE JUST RECIEVED WHEN DO WE GET OUR EASTER EGGS!!!!!!!!!!!!

IN BRIEF

The Lindis Percy v's The National Security Agency trial (SchNEWS 160) has been referred to the 24th April, when Lindis will find out whether or not she faces prison for exposing the activities of the Big Brother spy station at **Menwith Hill** in Yorkshire. The NSA are so desperate to see Lindis imprisoned for removing "illegal by-law signs" around the base, that they sent 17 MoD Officers for a day's outing to the High Court as witnesses for the prosecution*** An extortionist has threatened to bomb Germany's railways unless the operating company, Deutsche Bahn, pays 1.5 million marks (half a million dollar). In a letter to newspapers the man said his actions would be 'revenge' for the train transport of nuclear waste to **Ahaus** two weeks ago (SchNEWS 160) ***Computers! An animal rights group has come across a supply of very cheap 486's, they will support '95' but come with no software (01271 830 842) ***The Welsh Socialist magazine **Y FANER GOCH** celebrated its 100th issue in March and is a cracking good read for anyone who hasn't come across it. Look out for the 'Shit of the Month' column and **SCALP** (Socialist Campaign Against Low Pay) exposures of evil cowboy bosses. Subscription is £6 for 12 months, write to: Cymru Goch, PO Box 661, Wrecsam, Cymru, LL11 1QU *** Every last Friday of the month there is a **CRITICAL MASS** bike ride in **Cardiff** at 1pm. Meet at the museum steps near the Cardiff university union (Park Place). *** Likewise, on the first Saturday of every month, starting on May 2nd, **Birmingham CRITICAL MASS** will be taking a leisurely ride round the inner ring road. Meet at midday, Victoria Square, city centre *** There's also a benefit for the anti northern relief road campaign on April 16th at the Adam and Eve, Bradford St, **Digbeth** featuring Bleeding Hearts, Ragerty Anne and comedian Mike Parker 07970 932224 *** Don't forget the demo at **Hillgrove** cat-breeding-for-vivisection Farm on **WORLD DAY FOR LAB ANIMALS**, Saturday 18 April. Meet 1pm at the Farm gates or call 0171 2783086 for a place on the coach from London - £5/£3 cones *** SchOOOPS! (Re: SchNEWS 161) **Sack the webmaster!** The scanning frequencies can be found at <http://www.chubs.demon.co.uk/ukscan.htm>

The solidarity **GANDALF** site is: www.oneworld.org/index_oc. We'll take more care. Sorry.

CROP CHOP

Life Earth First! have been targeting the AgrEvo oilseed rape test crop in Scotland. First they marked the test site with a large red X and signposted the field as a biohazard. Then they held a festival and protest march to the site, where under the gaze of local coppers, proceeded to pull out the mutant plants to stop them flowering and spreading genetic pollution! 01334 477411

* **Global Days of Action** against Genetic Engineering 15 - 30th April. Contact GEN 0181 374 9516

* **'What Next'** have produced some interesting sticky 'product' labels for dodgy mutant foodstuffs 0171 865 8222

Next SchNEWS Training Day

Wednesday 15th April 12 Noon, ring now to book your place

Stately Roams

Lots of interest from you chaps in our little 'Visit the Rich' item! Former Defence Sec. Nicholas Soames was so upset after Mark Thomas took a posse to his buffet that he paid up £8,000 in taxes. His dear old mum (also involved in the scam) paid up before any oiks came calling, and his bro' Rupert paid up after displaying his bits in a carpark. We will continue to print the list but if you want your own, write to: Dispatches - The Lie of the Land, PO Box 400, London W12 8JF (£1 post) www.channel4.com/news/dispatches/index04.html

*This weeks potential host is Lord Cavendish, ex-English Heritage commissioner and Director of Nirex U.K. Ltd (nuclear waste) drop in to Holker Hall, Cark-Over-Sands, Crumbria, LA11 7PL Tel: 0153995 58328 March-October daily except Sats.

INSIDE SCHNEWS

Merle Africa from the black radical ecological group **MOVE** died in Cambridge Springs Prison on Friday 13th March. The prison authorities at first said that the 40 year-old woman had died of 'tumours', but this was later changed to natural causes.

Merle was one of the **MOVE 9**, found guilty of murdering a police officer in 1978. After a siege lasting nearly four months (because of a housing code violation!) over a hundred heavily armed police surrounded their home. When the twelve adults and eleven young children took refuge in the basement, fire department water cannons were used to flush them out. Cops then began a "mad minute" exercise wildly firing their weapons despite the fact that they were in positions directly opposite one another. As the smoke cleared they realised they had killed one of their own, and injured six other cops and a fireman. Police swiftly bulldozed the crime scene, then charged all the **MOVE** adults with murdering the cop - despite the bullet entering the back of his head at a downward angle. If **MOVE** members had fired he would have been shot in the front of his body.

Contrast these sentences to the scene in 1985, when another one of the **MOVE** homes was bombed by the Philadelphia authorities using a helicopter, killing eleven adults and children. The people responsible were eventually brought to court - and let off with a one dollar a week fine. **Friends of MOVE**, PO Box 14129, London, England, W12 8GR

'**Dark Night field notes**' - is a highly recommended magazine on the privatisation and brutalization of the American prison system. Send £5 which should also cover postage, cheques payable to Dark Night Press, PO Box 3629, Chicago, IL 60690-3629

AND FINALLY...

A Sri Lankan man charged with theft, who threw a plastic bag at a policeman when asked to step into the witness box, gave the court more than they bargained for. The bag, filled with human faeces, hit one of the court fans, got entangled and showered the entire court with shit.

The man, Subhasinghe Premasiri, was remanded by the chief magistrate for insulting the dignity of the court, which had to be cleaned before proceedings could continue.

disclaimer

Even though this activity will help bring change in an evil world I am forced to state that I do not condone illegal acts because it might get me in trouble with the authorities. Honest!!!!

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

NEWSLETTERS

1. ORGANISE A MEETING. You've talked about it down the pub with a few mates. You all think it's a great idea. There are a few more people you can think of who'd be interested. So just get on with it - it's not going to happen otherwise. Fix a date, time and venue (could be someone's house, it's not a public meeting). Leave the possibilities wide open. It's important for everyone involved to have had a say in the shaping of the project from the start.

2. GET IT ALL SORTED. There's no point in having your founding moment and then coming away having vaguely agreed to do something soon. Probably. When we've got our act together. The minimum you should have agreed is a name and address, which in turn will allow you to set up a building society account in your newsletter's name. We use a PO Box, which costs about fifty quid a year. We had to chip in up front to start it but donations over the next 12 months covered the renewal (just). It would probably be better to have an actual local street address, not just to save cash but so people could drop stuff in by hand and bypass the official mail system.

3. THINK OF A GOOD NAME. OK, maybe you can't take that advice from a group with a title like The Pork-Bolter. But it is a genuine historical nickname for Worthing people and the piggy identity has provided us with hours of puns. The main requirements are that it should be a local name and that it shouldn't put people off reading your stuff by being too overtly political. This may not come naturally to most would-be rabble-rousers, but you are addressing ordinary people here and not fellow subversive scum. On the same lines, there is no need to invent a separate name for the group producing the newsletter. It may well prove an own goal to declare that ON THE BOG - What's Going Down In Little Bogweed, is published by the South Bogshire Emiliano Zapata Revolutionary Militia Propaganda Outreach Cell.

4. THE NITTY-GRITTY. Thinking of a name is the fun bit and may well take up 95% of your opening meeting (if you let it). But you've also got to start thinking about boring detail, like what size is the newsletter going to

be, how often will it come out, how many will you get printed and so on. Without wanting to come across all sycophantic, we were greatly inspired by the example of Sch-you-know-who in our inception and had no qualms about blatantly copying their format. You'd be amazed how much you can fit on a double-sided piece of A4. As far as frequency is concerned, once a month seems about right for us. Quantity is obviously limited by funds. Try getting 500 done to start with, then up it to 1,000 or more if your distribution is working. Another advantage of the double-sided A4 format is that it is easy to photocopy and you may well be able to supplement your print run with the help of office-worker volunteers (and various people will be busy copying and distributing them around their mates and colleagues who you won't even know about...).

5. PRINTING. Cheap photocopying/printing is hard to come by, but very useful. Don't just rush out to the nearest High Street print shop. Ask around for ideas about cheaper options. Try your local student union or college print department or local resource centre. If all else fails, why not bring out the newsletter at whatever cost and appeal to readers for leads on cheaper printing. You never know who will come forward.

6. PAYING FOR IT. You'll probably find yourselves fulfilling this role. But spread between the group members it doesn't come to much. If you meet at someone's home instead of the pub, you'll have probably paid for the next issue from what would have been spent at the bar. Other costs may well be covered by donations/subscriptions once you've got going.

7. GETTING IT OUT. Distribution is a piece of cake when it's free. It's just a question of getting them all out into the hands of the local population. You can do that most directly by standing in the town centre and thrusting them rudely into people's hands (with a smile on your face). And you can leave them in public places like the library or town hall (small amounts but frequently - they tend to get removed). Ask in shops if you can leave a pile on the counter. And in pubs. You'll be surprised at

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

NEWSLETTERS

the positive reaction to a lively local newsletter. Keen people should also be able to subscribe for a small charge to cover the postage (though since they're local you could drop them in by hand and save the stamp).

8. CONTENTS. You'd forgotten about that small detail, hadn't you? What do you put in the bloody thing? This should not really be a problem for anyone who's got as far as even thinking about doing a newsletter. First of all you read all the mainstream local papers. And then you get very angry with all the stuff the council's up to and the MP is spouting on about. And then you don't just forget about it and resolve not to read annoying local papers any more, but instead you cut out the relevant bits and bring them along to the next newsletter meeting. And everyone else agrees and says how crap the council is and takes the piss a bit and someone else has cut a bit out of The Big Issue which sort of fits in. Meanwhile, a person with biro-manipulating skills writes down the best bits. And lo, the contents start to emerge. Add in your own little campaigns (anti-GM, anti-CCTV, anti-negative attitudes etc), plus titbits about worthy local groups (Friends of the Earth, animal welfare etc etc) and you've got a newsletter.

9. CAMPAIGNS. Gives a positive focus amidst all the sniping from the sidelines. But obviously depends on what's happening locally. And what your into.

10. KEEP IT LOCAL. Forget the recommendation to act locally and think globally. You have to start thinking locally as well. Only then can you go on to draw your political conclusions. For instance, trying to persuade people here that global capitalism is a bad thing because it is destroying the Amazon rainforests is a waste of time. But talk about the way that

money-grabbing property developers are allowed to build all over green spaces on the edge of your town and your readers will then understand why you then call for an end to the rule of greed and money over people and countryside. In your newsletter your views can clearly be seen as common sense. You are normal and the council/property developers/Government are the outsiders - reversing the way radical views are conventionally presented. Use words like 'we' and 'our' a lot.

11. HAVE A LAUGH. A jokey approach makes people read your newsletter and explodes certain ill-founded stereotypes about types involved in radical political initiatives. Could be a problem, though, if your group does in fact happen to be entirely composed of humourless left-wing gits.

12. LAW-ABIDING. Remember that you can get done for libel if you make certain claims about individuals. Get round this with humorous digs and heavy use of satire and sarcasm (think Private Eye, Have I Got News For You etc). It is worth knowing that you cannot libel a council - so go for it!

13. MEDIA. You yourselves are the new media for the town, so you don't need to worry about publicity. But if they want to give a rival organ a boost, that's just dandy.

14. CARRY ON PUBLISHING! There will be ups and downs. New people will join your circle. Others will drift away. It might seem like nobody's taking any notice of you at all. But in fact your subversive message will be permeating the very fabric of your community. It's got to be worth it.

Contact The Pork-Bolter at PO Box 4144, Worthing BN14 7EP or e-mail (porkbolter@worthing.eco-action.org) Website at <http://www.worthing.eco-action.org/porkbolter>

WHAT'S REALLY

The Pork-BOLTER

OCTOBER 1998

FREE/DONATION

ISSUE 11

TO BAN WORTHING'S GREEN BANK HOLDINGS FEST

WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN WORTHING

The Pork-Bolter

ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 1998

FREE/DONATION



ROTARY CHIEF TRIES TO BAN WORTHING'S GREEN BANK HOLIDAY BASH

RON'S BIG EGO-FESTIVAL

A SURPRISE comedy act was top of the bill at Worthing's Eco-Festival in Homefield Park. But Rotarian clown Ron Noakes didn't turn up to make people smile. He was trying to get the event banned at the last minute!

Not only was this astonishing attack on Friends of the Earth completely ignored by the local mainstream media, but they couldn't even bring themselves to report that this unique and newsworthy Festival had so much as taken place.

This is the disgraceful truth behind events at Homefield Park on Monday August 31, hidden so far from the thousands of Worthing people who will have seen and enjoyed the superb environmental showcase laid on for their benefit by hard-working volunteers.

The background to the shameful episode was of many months of uncontroverial and painstaking preparation. Following last year's Eco-Festival, organisers once again went through all the proper procedures to hold the event on a corner of the park on the same day as the Rotary Club.

Everything had gone to plan, the weather forecast was good, volunteers were

just beginning to set things up for the bank holiday fun, when in walked Ron Noakes, chairman of Worthing Rotary Fair. Witnesses say he had obviously taken an instant dislike to the alternative goings on shaping up for the festival and projected bad vibes before he even opened his mouth.

This is perhaps not surprising, for we have since found out that he is an ex-copper and the state-enforcers-in-blue are already well known to our readers (and the world as a whole) for their fun-busting frolics.

When he did speak, the verbal diarrhoea lasted for 20 unsavoury minutes, culminating in the immortal rant: 'I work for 24 hours a day, you lot just claim the dole!'. Wrong, Ron! Firstly, many of those involved have full-time jobs, secondly if you really worked 24 hours a day you would undoubtedly be dead, which while arguably not a bad thing in itself would have made it impossible for you to be standing there picking fights with common unwashed eco-swine!

Ron, supposedly representing a charitable organisation, then made even more of an authoritarian fool of himself. He and his mates told FoE volunteers they couldn't sell their vegetarian food because there was a burger van on the Rotary Fair site (although the burger man himself did not object) and later tried to stop Brighton's Anarchist Teapot cafe stall from selling food by calling in Health and Safety inspectors - who promptly issued them with a certificate to say they could carry on! Wrong again, Ron! He still had not had enough and also accused FoE of stealing wheelite-bins from his fair. In fact they had been donated by a council Rotarian! Wrong yet a-porkin'-gain, Ron!. Final act of self-humiliation was to physically run away from a FoE he'd woken up too early in the morning, thus earning himself the nickname Rocket Ron.

These Ron-doings were matched by certain other Rotarians, with reports of threats to have lorries drive over people's tents and attempts to stop Eco-Festival stall-holders coming into the park. But the event went ahead and was a total triumph for FoE's Sophie and her tireless team of co-workers. If it had doubled in size since last year, it had more than doubled its attendance, support and popularity. When else in Worthing can you listen to pedal-powered music, learn circus skills for free, listen to story-telling, eat healthy food, get clued up on healing, watch children get excited about a whole lot of green-flavoured stuff...?

The atmosphere was only spoilt by the arrival in the park of the convoy of massive lorries pulling the Rotary floats. An intrusive, noisy, noxious, crap-belching, environmentally-unfriendly waste of time and space. Ello, Ello, Ello! Sounds like someone else we know!

Rotary arm of the state?

IT'S not just the Eco-Festival that Ranting Ron and his chums want to police. They've also got it in for car boot sales! Revealed *The Worthing Guardian* in the week before the Eco-Festival: "The Rotary Club of Worthing is the first organisation to adopt a local code to stop car boot sales being used to sell counterfeit and stolen goods...The organisers are expected to write down the vehicle registration mark, record and verify the seller's name and address, ensure the seller displays his/her name on the stall and make the information available to the police, trading standards or the Benefits Agency if required." And there in print is Ron himself, declaring: "We do not want any bargains being offered at the expense of creating a victim of crime."

Victim of crime, indeed! Ron is just helping out our old mate Big Brother in his manic crusade to have total control over everything - and in this case to tax every last penny anyone scrapes in or to deduct it from their social security! Ron obviously is still a copper at heart and want to make the Rotary Club a volunteer arm of the state, a sort of Dad's Gestapo keeping us all in line. This might all seem a bit strange for people used to thinking of the Rotarians as nice harmless people who raise cash for charity. But there has always been a dodgy side to the organisation. It is not a little local group, but an international organisation based in America (of course!) and explicitly, according to our dictionary, for "professional and business men". There is also known to be a certain overlap in membership with the Masons, whose attitudes the Rotarians ape.

At the end of the day, it's down to the local Rotarians to make their position clear. They can stick with Ron and make enemies of half the town, or they can make it publicly known that they don't want anything to do with his police state mentality and just want to carry on raising cash for good causes. We look forward to their response!

Just keep porking

THANK you so much for sharing this issue of The Pork-Bolter with us. If you want to make sure of getting a copy of issue 12, simply send us a stamped self-addressed envelope. To get the next 6 issues send a donation of at least £2 to cover costs. Any extras always needed and gratefully received. Back issues 1-10 still available. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to The Pork-Bolter. Drop us a line at PO Box 4144, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7NZ.

• You can also visit our new website on <http://members.xoom.com/porkbolter/> or communicate with us via e-mail (porkbolter@xoommail.com).

It's a biggie, Sarge! There's 500 Angus Deayton cut-outs down here and they've all got unauthorised veggie burgers!



Not cut-out for police work

LAST month we revealed that Sussex Police Chief Constable Paul Whitehouse wants to be able to flog off, to the media, video footage of the public shot by those lovable CCTV cameras now installed in all our towns. But we reckon he could make a lot more money selling the global rights to the endlessly entertaining activities of his own bungling boys in blue. Latest outbreak of high farce was in Billingshurst, where a Police Special from the Steyning station spotted a figure in a High Street shop one evening, reported the *West Sussex County Times*. Without further ado, he immediately sounded a full-scale alert and brought reinforcements dashing to the scene from all directions. The suspect turned out to be a life-sized cardboard promotional cut-out of TV personality Angus Deayton.

Spread the word - photocopy this bulletin and pass it on!

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

DIRECT ACTION GARDENING

Some people say that the most effective way to save the planet is to farm our lands in an organic environmentally sensitive way. We all know the infinite advantages of organically produced food, but why spend a fortune on organic fruit and veg? Its often from miles away, over packed, expensive, a bit manky by the time we get it and in some areas only available from supermarkets. Who wants to give their cash to Sainsbury's for spuds from Israel, broccoli from Spain and carrots from Holland. Again and again the message is simple - grow it yourself!

Producing your own food is a top buzz! Not only is it one of the most direct and personally responsible forms of NVDA, but it saves money (especially if you are growing more expensive or rarer varieties), keeps you fit, reduces food miles to food inches, tastes better, teaches you lots and is a whole lot easier than people think.

Professional gardeners and gardening books have done a lot to portray food growing as something which only an experienced producer with a hundred acres, and tons of machinery and biocides, should even consider taking on. Small time growers are often poo-pooed and people with no access to land often give up before they've started.

But there is so much that can be produced with minimum space: mushrooms in the airing cupboard or on an old compost heap, endless summer salads from just six or seven square feet, pots of jam from just one mature currant bush, sprouted seeds from anywhere you can fit a jam jar and huge tomatoes in the cab of a parked up truck. Try not to get disheartened by lack of space. It is quite incredible the yields that can be obtained from the tiniest plot, or even urban balcony..

There are many opportunities to get access to land. If you live in a town, you should be able to get an allotment. These are wonderful places to meet other gardeners, swap plants and pick up tips. These green oases are under constant threat from developers, so having an allotment is one of the best ways of protecting their survival.

Another option is to use other people's land. Ask to use a neighbours abandoned garden, advertise for one, or even squat!

WWOOF (Willing Workers On Organic Farms) is an ace scheme that places people who want to garden or farm organically, both nationally and internationally, on fix-it-yourself placements. Placements can last from two days to years, usually for bed and board. A brilliant way to travel and grow!

There are several books: "The Permaculture Plot - a guide to Permaculture in Britain", and "The Organic Directory - your guide to buying natural foods" which lists organic farms and small holdings that take working visitors. Similarly, Diggers and Dreamers - a guide to Communal Living lists intentional communities, of varying type, who may take visitors. Although these options are nowhere near as the same as having your own garden, they can offer experience, contacts and a chance to get started.

So, even if you haven't got a garden, go on get growing! Grow some of your own, healthy, chemical free, food, even collect your own seed, enjoy yourself and help to save the planet! Try it, its not hard!

WWOOF tel: 01273 476 286

National Society of Allotment Growers

tel: 01536 66576

Permaculture Association

tel: 01654 712 188

Henry Doubleday Research Association

tel: 01203 303 517

Soil Association

tel: 0117 929 0661

*The Permaculture Plot - a guide to
Permaculture in Britain*

ISBN 1 85623 0104

Diggers and Dreamers - a guide to

Communal Living ISBN 0 9514945 46

*Organic Directory - your guide to natural
foods* ISBN 1/900322/03/X



Weekly

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SUPER DOOPER SNOOPIN'

SchNEWS

FROM MOSSIDE TO MOSCOW EVERY WEEK



Friday April 17th 1998,

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 163 Free/Donation

WAR ON WHARFIES

"This is probably the most important struggle in a generation. If the right of workers to unite and bargain collectively goes, then hope for a just and decent Australia goes too"

Professor Donald Brook

"Workers are criticised for going on strike, but what else can we do? We don't have guns to protect our jobs, our families and our livelihoods. We try to be reasonable, we try to talk things through. But the people we are up against are gung-ho - they'll stop at nothing."

John Coombs National Secretary Maritime Union of Australia (MUA)

Australia was last week plunged into the middle of massive industrial confrontation similar to the British Miners Strike of 84/5. During the Easter weekend hundreds of police with dogs stormed the Port Botany docks in Sydney, in the middle of the night, to help give 1400 dockworkers their marching orders. One docker commented, "There were guards and dogs everywhere. It was like a military operation."

Ex-Merchant Banker and Chairman Chris Corrigan of the dock-owners Patrick Stevedores, said the men had to go because they were getting paid too much - a bit rich coming from someone who owns a villa and vineyard in Italy, and both a multi-million dollar waterfront mansion and Victorian mansion in Sydney. A sacked docker said "It's like World War Three."

Riot police with batons have broken up picket lines, which have also had scab trucks driven at them and mace sprayed in members faces. In Brisbane 20 sacked dockers chained themselves to a railway track to prevent a train from entering a dock, while in Melbourne, 2,500 protesters marched on the office of Workplace Relations Minister Peter Reith, the man who announced the sackings in the first place. Court injunctions are preventing dockers from being on the picketlines, so dockers' wives and girlfriends are forming picketlines with other union members, some from overseas.

In a parallel to the 28 month Liverpool dock dispute women have formed Women of the Waterfront (WOW). "We know the true picture, the shift work, the overtime, the dangerous and dirty conditions, the tiredness due to irregular work patterns, the disruption of family life and stress due to operating large machinery," said Janet Bevan of WOW.

Meanwhile industry is declaring the waterfront dispute near crisis point, with Toyota warning it will soon be forced to stop its Melbourne production line and lay off about 2,500 workers.

SOME HISTORY

The dispute has been planned by Patrick Stevedores for months with help from the Federal government which promised to back the firm "to the hilt". Meanwhile the conservative National Farmers' Federation has been promising the dockworkers for some time to expect para-military mercenaries! Just like the dock dispute in Liverpool they want to smash the union, cut wages and increase casual labour. With \$100 million to bankroll its operation, the company has been recruiting strike-breakers including SAS soldiers (with adverts in the **The Army** newspaper), ex-police and martial arts experts.

In September last year the MUA got hold of a copy of a 'confidential' document being circulated by the Australian Chamber of Commerce. This talked of hiring private security firms to spy on strikers, sending threatening letters to employees' homes (in the hope of their families reading them!), and taking out endless court actions to cripple the unions finances.

* Captain Bill Bolitho, critic of the government's shipping reform policy has warned "The world's shipping industry is run by pirates, taxdodgers and tyrants who shamelessly exploit crew and pollute our oceans and shores. That the Australian Government wants to invite them onto our coastline and that Australians knowingly charter their vessels is 'evil'".
Fab website on:

* http://headlines.yahoo.com/Full_Coverage/aunz/australian_waterfront_standoff/ <http://www.users.bigpond.com/Takver/soap-box/>

Un-OK UK

With every hour that passed last year another three people were deported from the UK

1997 saw the highest ever number of deportations (30,615 people) our democratic country has so far meted out. But statistics don't reveal the heartache of families torn apart with husbands separated from their families who are then placed in sex segregated detention centres (prisons). New Labour have proved to be no better than the Tories in their cold and heartless treatment of Asylum Seekers who in most cases have come here trying to escape from cold and heartless treatment by their own Governments. Many are traumatised by mental and physical abuse when they arrive and need to be treated with kindness and compassion, not the type of qualities yer average Group 4 prison warden is likely to possess. Since coming to power New Labour have been beefing up immigration laws. The latest horror story is a proposal by Michael O'Brian (Minister for Immigration), dear old Michael wants to open up Reception Centres, the difference between these and existing detention centres is in the way arrivals will be classed. At the moment there are two categories, 'Asylum seekers', who are escaping a political situation and 'Refugees', who are escaping famines, civil war etc. Asylum seekers are put in centres if immigration has any doubts about their story but the new proposal is to lock up everyone as soon as they arrive regardless of their circumstances

Nine former detainees of Campsfield Detention Centre in Oxfordshire were charged for riot and violent disorder, after being involved in a protest against the inhumane treatment they receive at Campsfield. Four of the nine have been on hunger strike. Two have been in suicide-watch 'strip cells', one of whom is only seventeen.

Demos on 29 April 5.30 - 6.30 at 60 Ladgate Hilland the first day of the trial, 1 June at 8.30am at Oxford Crown Court, St Aldates. **Monthly demos also take place at Campsfield House. Contact 'The Campaign to Close Campsfield' for more info, or to receive their booklet "Information on Campsfield" (£2 donation) on: (01865) 558145/557282/378734.

**Britain's first "child jail" opened this week near the Kent village of Borstal. The "experiment" will keep 12-14 year olds "brisk and busy", according to Group 4 who will be running the regime. The Medway Secure Trainee Centre is likely to be the first of many children's prisons, with the Government already committed to building another four.

CANNAB-ICE

The Hemp Food Association are planning to tour the UK selling hemp ice cream from a bright yellow van painted with luminous green hemp leaves! Staff are to be dressed in hemp, with hemp and silk underwear. "It is obligatory that staff shall also wash their hands and face with Hemp soap, and their hair with Hemp shampoo. How else could we serve the public from our Hemp Shelves, standing on Hemp carpets?" The world's first Hemp ice-cream is sold in 'Mr Whippy' style cones using UK cold-pressed hemp as the base. Also a vegan hard ice-cream shall be sold in tubs with hemp milk as its base. It is not known if consumption of cannabis is also obligatory! To book the ice cream van contact Paul on 07000 436748.

SEM TERROR

Two leaders of the Sem Terra (MST) landless peasant movement were shot dead on 26th March by farmers attempting to clear 550 families from the Goias II farm in the northern region of Parauapbas. After MST negotiators agreed to end the occupation of the 1,487 acres of agricultural wasteland, 30 armed farmers opened fire on the crowds as military police looked on. Over the last two years 30 agricultural workers have been murdered by corrupt landowners and military junta over land rights. Demands for self recognition, agricultural reform and land settlements has seen 140,000 families occupy 200 stretches of land across Brazil in the last year alone. While 90% of Brazilians believe the Sem Terra struggle is justified, the military oligopoly are engaging in a campaign of state sponsored killings to stop them being heard. Contact: Friends of the Brazilian landless 0181 374 1290

TATCHELL IN THE CHAPEL

Gay rights campaigners disrupted the Easter service of the Arch Bishop of Canterbury Dr. Carey on the most important day in the Christian calendar. Peter Tatchell and mates invaded the pulpit to inform Carey's congregation about the anti-gay preachings of the Church of England which opposes, amongst other things, gay foster parents, equal opportunities at work and gay clergy. A senior cop and stewards manhandled the protesters off the pulpit showing true christian spirit by hammering on Peter's hands till he let go of a pillar. Tatchell has now been charged with violent behavior, while another man was arrested on suspicion of damaging a microphone.

STOP PRESS:

*Local Campaigners at North Muskham, Nottinghamshire, are to lose their local wildlife site to housing. There's a very squattable farmhouse is on offer in a desirable location'. Contact 01636 679977 / 0467 317649.

*Two coppers, unable to prevent 800 people enjoying a free party in St Ives, decided if you can't beat em join and were seen dancing wildly to beats in excess of 150bpm.

*A camp has been set up in Cob, Ireland, against the Electricity Supply Board and their plans to erect a fifteen mile ring of pylons around Cork harbour Electro magnetic fields could affect residents health and campaigners are asking them to lay the cables underground. To get to the camp from Cork follow signs to Footbridge Wildlife Park. A train runs from Cork to Foot Site mobile + (088) 2626377 Office + (087) 451065

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

+++++PLEASE send us news of your events at least two weeks in advance!+++++

SchNEWS in brief

St John Ambulance volunteers are outraged at the government's decision to introduce VAT on Resucis Anni's, the dolls used in resuscitation training, on the grounds that they are no longer considered medical equipment. What they are now is anybody's guess!

*** Calling all FOOTBALL addicts: Between the Lines is holding The 1998 Loony Left Cup on Sunday 7th June on Clapham Common. The tournament will start at 11am, with two groups of 6 teams each, and was a huge success in September last year. 7-a-side teams wishing to enter this year should send a cheque for £14 asap to **Between the Lines**, Box no.32, 136 Kingsland High St, London, E8 2NS *** 29 activists appeared for trial in **Chesterfield** on 7th April following an action at an opencast mining site owned by H J Banks. The defendants succeeded in stumping the prosecutor, embarrassing the local authorities and costing £350k so far! *** The first issue of **URGENT**, newsletter of the Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Environment Network - who are out to promote sustainable and appropriate housing policies which contribute to urban renewal - is out now and very reasonably priced at nothing. To get your hands on it though you should get on the network, £5 individual, £10 group. Write to: **Urgent**, c/o 26-8 Underwood St, London, N1 7JQ *** Sunday 26th April sees a **Chernobyl-Twelve Years On** commemorative event at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Call 01457 863534 or 01691 777318 *** For anyone concerned about the US's plans to legislate against existing organic standards, a world day for action has been set for Thursday 30th April. People are needed to picket US embassies everywhere under the slogan **S.O.S. Save Organic Standards!** Contact <alliance@mr.net> (sorry no phone no. included) *** Brighton dance monsters should not forget **The Dance Parade UK's** benefit night at The Honey/Comber Club, Seafront Arches on the last Thursday of every month. Thursday 23 April hosts **BOOTLEG - A Techno Special**, 10 til very late, £3/£2concs, feat. Julia Decay, DJ New Labour, Da-Void, Cat Monsum & Nick Spice *** **Wolverhampton** are holding their first **Reclaim the Streets** on May 9th. Meeting at 12 noon St Peter's Square near the Civic Centre. Contact 0961 838508 for more details. Expect a BIG party! *** Another party is for the launch of **Brightons' Alternative Market**, music and circus performers will be there but any one who wants to perform is welcome. Festivities start 11.00am Sunday 26th April! *** **Wolverhampton** are holding their first **Reclaim the Streets** on May 9th. Meeting at 12 noon St Peter's Square near the Civic Centre. Contact Victor on 0961 838508 for more details. Expect a BIG party!

A death in the family.

A much loved activist, Dave 'Sorted' Richards died in his sleep on Saturday night. A committed and active campaigner Dave was very active at Manchester Airport, Faslane and Lyminge. The police and Highways Agency showed his fellow campaigners the depth of their compassion by having his house bulldozed 3 days after his death, presumably because it was full of lock-ons and tunnels and on the route of the B'ham. relief Rd. There will be a gathering to scatter Dave's ashes at 2pm on Friday 24th April at the Greenwood camp. Contact 07970 93224/301978

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

- For suspicion of burgling an empty building using a three and a half k soundsystem. The usual over the top cops in a dozen vehicles with dogs raided a free party in Brighton on Saturday before a tune had even been played by Souler Soundsystem. SchNEWS asks are burglars now using soundsystems instead of crowbars to get into buildings?
- For criminal damage to a microphone (see Tatchell in chapel)

Inside SchNEWS

Justice in the case of Metin Goktepe? A Turkish court found five cops guilty with torturing and killing the Journalist Metin Goktepe. He was arrested two years ago after he reported police brutality during a funeral of two political prisoners who died in police custody in Istanbul, and later found dead in a wood near a police station. A massive international campaign forced the Turkish authorities to take up investigations against police who at first claimed they were innocent, but later said his death was an accident - they had only wanted to torture him! Some officers got seven years each, five more walked free.

Meanwhile eight Turkish students are still in prison for unfolding a banner in the Turkish parliament against university fees. They were arrested, charged with membership of a terrorist organisation and received sentences of up to **eighteen years!** Nationwide student protests against this were met with massive police brutality, with 370 more students arrested. Kurdish Information Centre 0171 250 1315

*In Salt Lake City, Utah, ALF activist Josh Ellerman pleaded guilty to three of sixteen charges relating to the bombing of a Fur Co-op and has received a 35 year sentence. If found guilty of all the charges he could have faced 175! Josh goes down on 6th May and his brother Colby is already serving 2 years for a mink raid. Write in support to: Clinton (Colby) Ellerman c/o Salt Lake County Jail, 450 South 300 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84111-3207.

*Free to all prisoners, the new **CONVICTION** newsletter is out now and shouldn't be missed. The newsletter needs serious input so if you can offer DTP or sub-editing skills or ideas get in touch right away. Failing that, donate/subscribe! Send £5 (£3 unwaged) for the next 4 issues to Conviction, PO Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF (email: Conviction@rachelandrew.newnet.co.uk)

*The Anarchist Black Cross' new prisoner list is out now (donations very welcome!), anyone wanting a copy should write to BABC, PO Box 2971, Brighton, BN2 2TT.

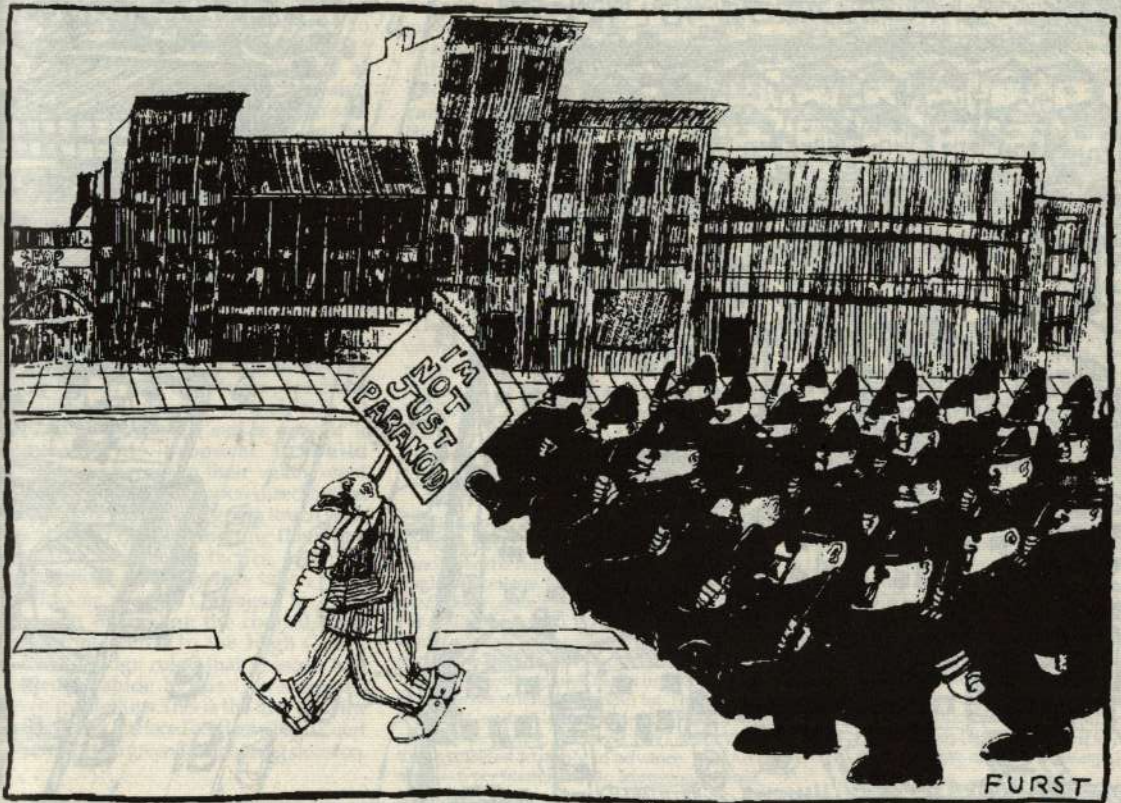
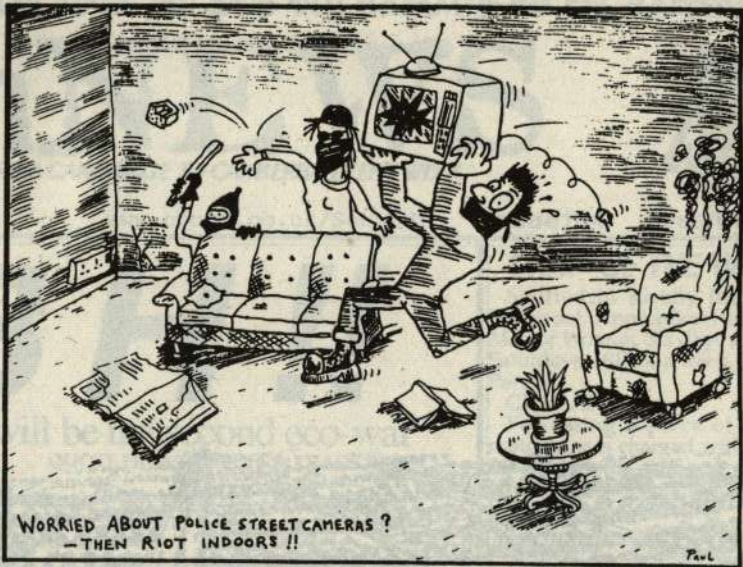
*New ABC Group - Somerset ABC PO Box 478 Taunton Somerset TA2 7YR

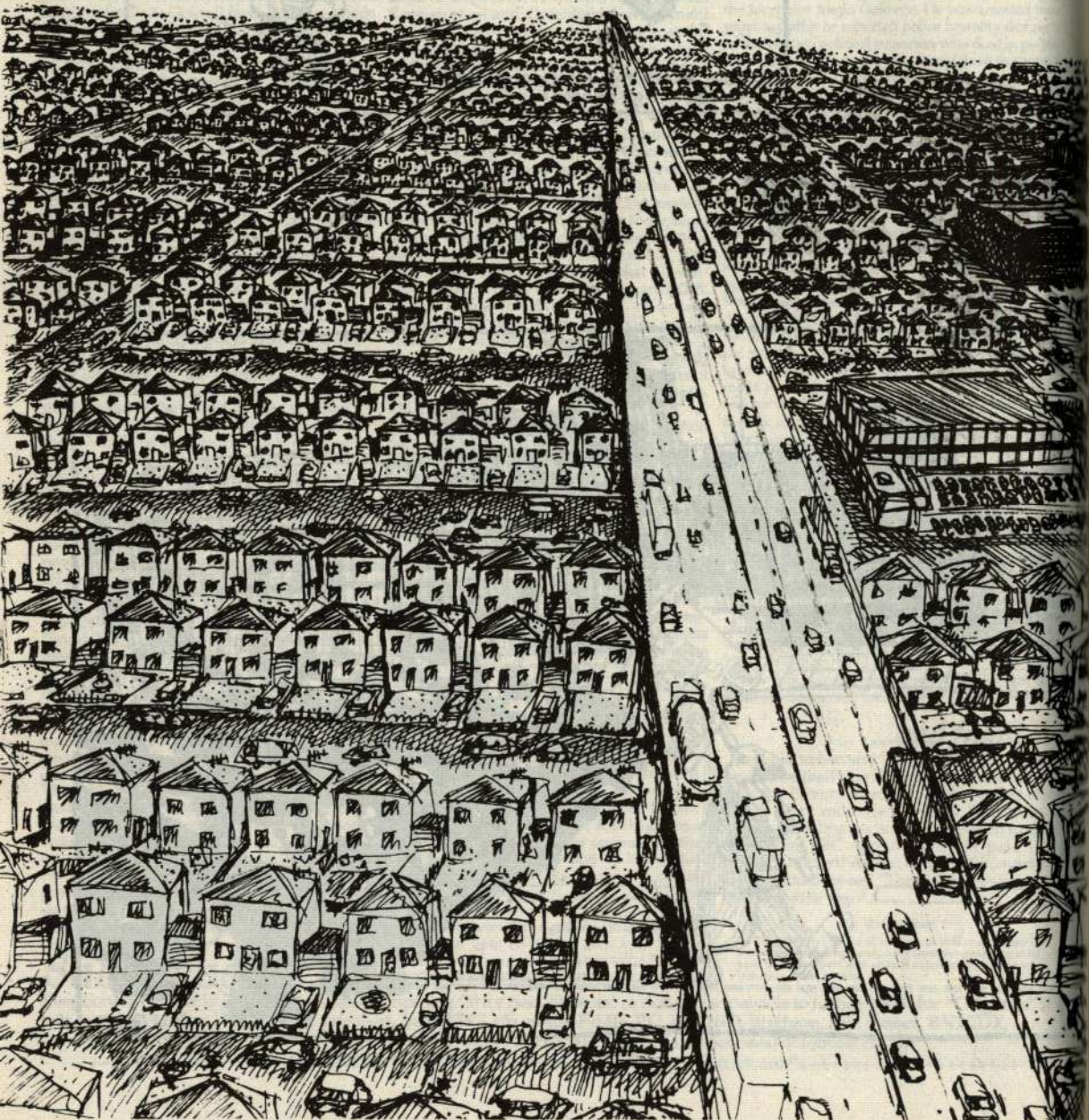
...and finally...

In a bid to become "the world's first carbon neutral football club" Fulham have teamed up with the Environmental Task Force. The club aim to plant more trees around Fulham as a well as a planting a whole forest shaped to spell the letters FFC under the flight path into Gatwick airport! As the notes in the most recent programme say "The more trees planted, the bigger the logo".

disclaimer

The SchNEWS warns all readers not to take any notice of this weeks mistakes we just fucking tired, just remember to fill your house and lives with endless consumer crap. Then you will feel content. Honest.







WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER RAMMED TO THE RAFTERS

SchNEWS

FROM CAMBRIDGE TO CANBERRA EVERY WEEK



Friday 24th 1998

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 164

Free/Donation

GBH!!

“House building will be the second eco-war”
QUOTE FROM BUILDERS TRADE PAPER

Last Saturday three thousand people held a rally nr. Stevenage in the latest battle to stop a new 10,000 house development.

The houses are due to be built by Persimmon Homes, the third largest house builder in the country. If they get the green light it will be the largest release of land for a new town in the UK since the end of the 1950's, and will destroy the Langley Valley, which is set between rolling chalk hills with ancient woodlands, hedgerows and green lanes. Persimmon are clearly worried about the protests - on Wednesday they moved its AGM from York to Edinburgh- and hired everybodys favourite Brays Detective Agency as security! Tim Akeroyd of the Campaign Against the Stevnegage Expansion said "We know new housing is needed, but not in the green belt. We must regenerate decaying cities instead."

Meanwhile in Newbury anti-bypass protestors are having their worse fears released. with the council are planning to build some 21,000 infill houses on the land alongside the bypass.

But it's not all doom. In the sleepy village of Peacehaven, Sussex it wasn't yer usual rent-a-mob dote scrounging tree huggers who had come to save the day! NO...It was the Mayor, teachers, families and veterans in their 80's all pledging to "Lock on and be arrested" if governments proposal to build commuter homes in their valley went ahead. They decided upon direct action as the only option and got in touch with local Earth Firsters inviting them to a meeting to discuss tactics, where a unanimous decision was taken for a bulldozer pledge. Outraged by John Prescott overruling the council, they took their battle to the High Court, where a judge ruled that Prescott had failed to abide by his Governments own guidelines. This is the first time the government has faced and lost a High Court challenge to a greenfield housing decision.

So, is this the second eco-war?

According to Urgent! magazine one thousand square miles of countryside are under threat of being covered in concrete. Four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) have already disappeared under new housing developments and small sites such as allotments, common land and wildlife habitats all over the country are being trashed unnoticed by anyone other than locals. But unlike road protests where you are often up against government, green belt campaigning is against individual companies and although they may spend a couple of million on one campaign, multi-site campaigns could seriously damage their pockets.

*According to the Empty Homes Agency there are 804,000 plus empty properties in the UK *Stevenage 01438 605 9710 *Newbury 01635 455440 *Bangor The campaign continues with protesters moving on to the next section of the development as soon as they were evicted. 01248 353 0800

*Oxford 35,000 new homes planned yet the council don't even know how many empty properties they own. 01865 437 661

*Friends of the Earth 'Stopping the Sprawl' £7 from 56-58 Alma St, Luton, LU1 2PH

*Urgent! newsletter £5 for a years subs Box HN, 11 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 1RO

STATELY ROOMS

This week it's the turn of the Earl of Spencer (Di's Bro'). Originally he was going to hand over the running of Althorpe House to English Heritage but then his sis died and the ££££ possibilities became obvious, £9.50 per adult, children £5. Whilst the grounds and Diana's grave are private, the house is still fair game. Spencer has reduced the visiting times since getting his 40% tax break so if you think this is unfair, complain to: The Inland revenue Capital Gains Office 0115 974 2490

Althorpe House, Althorpe, NN7 4HQ. Visitors requested to apply in advance. Max Admission 6 per household. No admission without invitation.

CRAP OF THE WEEK

Spotted in Kirkby Job Centre, Liverpool: Apprentice Hairdresser, Man or Woman, Six days a week inc Saturdays... £45.50 a week. Duration: Perm!!

CRAP ARRESTS

For eating a piece of toast. A motorist was charged with 'driving without undue care and attention', whilst munching on his breakfast! Is the car in front a toaster?

*For non-payment of fines. Manchester veteran Inverness John was nicked last Saturday night. Perhaps the reason he hadn't paid his fines was because he'd been in prison for the last six months!

BURY ST. EDMONDS

The camp at Bury St Edmunds set up to stop a proposed access road for local brewery Greene King, disbanded three weeks ago. The camp tatted down before their eviction date, much to the surprise of the bailiffs and cops who turned up the next day. Trees were chainsawed, despite some being off route. The council are prosecuting the brewery, and the campaign continues 01359 240365

BRADFORD MayDay98 conference from 1-4th May, 01274734160 www.geocities.com/picketence/1155 PORTSMOUTH Unity Hall, Arundel Street, Hampshire Details from Box M, 167 Fawcett Rd., Southsea, Hants, PO4 0DH Saturday 2nd PENZANCE - Take picnics, instruments and festive spirit to the top of Causewayhead on May Day @ 12 noon, and on Saturday 2nd SCOTLAND Sunday 3rd May, Scottish TUC (0141 332 4946) or Glasgow Trades Council for info

Neighbours gave them their support thing to do with the fact that the east of SchNEWS wonders if the decision was any- said ACTU national secretary Bill Kelly, by Patrick that they will get their job back, and we have pledged to every worker employed and we are satisfied, more than satisfied. But "The federal court victory tonight is sweet their members that the fight was not over. Park! Union leaders were quick to caution He added "If we're dinosaurs, this is Jurassic president Jenny George later told the crowd. we came back with a vengeance", ACTU - those who thought we were dinosaurs, will great might for the family of trade unionism the ruling over a live broadcast. This is a East Swanson dock in Melbourne, to hear dren gathered outside Patrick Stevedores' Horry, 2,000 dockworkers, wives and chil- eal court case and have been reinstated. Australian dock workers have won their fed- we're happy to report that the 1,400 sacked Following on from last week's SchNEWS,

WIND UP WIN

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WASTE WATCHERS

"We've now got a Government who think beef on the bone is too unsafe for people in Scotland to eat but that Dounreay, a plant which is totally decrepit, which hasn't reprocessed anything for the past 18 months because it's literally falling apart, is a convenient dumping ground for nuclear waste."

Alex Salmond Scottish National Party

5kg of weapons grade uranium and spent nuclear fuel from Tbilisi in Georgia was this week heading by plane to the Dounreay nuclear plant in Scotland. The government decided in secret to take the material to 'promote international security'. With the break-up of the Soviet Union, countries in the region are seen as economically unstable and often on the brink of civil war, and that nuclear material could be sold on the black market 'to an enterprising terrorist or dictator.' As the Government is pointing out, there are real problems with the material falling 'in the wrong hands', but SchNEWS asks just what are the right hands?

According to George Monbiot "Dounreay is the most dangerous nuclear plant in Britain; possibly the most dangerous plant on earth, outside the former eastern bloc. Last year, it was forced to reveal the existence of a shaft above the crumbling coastal cliffs, into which it had been dumping uranium plutonium and a number of potentially explosive materials." It already has the equivalent of 14,000 drums of waste, (the stuff from Georgia will add two more) expected to rise to about 19,000 when the plant is decommissioned in 100 years time. Then what?

As a CND spokesperson pointed out "A crucial point that has been missed so far in this debate is that reprocessing is not a magic recycling system that gets rid of nuclear materials. Reprocessing itself produces both uranium and plutonium - to be added to our stockpiles."

* Saturday 9th May Welfare before Warheads outside Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment in Berkshire. Contact 01703 554434

HOLD ON ROAD

Fancy a great Summer on an excellent site, already complete with walkways, 12 tree houses, lock-ons communa bender and nearby squat? Well, get to the Bingley Anti-Road Campaign. "The decision to build the A650 has been constantly postponed since the Tory road-building scheme collapsed in latter. Numbers at the camp have slowly dwindled but another appeal is to be heard this Spring, and a decision possible in August. People are now urgently needed. The road is to service a proposed greenbelt housing development of 10,000 properties. There is massive local support and good relations with residents. "This is such an easy site to live on, plenty of local skipping to be had, within a bus ride of Bradford and Leeds."

Phone 01274 504626 / 0961 3674211

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

Next week is a may day double issue, and we are gonna do a comprehensive list of camps/protest/party dates, get your details into the office NOW!

SCHNEWS IN BRIEF

THESPIONAGE, those people that brought us 'Tatting Down' have a new play on called 'Grief Encounter', a tale of mistrust, beer and benefit fraud. 8pm Mon/27th-Wed 29th April at the Komedia, Brighton Tickets Mon£3 / 2 T&W £5 / 4-01273 388 079 *** Issue seven of **Do or Die - voices from Earth First!** is out now, and as usual is jammed packed with in depth articles on everything you ever wanted to know about the direct action movement. If you gonna read any magazines then we recommended this £1.80 + SAE PO Box 2971, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2TT ***Nine members of the Corporate Action Network occupied an office at the Chamber of Commerce for half an hour this week, in protest against the **Multinational Agreement on Investment**, described as the crudest form of globalisation yet (SchNews 161). ***There's an **ANARCHIST QUIZ NIGHT** in aid of Movement Against Monarchy (MA/M) on 9th May at the Acton Arms, 296 Kingsland Road, Hackney, 7.30pm. £1 each entry. ***There's a protest outside the 1998 British Aerospace AGM on Wednesday 29th April, outside the QEII Conference Centre in London (nearest tubes Westminster and St James Park), between 9am and 3pm. There'll be speakers (including Mark Thomas), kurdisch street theatre, non-violent direct action, banners, props, and media. The protest is against BAE's continuing sale of arms to repressive and genocidal regimes around the world. Contact Campaign Against Arms Trade (0171 281 0297). ***

As live exports continue so does the opposition - Sat 9 May sees a National Demo starting at 9am with Vet Inspector David Smith - 58 Union Rd, Deal (take A258 from Dover); then a home visit at 11.30 - Finglesham Deal (A258 Deal to Sandwich, left to Northbourne Court, right into The Street); then Uffington Court lairage (B2046 from A2, signposted Wingham) at 1pm; and finally Lydden Court lairage (signposted Lydden from A2 towards Dover) *** **WEST COUNTRY ACTIVIST** Newsletter are having a training day on Sat 2nd May (10.30-5ish) so anyone who wants to see how it's put together and where it's going call Luke on 01225 464539 *** Fancy partying with the **BRITISH FIELD SPORT SOCIETY**? Their AGM is coming up on Wednesday 13 May at the Royal Inst of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George St, London SW1 (Westminster Tube) and London Animal Action (0171 2783068) have called a demo outside at 1pm. ***

Inside SchNEWS

Chris Garrett has been put on remand after charges brought against him during the Manchester airport evictions. Drop him a line C1A664 HMP Walton, 66 Hornby Road, Walton, Liverpool L9 3D. *** **Matthew Cowern**, four years for possession. He and is miles from home, without family visits and on 23 hour bang-up. M12800, HMP Preston, 2 Ribbleson Lane, Preston, Lancs, PR1 5AB. Anarchist Black Cross, are selling a 90 min benefit tape 'Jail Break' crammed with fab tunes for just £2+30p p&p (60p Europe, £1 elsewhere). Send cash, cheques, p.o.'s (payable to R Taylor) or stamps to ABC, PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX. Another benefit compilation, on CD, for American Indian prisoner Leonard Peltier features Australian and Native American Bands. To order or for bulk order info write to same address

*Pablo Locke (SCH News 135) has had trouble with his mail. If you have written to him and received no reply contact Justice? office.

HILLGROVE

"some way has got to be found to end this evil practice"

Ted Cooper, Local Councillor

Last Saturday saw the largest protest yet at Hillgrove Farm, the cat breeders for vivisection. An estimated 3,000 turned out to tell the owner Chris Brown what they think of him. The long term campaigners have been met with regular violence and harassment from the workers at the 'Farm' while the police have just stood by. So with a large presence from 'heavy' forces such as the Met, West Mercia, Gloucestershire and mounted police it was pretty certain this demo could get a bit heated, and heated it certainly was! "Attempts by a significant minority to impose their will on others by violent means will not be tolerated" said top cop Tim Davidson. Things kicked off as demonstrators started to pull down a 12 foot security fence a la Glastonbury complete with police watch towers erected around the site. After some serious tussling both sides resorted to lobbing lumps of concrete from the wall at each other unfortunately Zab Phipps, the brother of Jill who was fatally injured at Shoreham, was seriously hurt by a missile launched by the Boys in Blue and rumored to have since had a finger amputated. As usual when their leashes are slipped, the police went totally over the top, and people witnessed children separated from mothers being pushed over an embankment and run down by police horses, other groups of people away from the protest were also trashed. One local journalist horrified by what was happening to the children said "I'm going to make sure this place is closed down". Perhaps one of the reasons for the police behavior can be explained by Supt. Davies "We are defacto becoming a private security force for Hill Grove Farm. People might start asking, what are you doing there when you should be helping me over here". Despite the violence and seven people being arrested on criminal damage and violent disorder charges campaigners said. "This is still on the whole a peaceful campaign and today has not put us off, we will continue and this place will close". Next Demo is on Sunday 31st May at 12.00 noon. Contact: 01386833846

*Animal rights campaigners were not singing in the rain last week, as the fourth camp for justice outside Huntingdon Life Sciences was flooded out during the Easter downpour. Despite this, the campaign against our favourite vivisectionists still remains strong. There's a demo on May 15th, 1pm, outside Death Sciences, More info...0589 026 435

...and finally...

Peace activists are being given some strange directions from the law lately. One Swedish activist Cecilia Redner, a priest in the Church of Sweden, was found guilty of damaging a cannon on its way to Indonesia, and sentenced to fines and three years of *correctional educational* (sounds fun, whatever that means) Meanwhile in America ploughshare prisoners are not being allowed to return home! Steve Baggary was told after a spell in the nick, he could not return to his Catholic Worker community on the grounds that its environment was not "conducive to becoming a productive citizen!"

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers thinking of starting a newsletter. Never get connected to e-mail. Always rely on mates in the pub to tell you what's going on, then you won't drown in news. I promise!

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO SQUAT

If you listen to the ramblings of politicians or read the tabloid press, there is a fair chance that you may believe squatting in England and Wales to be illegal. This is most definitely not the case. Squatting is not a crime, and if anyone says it is, they are wrong! With a few exceptions, if you can get into an empty building without doing any damage and can secure it, you can make it your home. The 1994 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act has made some changes to the laws about squatting, but it is still as legal as it is necessary. Always remember that squatting is unlawful, not illegal, which means that it is a civil dispute, dealt with by a civil court, and the police have nothing to do with civil disputes. You will almost certainly be evicted eventually, perhaps very quickly, but you have the same rights as other householders; the right to privacy, rubbish collection, postal delivery, social security and essential services like water and electricity. Many squats last only a short time but if you choose your place carefully, you may be able to stay for years. Choosing carefully usually means taking time to gather information. You could quite easily open the first empty building that you come across, but the chances are that you would not stay there for very long. Opening a new squat is always a bit of a gamble, but the more you know the better your odds. Read on!

FINDING A PLACE

All property is owned by someone and it is a good idea to find out who that someone is before breaking a new place. Some types of landlord are far easier to deal with than others, so here are a few hints on what to expect from various landlords:

Council Property: In the past the best places to squat have been local authority owned properties that are not going to be re-let. This is for a number of reasons. Councils have a lot of empty properties and often do not have the money to keep them in a lettable state. Often quite reasonable properties are left empty because of mismanagement, bureaucracy or low demand on hard to let estates (areas people do not want to move to). If there are a lot of squatters the council will take longer to evict people. Some councils or individual employees may be unofficially sympathetic to squatters and leave eviction until the properties are required. Also, councils do have some duties to house people and these duties can sometimes

be used as legal defences in possession proceedings. Be warned, though, that recently more and more councils have become more hard line in their attitudes towards squatters, and in fact anyone living in council property, and the incidences of false PIOs, illegal or heavy-handed evictions and trashing property have increased. Council properties will either be letting stock, (i.e. properties fit to be let), hard to let or awaiting renovation, demolition or sale.

Housing Associations/Trusts: These are government and/or charitably funded housing organisations. They also have large numbers of empty properties and some are quite reasonable in their attitude to squatters. Others can be particularly stupid and nasty. The different categories of Housing Association property are basically the same as council property.

Other Large Organisations: Many government departments and newly privatised quangos own lots of empty properties. These include the MOD, the police and railway companies, as well as hospitals and schools.

Mortgage Repossessions: These are places owned by banks or building societies, and are an attractive option simply because there are huge numbers of them. As long as the previous owners have been evicted, the owners will have to take you to court.

Commercial Property: Private landlords and property companies are always the most unpredictable type of owner - they could send in the heavies or ignore you for years. They are the type of owner most likely to evict you if you leave the



A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO SQUAT

place empty. In the past few years many pubs have been closed and left empty for years, and have sometimes been successfully squatted.

Private Houses: Empty houses with 'For Sale' signs outside are not a good option. If an owner has recently moved out, it is quite likely that someone else is about to move in. A new private owner is able to use the PIO provisions of Section 7, and is highly likely to do so. Best avoided.



MOVING IN

The most difficult part of squatting is actually gaining possession. Squatters are sometimes arrested for Criminal Damage, which, taken in its strictest possible form, is an offence which almost all squatters commit. Removing steel doors, boards, damaging the front door, even taking out broken parts of a house can be considered Criminal Damage. But don't get paranoid! Only a very small minority of squatters ever get nicked - and with good legal advice they often get off. The greatest time of risk is when you have just moved in - the police are bound to come nosing around and may accuse you of having smashed windows, etc. If any damage has been done, make sure it's repaired immediately.

Opening a squat by yourself can be risky - it's safer and more fun to do it with others. Most forcible evictions happen in the first few days, so make sure there's a group of you who open up the squat and are ready to move in at once. If the police want to charge you with criminal damage, they'll have to sort out who actually did it. Provided no-one is caught red-handed or makes any stupid statements, they will obviously have a

difficult time deciding who to charge. The first thing to do once you're in is to change the lock on the front door and secure all the entrances. Until you have control over who comes in and out, you do not have possession and can be evicted straight away if the owner or police turn up. Remember to secure all windows and skylights. Putting up a legal warning (see below) in a front window may be helpful, as it may deter the police or owner from breaking in, but you must have someone in the place all the time to back it up. A legal warning will not stop you being evicted on its own. Put up curtains and try to make the place look lived in. Get down to the gas and electric boards quickly - before the owners do. If the services are on, take a note of the meter readings. If you use gas or electricity without paying, you can be charged with theft. If you have neighbours, try and enlist their support. Explain why you're homeless - you may get a surprisingly sympathetic response.

DEALING WITH THE BOYS IN BLUE

It's best to expect a visit from your friendly local plod soon after you've moved in, as they are bound to turn up sooner or later. Remember, they have no right of entry without a warrant, so don't let them in if you can avoid it. Let them know the situation. Say something like:-

"We have moved in here because we have nowhere else. We did not break anything when we entered and we have not damaged anything since. It isn't a criminal matter, it's a civil matter between us and the owners, and they must take us to court for a possession order if they want us to leave".

Some police act as if they can evict or arrest any squatter they see. This is not true. Try to talk to them through the letter box. Make sure you know the legal situation better than they do (not usually very difficult) and show them a copy of the Legal Warning. If they simply say "get out, don't be clever", etc you can point out that they may be committing an offence under section 6 of the Criminal Law Act, because they will be violently entering premises where there is someone opposing their entry.

EVICTED

Unless you are evicted under Section 6 or 7 of the 1977 Criminal Law Act or the owners have evict-

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HOW TO SQUAT

ed you while you were out, the owner must apply to the courts for a possession order. Any other method will probably be illegal. Nearly all squatters are evicted after a possession order has been made by a court. The notorious 1994 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act has not actually changed the position very much. Apart from a few minor changes to the law about PIO's, it has introduced an extra type of possession order called an INTERIM POSSESSION ORDER (IPO). This can be nasty, but has turned out to be not nearly so bad as everyone thought when it was going through parliament. It cannot be used on the majority of squatters, and so far there have been very few IPO's. Most IPO's which squatters have defended have flopped and the owners have been forced to use the old procedures instead. The most important thing about IPO's is that you get very short notice. You need to take action THE SAME DAY as you get served with the papers. Get legal advice straight away.

THE FIRST WARNING

The first warning you get may be someone calling at your squat saying they are the owner or are acting for the owner. Ask to see their identification and note the name, address and phone number. They will probably say something like "You are trespassing and you must leave". They may also give you some bullshit about the new IPO procedure and say that the police could come and arrest you at any time. Make sure you know the facts about IPO's and don't get intimidated by this sort of talk. Make a note of everything you heard and saw as soon as they leave. Sign and date it, as it may be useful evidence if you fight the court case. They will probably ask for the names of all the people living in the squat, and there is no advantage in withholding this information. If you volunteer a lot of names - particularly in a big squat - and they forget to send summonses to all those people, you may have a defence in court. You don't have to give your real name, but remember, if you fight the case and require legal aid, you can't get it in a false name!

Quite often the first warning will be a letter rather than a visit. It will say the same sort of things and probably that you must leave by a certain date or else the owner "will take proceedings". Don't panic about such a letter. It just means the owner has found out that you're there.



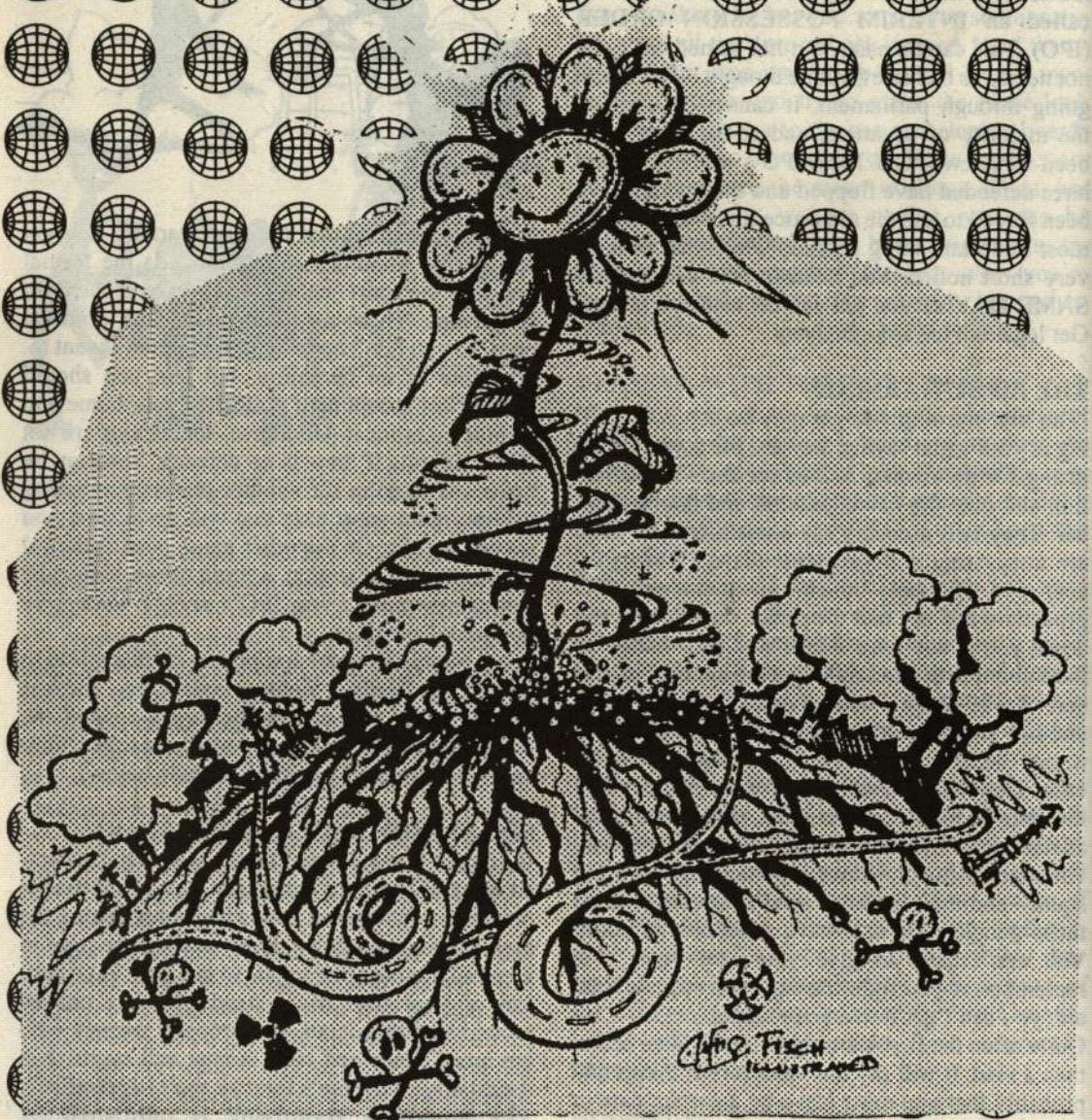
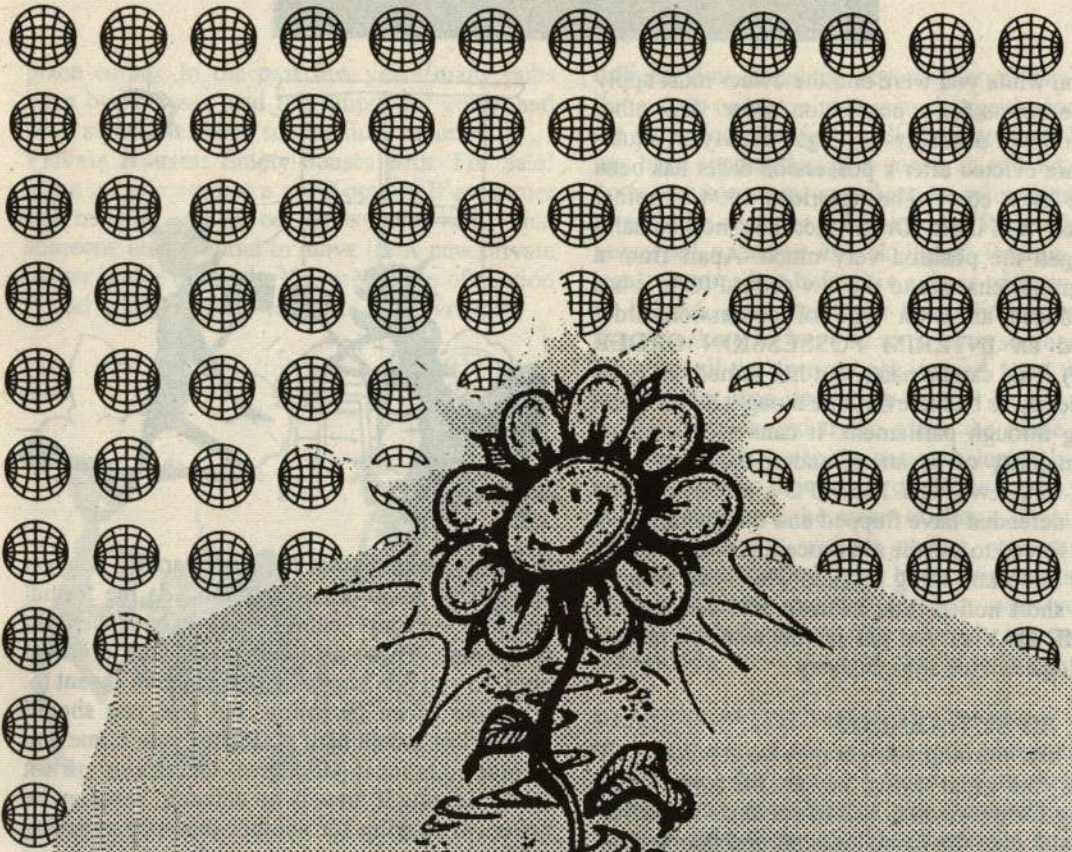
It's quite possible that the first warning you get will be the summons. A summons is the formal notice of the court hearing, and you have the right to get one. These are civil courts, not criminal ones, so you don't have to go if you don't want to. It's more of an invitation, but one you should think about accepting if you value your home and want to fight for it. Of course, some cases are not worth fighting if there is no defence. You may be better off looking for another place than putting energy into a court case that will go against you sooner or later. On the other hand, even technical defences can give you a little more time and sometimes quite a lot. IPO's should always be opposed if possible.

It is beyond the space limitations of this guide to go into the details of fighting court cases, and it is recommended that you get hold of a copy of the Squatters Handbook which contains stacks of info on every aspect of squatting (details below).

SQUAT NOW WHILE STOCKS LAST!

If you are homeless and have tried all the accepted ways of getting a home, don't be afraid to take matters into your own hands instead of letting the system grind you down. Everyone has the right to a home. If others can squat, so can you. Take control of your own life instead of being pushed around by bureaucrats and property owners who are more concerned with money and status than the quality of people's lives or their happiness.

The Squatters Handbook is published by Advisory Service for Squatters, 2 St Pauls Road, London N1 0171 359 8814



John Fish
ILLUSTRATED

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO SET UP A CO-OP

Many housing co-ops are state funded: the Housing Corporation puts up much of the funding, and therefore can, on the whole, call the tune. However, it is possible to set up a housing co-op which is totally independent.

Essentially, a registered housing co-op is a legal entity which is separate from its members, and it allows those members to co-operate to raise loans, even if, individually, they have limited access to money or credit. With these loans they can purchase secure housing which they themselves control. The members of an independent housing co-op are tenants paying rent, (and so are eligible for housing benefit), but are also their own landlord.

The 'housing' for a co-op could be chosen to exactly suit the needs of the members. It could include extra resources- space, land, workshops, gardens, extra children's spaces. It could be a large or small shared house, flats, a small terrace, a residential mobile home park, a smallholding. It could be established just to provide housing, and an alternative to the low standards and constant insecurity of private rented accommodation. Or it could be set up with the intention of promoting wider aims, such as providing space for self-employment, supporting home education, giving a secure base for a group of people who are encouraged on a shared project, and it allows the members to tailor the property, once chosen, to exactly suit their special needs.

It may take some patience and determination to set up a housing co-op and see it through to fruition, but then the members can reap the reward of relative autonomy in an important area of life, and rents which can decrease over the years as loans are repaid, rather than constantly increase as all other rents do. Housing benefit acts as a conduit to channel public funds into the pockets of private landlords, and although it passes through the hands of tenants, it leaves them with no long-term improvement, and no control. A family on housing benefit could, over only five or six years, claim enough housing benefit to have BOUGHT a small house outright, but of course that benefit is actually accruing to the landlord, not the family in need. They can still be made

homeless at four weeks notice, with all the knock-on problems that has for work, education and social networks, whilst the landlord has enlarged his asset base with public money and virtually no work.

4 STEPS TO SETTING UP A HOUSING CO-OP

1) Refine your idea of what you want to achieve, and form a group of people who will commit themselves to working together to make their common idea become reality. Unless you come as a ready-made group, establishing that common idea is perhaps the hardest part. Contact existing co-ops, especially if there are any in your area. Gather information, ask for help from the co-op network. Send for the invaluable booklet 'How To Set Up A Housing Co-op' from Radical Routes, and contact the Catalyst Collective (both addresses at the end).

2) Register as an Industrial and Provident Society. This is done through the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and gives a group the legal structure which is required. The co-op needs to be defined as 'Not-for-profit'-members cannot make any financial gain out of it as individuals.

'Limited Company' - members do not carry personal liability for the debts of the co-op, (although of course they will lose their home if they don't pay the mortgage).

'Fully Mutual' - all tenants must be members and all members must be either present or prospective tenants.

'Common Ownership' - the property is owned by the housing co-op. The members may loan money to the co-op (and receive interest) but they do not own an individual share of the property. If the property is sold, members cannot divide any 'profit' up amongst themselves -it must be used to buy another co-op property or passed to another not-for-profit organisation. Co-ops are about developing housing as a resource, not about treating it as a commodity with which to make money.

3) Work out how to raise the money. This is usually done by getting a 70% or 80% mortgage and raising the rest by issuing Loanstock (see below), and possibly getting a loan from some other group

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HOW TO SET UP A CO-OP

such as Radical Routes (see below). Many co-ops have got mortgages either from Triodos Bank or the Ecology Building Society. Before presenting your idea to a bank or other funding source, ask around other independent co-ops to find out what the banks' loan criteria are, as they vary from one bank to another. Again, two major sources of advice and help are the Catalyst Collective and the Radical Routes network.

4) Find a property. Start looking at properties which will suit your aims and will be able to generate enough rent (at local Housing Benefit levels) to repay the mortgage and loans, and cover the running costs (maintenance etc.). Houses are more expensive in some parts of the country than others, but then Housing Benefit levels are generally higher in those areas. Even if most or all members are working, the bank will probably still want to see that the co-op could continue to meet the mortgage repayments if at a later date most tenants were having to claim housing benefit.

It is the co-op as a legal entity which gets the mortgage, not the individual members, so a sound cashflow forecast is more important than whether all or any of the members are employed.

LOANSTOCK

As a registered Industrial and Provident Society the co-op is allowed to raise money by issuing loanstock to both members and non-members. This is a way of borrowing money from sympathisers without relinquishing any control over the co-op to them. If members themselves lend to the co-op in this way, it ensures that the member who has £5000 to put in does not have any more stake or power in the co-op than the member who invested £50.

RADICAL ROUTES

Radical Routes is a mutual aid self-help network which has been responsible for much of the spade-work involved in establishing the route to independent tenant-controlled co-ops described here. Membership of Radical Routes is restricted to housing and worker co-ops actively working towards a shared social and political vision. The network has a solid knowledge of both the legalities and practicalities of setting up co-ops.

Radical Routes also operates an ethical investment scheme through which it can make loans to member co-ops, and it publishes various useful booklets, especially the vital 'How To Set Up A Housing Co-op'.

CATALYST COLLECTIVE

Another source of help is the Catalyst Collective, who will give advice and also offer a registration service to see you through the process. They produce a pre-registration pack which includes a huge amount of useful information, from setting up a co-op to producing a cashflow forecast and doing the accounts.

HOUSING CO-OPS USEFUL ADDRESSES

Radical Routes

16 Sholebroke Avenue
Leeds
W. Yorkshire LS7 3HB
Tel: 0113 262 9365
E-mail: cornerstone@gn.apc.org

Catalyst Collective

PO Box 5
Lostwithiel
Cornwall PL22 0YT
Tel: 01726 815649
E-mail: green.line@gexpress.gn.apc.org

Registrar of Friendly Societies

Victory House
30-34 Kingsway
London WC2B 6ES
Tel: 0171 437 9992

Triodos Bank

Brunel House
11 The Promenade
Bristol BS8 3NN

Ecology Building Society

18 Station Road
Cross Hills
Keighley
W. Yorkshire BD20 7EH



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER ANNIVERSARY...



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ONE YEAR'S HARD LABOUR

'We are grateful for what the Tories did but it is not the end of the story'

Frank Field, Social Security Minister

One year on from the election and the reality of what a Labour government is all about is biting home. All the hype in the world can't hide the reality of a tacky little government elected to defend the interests of the well off at the expense of the rest of us - all in the guise of 'reforming' the welfare state, 'revitalising' the labour market and 'modernising' everything in sight.

Labour are quite clear what they're about. The alliance of big business and the middle class that brought Labour to power is desperate to ensure that Britain maintains its competitiveness - and their privileges - in a world of increasing globalisation. Labour's 'modernisation' is all about gearing up for globalisation by creating a cheap, 'flexible' workforce that will be able to compete with other cheap, 'flexible' workforces around the world.

The New Deal is all about creating just such a workforce by forcing the unemployed into crap, low paid 'jobs'. Employers are given £60 a week for each full-time job they create and are not expected to pay employees any more than that - free labour! The New Deal is as old as the hills - forcing the poor to work for the rich for peanuts.

Many of Labour's other policies are geared towards creating poverty pay jobs. The minimum wage will be set at a level low enough for big business to accept (they're setting it after all!) allowing benefits to be set just below it, making it easier to force people into crappy jobs. As Gordon Brown put it in his budget speech, 'Because in future work will pay, those with an offer of work can have no excuse for staying at home on benefits'.

Cheap childcare - no doubt using New Deal conscripts - will be brought in making it easier to harass parents on benefits into taking low paid jobs. People on invalidity or disability benefits will suddenly find these benefits stopped. Short-term contracts, lack of rights at work, removal of sick pay, maternity leave and holidays are all on the cards as casualisation - which the Liverpool dockers went on strike for two years to resist - becomes the norm for all but the better off.

The Tories never thought they could get away with forcing the unemployed to work for little more than dole money. Labour, with their support in the unions, reckon they can. But they know they will only get away with it if resistance from those under attack can be kept in check. So the Tory anti-union laws will stay in place to ensure that Britain has, as Tony Blair has proudly stated, 'a more restricted trade union legislative framework than any country in the western world'. Alongside this, of course,

Jack Straw's ever more authoritarian police, courts and prison system will be ready to deal with objectors.

The contrast between Labour's attitude to the poor and its attitude to the rich could not be greater. Wage differentials are now greater than since records began and set to grow. Britain has the lowest state pension in Europe while private pensions for the well off are subsidised. The countryside is destroyed so that middle class consumers can have their out-of-town shopping complexes while no one seems bothered about the homeless still sleeping on our cities' streets.

Labour has been true to its friends in the middle

The celebration of Beltane heralds the start of the summer in the pagan calendar - signifying the death of winter and the return of the warm weather. May Day was recognised by the 1st Congress of the Second International in the 1880's in memory of the Haymarket Martyrs - Chicago anarchists framed and executed by the state. The 1st of May was decreed a day of celebration of workers. Since then, May Day has also been known as International Workers/Labour Day.

class and big business. The last budget saw corporation tax cut by £1.5bn a year. The middle class voters who elected New Labour continue to be subsidised by £10bn a year through tax breaks. Not surprisingly the middle class are very happy with this - their support for Labour since the election has gone up by 16% while working class support has remained unchanged.

Labour has been quick to incorporate big business into government. Interested in developing an ethical foreign policy? Lets appoint Lord Simon the boss of BP, a company famed for its championing of the downtrodden, to the Department of Trade. Need someone who understands what living on benefit is all about? Who better than Martin Taylor, £976,000 a year (plus £762,000 bonuses last year) boss of Barclays Bank, to be given the job of chairing the government's tax and benefit taskforce. And who will we get to head the low pay commission? Why it's obvious - the £130,000 a year principal of the London Business School!

No one is going to win any victories by expecting Labour to change its spots or by expecting the unions to lead any sort of resistance. Unions are big businesses these days, investing millions on the stockmarket. While 40% of union members are managers or professional workers, less than 2% of union members are under 20. Unions represent well-off workers in steady jobs rather than the low paid. As TUC General Secretary John Monks puts it, "the days when the trade unions provided an adversarial opposition force are past." Well, quite.

Ask the Liverpool dockers, refused real support from their union for two years. Or the Hillingdon strikers.

The Labour government may appear strong at the moment - but only because no real opposition exists. Their 'landslide' victory was won with less than a third of the electorate's votes and with fewer votes than the Tories got in 1992. The alliance of the haves that the Labour government represents excludes millions of have-nots, itself a potentially enormous alliance of those with nothing to gain from Labour's championing of middle class privilege and consumer culture.

That alliance is waiting to be built. It won't be built by going on boring marches and letting ourselves be organised into safe, respectable and ineffectual campaigns. It won't be built by bickering amongst ourselves about nothing while loads needs to be done either. It will mean in-yer-face direct action, supporting each other, learning lessons from the past and from struggles around the world. As events from thirty years ago show, things can move very quickly - so who knows what's round the corner? **It could be US!**

MAGNET WORKERS STRIKE ENDS

After 21 months, the Magnet strikers picket line will finally close at 11am on Mayday. A ballot of strikers narrowly voted to accept a management offer and end the strike. Ian Cramond, strike secretary, told SchNEWS 'We'd like to thank everyone who has supported us through the dispute.'

HILLINGDON STRIKERS WIN!

"At a time when we are winning the struggle for low paid workers everywhere we are being thrown into the dustbin by UNISON."

Despite being abandoned by their union, the **Hillingdon Hospital workers** have continued their fight against low pay. Sacked over 30 months ago for refusing to take a £40 a week pay cut (they were already earning less than £7,000 a year) they have forced old employers Pall Mall to agree that they unfairly dismissed them! Donations needed desperately c/o 27 Townsend Way, Northwood, Middx., HA6 1TG 0956 135311

This week's issue is dedicated to **Simon Jones** who, at 24, was tragically killed last Friday while working at Shoreham Harbour. Much loved, sane, sharp, all-round sound geezer. When we could cajole him into the SchNEWS office, his dry wit would help liven up stories just as he lived the community in Brighton. All are welcome at his funeral, which will be on May 14 at 11:00, St John's Church, South Bar, Banbury. Our thoughts go out to his family and everyone who knew him, especially Emma.

"Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labour to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning god." - Walt Whitman.

Nothing ever burns down by itself, every fire needs a little bit of help...

68 R.P.M.

Today is the anniversary of 1968. Everybody loves a good revolution, and 1968 saw revolutionary events kicking off in France and around the world. For those who missed them, however, (including ourselves) we are publishing this special souvenir issue to show that May '68 is closer than you think. In this SchNEWS Reminiscetpackage, we give you the chance to taste some of the thrills and spills of that exciting time. Better still, why not create your own revolution out of the everyday materials of your own life? But first, lie back, put on some music, and relive some of the best moments of '68 in our rable-rousing Revolutionary Round-up.

The events of May '68 were utterly unforeseen, but were a revolt without compromise. "This is revolution... a total onslaught on modern industrial society" reported the Observer at the time. A handful of rowdy students at a suburban annex of the University of Paris launched a nationwide movement of revolt, which, within a month, brought the French state to its knees, exposing the fragility of what had seemed the most stable regime in Europe.

People rose up out of the desire to live, as intensely as possible: "revolt is festival or it is nothing" read one bit of student agit-prop. In the lead-up to '68 a French judge condemned such radicals who "do not hesitate to commend theft, the destruction of scholarship, the abolition of work, total subversion, and a world-wide proletarian revolution with 'unlicensed pleasure' as its only goal".

The sixties were a bit of a mad one all around the world. Counter-cultures were flying about all over the place, and you could barely move in some parts without tripping over another commune, squat, festival, or 'be-in'. But while the kids at Haight-Ashbury were discovering 101 ways to love one another, their parents were blustering in the White House, finding even more ways to napalm strangers in Vietnam. So the ongoing anguish of the war leant a whole other dimension of urgency to the cultural dissent; while civil rights movements in Northern Ireland and black America embroiled swathes of those populations in full-on grassroots struggle.

At the same time, the international student movement was getting restless in Europe, Japan, Mexico and elsewhere. Students in the US were occupying their universities to protest the Vietnam war, and British students were going for it too. Italy, like France, had incredibly overcrowded universities run by up-tight old dinosaurs; thirteen of the places experienced occupations in 67/68. In March '68 all of Poland's universities went on strike. In Spain, where the fascist government was expelling rebellious students and closing entire universities, Vietnam came second to the native issue of Franco's whole regime.

Spain was like France in that the strength of its student movement lay in its links with loads of the working class population. The black people rioting in American ghettos didn't much

identify with the students and the more-or-less white and affluent hippy scene. But in France, the student radicals were hardcore enough in their aims and outlook, to stir into action millions of ordinary folks. The spark of revolution, struck by the student extremists, had found tinder on the shop floor. So - deep breath - here's those May events in full (it's yer SchNEWS history lesson)...

May 2: After some cheeky student actions at the University of Nanterre, battles with the cops and anti-Vietnam occupations, the Dean shuts the whole place down.

May 3: Loads of students gather to demonstrate at the Sorbonne (University of Paris) so its Dean shuts that too, and sends in the CRS (French riot police). Rioting spreads throughout the student part of the city, the Latin Quarter, and with each day that passes, more and more Parisians join the increasingly militant demonstrations.

May 7: The students' and teachers' unions call a strike and demand police withdrawal from the Latin Quarter, the release of those nicked and the re-opening of the university facilities.

"The first impression was of a giant lid suddenly lifted, of pent-up thoughts and aspirations suddenly exploding, on being released from the realm of dreams into the realm of the real and the possible. In changing their environment people themselves were changed. The shy became communicative. People just went up and talked to each other without a trace of self-consciousness."

English student in Paris '68

May 10: "Night of the Barricades". Some 50,000 go for it and occupy the whole of the Latin Quarter, barricading the streets with up-turned cars, and construction equipment. The ensuing battle lasts several hours; the CRS firing tear gas and mounting baton charges, the students and others responding with molotov cocktails.

May 11: The Prime Minister withdraws the police from the Latin Quarter, and capitulates to the unions' demands, but the balance has already tipped. Thousands of young people from across Europe are heading for Paris.

May 13: All the main trade unions strike in solidarity with the students, and Paris is brought to a standstill by a 800,000-strong march. Now the CRS withdraw from the Sorbonne, and students reclaim their university, filling the lecture halls and convening a general assembly to manage their own affairs.

May 14: The first factory occupation takes place at the Sud Aviation plant in Nante, where workers hold the chairman hostage.

May 16: Workers occupy Renault plants,

followed by various other factories around the country.

May 24: Mass demonstrations take place across France. By now 9 or 10 million workers are on strike. Footballers occupying the French Football Federation with the slogan "Football to the Footballers!" President De Gaulle orders the army and police to stay in their barracks and stations, as their safety cannot be guaranteed.

May 30: Having ensured the support of French armed forces stationed in West Germany, De Gaulle addresses the nation on TV, threatening to send in the troops. He calls on citizens to stand up to subversion, claiming France is threatened by a "communist dictatorship".

After that, the whole thing starts folding in; riot police re-occupy some factories, while in others, people go back to work. Union officials have kept a lot of workers out of the factories, letting them sit at home in the belief that a bit of a pay rise is all people are after.

But for a while, everything was up for grabs. The Observer said at the time; "by taking to the streets, they have set themselves against every organised political force in France: Both Government and opposition last week tried desperately to contain them. Both failed."

What are we to make of all this? SchNEWS has its own panel of historians and political scientists who are drawing forth the lessons, due to report back sometime in the new millenium. Meanwhile, we can all witness the strength that came from people looking beyond their own specific concerns (as 'students', 'workers', whatever) and coming together in common action; look at the energy and excitement that came out of the Liverpool Dockers getting together with Reclaim the Streets.

What makes May '68 so sexy is that people were taking back the whole of their lives, unleashing their desires and a wave of creativity. The first non-university territory to be occupied during the revolt was the French National Theatre at the Odeon. The folks raided the wardrobe department and dozens of them came out to face the CS gas dressed as centurians, pirates and princesses.

Rene Vienet, one of the 'situationists' whose ideas were important in driving the revolt, wrote; "Everyday life, suddenly rediscovered, became the centre of all possible conquests. People who had lived their whole lives in offices declared that they could no longer live in the way they had before. The strikers recaptured the time so sadly lost in factories, on motorways and in front of the TV. People strolled, dreamed, learned how to live. Little by little, desires became reality"

We look around everywhere today and see seamless routine, capitalism just getting on with it. "But what about the impossibility of living, what about this stifling mediocrity and this absence of passion?" asks situationist Raoul Vaneigem. The desire to play lives on beneath this society's avalaunch of TVs, cars, and electric kettles.

One of the participants in Paris declared at the time; "another epoch is starting: that in which people know that revolution is possible under the conditions of modern bureaucratic capitalism." ☉

Cambridge Capers

The Cambridge street party kicked off the summer last Saturday with a blue sky beaming, Mill Road was once again awash with smiles as Cambridge's Loona Tuna sound system churned out sounds to which 1,500 danced and got in snogs not smogs beneath the noonday sun. See you all soon on some street or other this summer...

Here it comes, yer SchGUIDE to SUMMERTIME...

May... **Fri 8** - London Anarchist Forum (LAF) Symposium on *Anarchist Alternatives* @ Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1 (Holborn Tube). 8pm, free... **Sat 9** - *Reclaim The Streets* @ 12noon, City Square, Leeds; Stop the Madness - Reclaim The Streets @ 12noon, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton. Info: 0961 838508; Farical *Freedom of Speech Night*, Inner Terrestrials, Head Jam etc. @ Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Road, Hackney, E8 830-1am, £3.50/\$2.50. *Benefit for GANDALF* Support Campaign and *Russian Publishing Project*, who translate previously unavailable radical literature into Russian; *Welfare Before Warheads* - women's gathering @ atomic weapons base, Aldermaston. Men's event @ Burghfield. Young women's camp *8th-10th*. Info: 01703 554434; *Save our Downs*, public meeting, 2pm Brightfield Centre, North Rd., Brighton. (NB: people should be boycotting the Brighton Centre because of their involvement in Project Work)... **Sun 10** - *Wild Thyme Vegan Cafe* night, Cambridge to raise funds for *Animal Rescue* service... **Wed 13** - Demonstrate outside *British Field Sports Society AGM* 1pm @ Royal Inst. Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George St, London SW1 (Westminster tube) 0171 2783068... **Fri 15** - Conscientious Objectors Day - short *Amnesty* meeting @ Tavistock Square, London WC1. Other events all over, call 0171 2784040; LAF talk, May 6th in Paris with participant Sebastian Hays @ Conway Hall (as above). 8pm, free.

Global Streets Parties Saturday May 16

*** While leaders of the most industrialised nations of the world meet in Birmingham squillions of people will join the Global Street Party. From Australia to Israel, Slovenia to Switzerland... 33 cities in 21 countries (and counting!). Full list: RTS PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY 0171 281 4621 email rts@gn.apc.org, web www.hre.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/rts.html
*** Gyrate Not G8! Jubilee 2000 human chain around the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, where the G8 summit is meeting @ 2pm - followed by a Global Street Party. Meet 4pm, meet New St Station, Birmingham. 0171 2814621

*** Fancy a bit of clowning around? Want to help incite outbreaks of internationalist revolutionary optimism? People are needed to set up affinity groups which can function as stewards/party game organisers/performers during the party. No experience necessary, there will be a workshop before hand. Call 0171 281 4621 and say you want to become a clown, or email clown@persist.demon.co.uk

Days of action against World Trade Organisation 16-20 May

Genesis - After Birmingham, leaders of the G8 will be fly to Geneva to join "celebrations" at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference - those nice people who in their own words are writing the constitution of the single global economy Actions have been organised including a street party on Saturday, which will be joined by unemployed marchers from several French cities, bicycle caravans from Germany, a special train from Italy, and up to three thousand small farmers selling local food on the streets. Monday is Peoples Trade Day where several symbols of global capitalism (like banks and fast food restaurants) will be blocked by small scale local traders. A candle procession to the WTO will take place on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday people will walk with hands tied in an attempt to enter and stop the conference. Other anti-WTO actions are planned in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Canada, Colombia, Peru in addition to the 31+ street par-

ties on the 16th. Info: email playfair@asta.rwth-aachen.de website www.agp.org

Sat 16 - *Quakers Open Day* @ Friends Meeting house, Brighton. 10-6pm, free; *Levellers' Day* - Burford, Oxfordshire - four speakers (on *May 17th 1649*), 3 Levellers were executed). 10.30-4.30pm, £5/\$2.50. Info: 01865 735360, email: levellers@btinternet.com; *Night Vigil at Hillgrove Laboratory Cat Farm*, Dry Lane, Witney, Oxon. 10pm. Info: 0121 632 6460; *Sustainable Leves* - debate + workshops @ All Saints Centre, Friars Walk, Lewes 9.30 am - 4 pm 01273 477942... **Fri 22** - *Mon 25* National *Animal Rights Gathering*, workshops & action. Also: *Vegan-Fruitarian Gathering* in Leicester. Info: 01902 711935; **Fri 22** IAF (London *Anarchist Forum*) General Discussion @ Conway Hall (as above). 8pm, free; National Gathering to *Defend Council Housing*, (also *Sat 23rd*) East London. Info: 0171 2542312 (call now)... **22-26 Earth Spirit** Spring Awakening Campaign 01273 814490... **Sat 23** - *Sun 24* Occupy a *Genetix* Test site, somewhere in East Anglia. Info: 01603 768235... **23rd** - *Fight Poverty Pay* - Demonstrate against *Polygram* Glenfield Park, Blackburn Meet 11am. It's one year since Nigel Cook was sacked for trying to organise a trade union at M&S Packaging, who package CDs for Polygram. Workers are paid as little as £3 an hour, for 12 hour shifts with no sick or holiday. Organised by the Re-instate Nigel Cook Campaign 01254 679605 Picket Info/travel: 0171 8371688; *Reclaim The Streets in Lancaster*. Meet 12noon, Dalton Square... **Sun 24** International *Women's Day for Peace* and Disarmament, contact (Geneva) +41 22731 6429, email: ipb@gn.apc.org... **Mon 25** A Tea Party is planned @ The Flat Oak at the end of the new *Thames Way* in Kent, in contrast with the official fun run all-for-charity-mate opening. Info: 01227 720183; **Green Fair** @ Canbury Gardens, Kingston, Surrey. 11am-9pm, £3. Info: 0181 9745621; **Maidstone Green Fair**, Mote Park, Maidstone, Kent FREE 01622 750543... **Thur 28th** London *GandalF* Support Campaign meeting 7 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. WC1... **Fri 29** IAF Symposium on *Anarchism and Science Fiction* @ Conway Hall (as above). 8pm, free... **Sat 30** *Roots Reggae Night* @ the Lott, 382 Mentmore Tce, London E8. 9pm-6am, £5/4. **Benefit for Advisory Service for Squatters** & Asylum Seekers: *Liverpool Dockers* 2nd March for Social Justice @ Thames Embankment (Temple Tube). Meet 12noon, info: 0181 4420090; **No Open Cast** Action (proposed) in the north, info: 0181 7673142... **Sun 31** National Demo against *cat breeding* for vivisection @ Hillgrove Farm (as above), 12noon 0121 632 6460!

June 98-99 - *Interfaith Pilgrimage* retracing the journey of slavery. Walk from *Liverpool* to *Senegal*. Info: 0171 2289620... **Mon 1** - **Wed 3** Close Down *EuroSatory Arms Fair* @ Le Bourget, near Paris. Non-violence training, protest at fair, day of action in Paris. Info: 00-31 2061 64684... **Mon 1** - **Sun 7** National *Vegetarian Week*. 0161 928 0793... **Fri 5** Blyth Power + Dole Claimers + Judge Trev etc. **Benefit gig for London Animal Action** and *Reclaim The Streets* @ Pembury Tavern (as above). 9-1am, £3.50/\$2.50; LAF General Discussion @ Conway Hall (as above). 8pm, free; 25th Anniversary of *London Greenpeace*, gathering and reunion @ Conway Hall (as above) 6.30pm. Info: 0171 7131269... **Sat 6** *London Reclaim The Streets*, meet 12noon outside Euston Station. Evening: parties, North and South, info: 0171 2814621; **Rage Against the Cage** (food, exhibition, workshop, kids stuff) - 11am-5pm @ Devonshire Green, Sheffield, inc. National March Against Vivisection - 1pm. Info: 0114 2530020; **Strauberry Fair**, Midsummer Common, Cambridge, free. Info: 01223 350542; **Real Peoples Europe** conference 10am-6pm, University of London, Malet St. 0171 6079615... **Sun 7** *Yegfest*, Castle Field, Manchester. Info: 0161 9280793

Tue 9 - Tues 16 Reclaim Europe!

Radical alternative to Eurosummit and its corporate agenda in Cardiff. Mass cycle blockade, demos, workshops, street events, parties and other surprises. Info: 0171 2729333, email: euro@globalnet.co.uk <http://www.geocities.com/Rainforest/5581/>... **Sat 13th** Massive demonstration No to a *big business Europe* - Yes to Jobs, Public Services and Democracy, Cardiff at 1.30pm. 01222 220347 email: reclaim.Europe@btinternet.com - *Should be fun!!*

Wed 10 Anti-bunt Demo @ Houses of Parliament,

12noon. Info: 0171 2783068... **Fri 12** IAF symposium, *Does Social Class Matter?* @ Conway Hall (as above). 8pm, free... **Sat 13** - **Sat 20** Nottingham Green Transport Week. 0115 9585666... **Sun 14** It's Not *Fayre*, Midsummer Meadow, Northampton. FREE 01604 232295... **Tues 16** *International Refugee Day*. Events all over, contact refugee support and human rights groups... **Thurs 18** *Parcial Freedom of Speech* II and Pre-Solstice Night with Revolutionary Dub Warriors, Ruby Throat + Tragic Roundabout @ The Garage, 20-22 Highbury Corner, London, N8. 8-12midnight, £5/4. **Benefit for GANDALF** Support Group... **Fri 19** IAF talk, 'What I Want is Facts' by *Nicolas Walter* @ Conway Hall (as above). 8pm, free; **McLibel** Anniversary Day of Action. 0171 7131269; **19 - 28 Stoneberg** Free Festival, Wiltshire. Bring what you expect to find! (wot - like some wirecutters and a polevault?... **Sat 20 Hackney Show**, London FREE details to be confirmed; **Sallybury Reclaim The Streets** 12 noon Train Station... **19-22 Solstice Eco-Festival**, Lincolnshire Wolds. 510: 01522 887169... **Sat 20-21 Leamington Peace Festival** - Pump Rooms, Warwickshire. FREE: 01246 421830; **Fri 26** - **Sun 28** *Glastonbury*. Only £80! (or maybe free!!?) 01179 767868... **Fri 26** LAF General Discussion @ Conway Hall (as above). 8pm, free...

Fri 3 - **Sun 5 July** - *Bracknell Festival*, South Hill Park, Berkshire. Info: 01344 484123... **Sat 4** *Pride* 98, Clapham Common, London. Free; *Leiswam Peoples Day*, free, details to be confirmed... **Sun 5** *Lazy Sunday*, St Mary's Gardens, Bedford. 01234 360601... **Sat 11** - *Greenwich Anti-Racist Festival* - Plumstead Common. London. Free; *Rainbow Festival*, Watford details to be confirmed... **Fri 10** - **Sun 12** *Winchester Hat Fayre*, Hampshire. 01962 863966; *Larmer Tree Festival*, near Tollard Royal (A354), Wiltshire. £45/\$27/\$6, 01722 415223... **Wed 15** - **Sun 19** *Buddafest Festival*, near Shepton Mallet, Somerset, £25, 0181 6779564... **Fri 17** - **Sun 19** *Music in the Sun Festival*, Don Valley Grass Bowl, Sheffield. £4 a day, \$9.50 weekend. 0114 2754504/2763727. web: www.solis.co.uk email: admin@solis.co.uk... **Sat 18** - **Sun 19** *Bristol Community Festival*, Ashton Court FREE. 0117 9042275... **Sat 18** *Music in the Square*, Portsmouth. 12noon-11pm FREE 01705 834142... **Sun 19** Festival of *Global Rights*, Hackney Marshes, London. FREE... **Wed 29** - **Sun 2** *Aug. Big Green Gathering*, West Wiltshire, £50/concs. Info: 01747 870667... **Fri 31** - **2nd Aug** Taunton Green Fair, Somerset. To be confirmed; watch this space.

Sun 2 *August Sundaze Festival*, Rushton Hall, *Kettering*, Northants. £7/£5. 01536 710002... **Sun 9** *Smokey Bears Picnic*, Southsea Common, Portsmouth 2pm FREE... **Tues 11** - **Tues 25** 7-week *disarmament camp* at Trident base, Faslane, bonnie Scotland. 01603 611953... **Fri 14** - **16th** *Megalods Lizard Festival* becomes the Beach Party, Carlynog Bay, St. Austell, Cornwall. £60 (!), tel: 0181 8012662; fax: 0181 8088161... **Sat 15** - **16th** Day of *Protest* @ Faslane Peace Camp - *street campaigning in Helensburgh*, a march to, and rally at the base, food and a *Cellib*... **Wed 19** - **Sun 23** *Northern Green Gathering*, near Pontefract, W.Yorks 0115 224 9885; *Vegan Summer Gathering* (TBC) 01395 270280... **Mon 31** *Sutton Green Fair*, Carshalton Park, Ruskin Rd., Surrey FREE 0181 647 7706. (PheW! Take a breath! That's it... for now.)

FREE PARTY GUIDELINES

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

- * Be prepared to be self-sufficient. Facilities could be minimal.
- * Park sensibly, keep site roads clear.
- * Be friendly be local residents, rambles etc. Smile - you're at a free party!
- * Bury your shit
- * Don't trash the site - take a binbag.
- * Don't take drugs cos its illegal. Honest.
- * Fires - use dead not live wood (which don't burn anyway)
- * Make a donation - if someone passes a bucket round don't be a mean git. It costs money to put on free parties.
- * Know your rights - get yourself a BUST CARD, 10p from Release. Advice Line 0171 729 9904. *Emergency Help Line* 0171 603 8654.
- * Enjoy yourself - and don't let the party poopers get yer down!

Men in black

A disabled pensioner who was involved in the Teigngrace quarry campaign down in Devon came home to find two 'Bailiffs' had broken in and were playing with his computer. After discovering they were after his database and not Tetris, he understandably tried to phone the police, at which point he was shoulder charged to the floor, losing a tooth in the process. When he persisted in trying, they started blustering about warrants. Upon the eventual arrival of the police it transpired they didn't have one; then the pensioner found himself in a surreal dream as the police arrested him! Until the 'Bailiffs' left that is, when he was promptly de-arrested. Who were they? Why were they not done for breaking & entering? Why does a giro never last more than a day? Only Devon & Cornwall old bill know the answer and they ain't telling. The pensioner and his wife are so freaked out they're considering leaving the country, so if you know a lawyer who would do a freebie on this one, let him know: 01626 835 376

Bigots' Bimble

The National Front are at it again this time they are hi-jacking an Apprentice Boy's March to Downing St on the 23rd May. The Orange Men want to whinge to Blair about their 'Rights' to march through Catholic Areas; the NF are viewing it as free publicity for fascist candidates standing in the forthcoming by-elections (33 candidates nationally). A counter demo is meeting on the day at 1pm Little Sanctuary, Whitehall, SW11. For info on demo and a list of BNP candidates ring Searchlight on 0171 284 4040.

***Taking of local elections. London Greenpeace (no relation), who were sued by McDonalds in the McLibel 2 trial (issue 79), were infiltrated by a McDonalds employed security firm headed by ex-chief superintendent Nicholson. Nicholson has now retired from McDonalds and is standing for the Tories in Greenwich on May 7th. Wanna rant? His office is 0181 850 2880.

*** Those sexy tree sitters from the Kingston Campaign have formed The Kingston Poplar Front to stand in the By-Election. Their Manifesto? "That the council be represented by someone from each street thereby establishing a greater degree of democracy": info 0181 287 31182

Genetic souper-heroes return Monsanto's bullshit

Monsanto staff turning up for work in London and High Wycombe offices last Wednesday were greeted by some steamy dung bearing the message "We don't want Monsanto's Bullshit." Later, a bunch of Super Heroes Against Genetics (SHAG), sporting colourful capes with the trademark "X" chromosome appeared on the scene, to alert the world to Monsanto's plans to contaminate food with genetically modified organisms. One of them commented: "Monsanto are attempting to swamp the market with unnecessary genetically modified crops... We must stop this corporate bullying now!"

** On Tuesday a farmer in Totnes, Devon, received a visit from 600 locals, concerned about his genetically modified maize site - including a neighbouring organic farmer whose sweet corn could well be contaminated when the engineered pollen is released... Contact: Genetic Engineering Network 0181 374 9516

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

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

Last week on the Macintoshes? Bibl 'Orchard' & 'Meadow'

Cambridge Arrests

There were 27 arrests (police figure) during the afternoon of the Cambridge street party, including those at the World Day for Lab Animals action going on in parallel in the town that day. In particular, one man was badly beaten up by the police after he failed to move from a road junction, and was nicked for Breach of the Peace and (!) assaulting a police officer. When he refused to co-operate with attempts made to handcuff him inside a prison van, the cops took him back outside, cuffed, and threw him to the ground, where one officer kicked him about the face, head and torso. He was refused medical attention in custody for three hours, and given no access to a solicitor, nor an appropriate adult, despite suffering from depressive anxiety. In response to this attack, there will be a demo against police brutality on Saturday May 9 in Cambridge. Meet by the public toilets on Gonville Place, by Parker's Piece, at 1pm.

If you witnessed any of the arrests on Saturday, phone the SchNEWS office as soon as you can - (01273) 685913 - or write to Box A, Arjuna, 12 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2AD. Your call is confidential, and you could earn a Community Action Trust reward. (Er - actually you couldn't. But helping out those being fucked over by the police is its own reward).

John Pendragon

"One of the cheerleaders really, he loved the stones more than the festival!" A friend John who died of cancer last week was one of the beautiful people, involved in the Stonehenge Campaign, for which he campaigned tirelessly for 20 years. More recently he was involved in the Rainbow Centre, Wandsworth Eco-Village and Dead Womens Bottom.

No News in Portsmouth

25 supporters of the GandALF defendants occupied the offices of 'The Portsmouth News' for an hour on Monday, to ask them why they are refusing to cover the ongoing trials of five editors on trial because they wrote about direct action. However, Portsmouth News didn't even cover the occupation of their own offices, so SchNEWS rang News Editor Jess Elliott, to ask why. Elliott didn't want to comment, preferring instead, to ask a great many questions about the validity and political orientation of SchNEWS itself. He requested to view a copy - so here you are Mr. Elliott - read this! After a good hard push, he finally offered the revelation that the Portsmouth News did not consider the occupation newsworthy...

** The trial date for Green Anarchist editor Paul Rogers and Animal Liberation Front Press Officer Robin Webb has been set for the 11th May. More info 0956 694922

...and finally...

The hunting set has been unusually frank about the perversions of its members, in an article published in their long-established organ *The Field*, entitled 'Why dogs are better than women'. It reads: "Their parents never visit and they find you amusing when you're drunk. And when a dog gets old and starts to snap at you incessantly, you can shoot it." Not for us to speculate whether the author's marriage to a Pony Club official had a formative influence on his particular predilections. The editor of *The Field* defended the article, saying "you need to understand the relationship our average reader has with his or her dog. I know lots of people who would rather sleep in a bed with their Labradors than with their spouses."

Whoops! Last weeks SchNEWS had lotsa mistakes because we are now changing over our computer system to Windoze, and our DTP person [last week's one!] was... ahem. The headline, "GBH" referred to green belt housing; Jill Phipps died at Coventry not Shoreham; and the phone number to contact the Stenavage campaign is 01438 815210.

CAMPing '98

Peace Camps

Faslane: Following the recent court decision that saw Faslane Peace Camp classified a business (!) the next round of judicial wrangling will be in mid-June when the council is set to appeal. No, it hasn't been evicted! No, it's not a business! And no, Argyle and Bute council are neither happy nor sane! Weekend of actions and partying, 30/31 May. 01436-820901.

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp: Every 2nd weekend of the month, outside the atomic weapons establishment in Berkshire. **May 9th:** Welfare Before Warheads, (a women only event) calling for a nuclear free world without war and arms! More info 0170 355 4434 or 0122 2396563. Bring usual tents, instruments and sense of humour!!

Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp: always stuff happening. 01943 468593.

Sellafield Women's Peace Camp: Bi-monthly camp. The next weekend of actions is on 24-25 May. More info 0141 226 5066 or 0113 262 1534.

Alots: Camped in Coventry outside the company that sells Scorpion tanks to Indonesia. Regular events including music nights on Thursdays. Aiming to get a permanent office through a local housing co-op. Get down there and give yer support! Info 01926 338805 or 0336 774113.

Road Camps

Lymsing Forest: Campaigning for the last year against Rank who want to build a Centre Parks style holiday village in the middle of the forest, so happy holiday makers can have a nice sheltered holiday in the (ex)countryside! A well established camp. More info call Merlin on 0468 945595.

Birmingham Northern Relief Road: 27 miles of private toll motorway to campaign against. Excellent local support. The local vicar is going for the Guinness Book of Records for the longest sermon. According to an old law, a vicar cannot be interrupted whilst preaching, and so during the eviction he will be reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation as his basic text - the pulpit is presently being constructed up one of the trees! Site on 07970 932224 for directions/details or a copy of the campaign newsletter.

Nottingham: contact 01636 679979 or 0467317649 for details as to what's happening.

Derby: Anti-Road protest through inner-city green space. Benefit Gigs - 9th May, Victoria Inn, 7.00pm, Life on Venus/Spiral Towers (site band) plus others. Lots going on at site, excellent local support. Contact 07970-318397 for details/directions/happenings.

Crystal Palace: On the highest hill in London, this site is gaining fantastic local support. Southwark Council, together with three neighbouring councils, have joined in opposing this inner-city destruction. Lots of building and digging continues in order to ensure that the £56m, 20 screen multiplex cinema complex (with parking for 1000 cars), doesn't get off the drawing board. Wanna get there? By train to Crystal Palace station, by tube to Brixton then No3 bus. Details etc. 0181 7617826.

Bingley Bypass: Still awaiting decision by John Prescott. In desperate need of bodies, so get there. Contact 01274 504626 for details/directions etc.

Bangor: contact 01248 351541 or 0836 563980 for details e-mail: jimk@undeb.bangor.ac.uk - the camp is protesting against a greenbelt housing development.

Ashton Court, Bristol: 20 acre quarry extension into Ashton Court public park. 0467 430211.

STOP PRESS: New site set up against road widening in Epsom, London, will pass a childrens hospital for asthma !!! :07970 392 904

The NEW LABOUR VOTERS



WE'RE ALL
MIDDLE CLASS
NOW!



HOW WAS
THE SKI-ING
HOLIDAY?

ABSOLUTELY MARVELLOUS! IN THE
NEW PEOPLE CARRIER; WE GOT
THERE IN NO TIME. SILLY TRISTRAM
WENT OFF PISTE
AND BROKE HIS
ANKLE THOUGH,
DIDN'T YOU
DARLING?



THESE NHS HOSPITALS
ARE TERRIBLY
DEPRESSING,
AREN'T THEY?

THOSE NURSES
LOOK EVERSO
TIRED, AND ALL
THOSE PEOPLE
ON TROLRIES IN
THE CORRIDORS!
NOT ENOUGH
MONEY I SUPPOSE



AND TRIST'S SCHOOL
IS SHORT OF BOOKS
AND TEACHERS, ISN'T
IT DARLING?



DON'T TELL ME
ABOUT IT! IF ZOE'S
COMPREHENSIVE
GETS ANY WORSE,
WE'RE JUST GOING
TO HAVE TO
PRIVATIZE HER!



HMM. PERHAPS
WE SHOULD PAY
MORE TAXES OR
SOMETHING?

DON'T BE SILLY
DARLING. WE
DIDN'T VOTE
NEW LABOUR
TO PAY MORE
TAXES. WHERE ARE
YOU ALL GOING FOR
SUMMER THIS
YEAR? WE'RE OFF
TO OUR LITTLE
PLACE IN THE
SEVHELLES AGAIN..



WIT'DERRODT!, WIT'DERRODT! IT'S YER INTERNATIONAL



FROM BIRMINGHAM TO THE BERMUDA Δ EVERY WEEK

Issue 167 - Friday 15th May 1998

<http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/>

Free/Donation

"I get £89,000 a year... I'm worth it, you're not"

Home Secretary Jack Straw

He calls it a soapbox 'shoutabout'- The Home Secretary stands on a little box in his Blackburn constituency, and takes questions from the public.

Nigel Cook, sacked from a Polygram subsidiary after trying to organise a union against poverty pay, asked Jack Straw about the minimum wage and casual jobs. Straw fudged.

When Nigel Cook asked what he was paid he tried not to answer, until eventually he lost his temper. The Home Secretary boasted: "I get £89,000 a year...I'm worth it, you're not."

With perks, his salary climbs to £147,000...meanwhile five million workers earn less than £4 an hour, and almost one million women workers earn less than £2.25 an hour. Nigel Cook was sacked nearly a year ago after trying to organise a trade union at M&S Packaging. He was forced to take a job there thanks to the Job Seekers Allowance, which spells out that an unemployed person must take any job that is available, no matter what the pay or conditions. Refuse - and you lose your benefits. Workers at M&S are paid as little as £3 an hour, for 12 hour shifts with no sick or holiday pay and no maternity rights for women. M&S package CD's for Polygram which sell for over £10 each. Meanwhile in 1996 Polygram made a cool £3 billion.

John Pearson from the Thameside Unemployed Workers Alliance had his benefit stopped after refusing to sign an amended Job Seekers Agreement, which said he must apply for more jobs - whatever the pay and conditions. During an appeal John spoke for 2 hours with 3 witnesses and a demo outside, he won his case on a technical point.

* Party and protest! Sat 23rd May Demonstrate against PolyGram, Glenfield Park, Blackburn 11am - bands such as Tulip lounge will be playing on the one year anniversary of the sacking of Nigel Cook. Contact RNCC, PO Box 14, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 1GG. Tel 01254 679605

* Tues 19th May Speaker from the Reinstate Nigel Cook campaign with video from the demo outside the BritAwards (remember when Chumbawamba threw water over John Prescott!) upstairs @ Hobgoblin, London Rd, Brighton 8pm.

CRAP JOBS OF THE WEEK

(courtesy of Blackburn JobCentre)

Van driver £50 a week***Lab Technician £65 a week***Care Assistant £2.65 an hour (nights)***Security Guard 2 x 12 hour days followed by 3 x 12 hour nights £2.75 per hour Ring the SchNEWS desk with your horror jobs and New Deal nightmares.

Play Gets Grief

"Thespionage", the Brighton based politically aware theatre group have caused the Benefits Agency and the Police to stop in their tracks. Their new play 'Grief Encounter', which is part of the Brighton Festival umbrella, tells the story of a bunch of 'fictional characters' learning how to survive within the constraints of the JSA. The play, set in a Brighton pub, features themes of police infiltration. Life began to imitate art this week when the writer had his benefit suspended and two uniformed cops in a scene identical to one in "Grief Encounter" pushed their way into his home and threatened to return with a warrant to take his computer. Members of the cast have been pulled in by the DHSS even though participating doesn't mean they break any of the 'availability for work' rules. *To see what all the fuss is about SchNEWS recommends all readers go and see Grief Encounter for a top night out. The Pavilion Theatre, New Rd, Brighton. 7.30, Mon 18th - Tues 19th May, £5/4 conc. Box Office 01273 277772, or phone SchNEWS for London dates.

BILDERBERG WATCH

"A clique of the richest, economically and politically most powerful and influential men in the Western world [who] meet secretly to plan events that later appear just to happen". What *The Times* said about the Bilderberg group, who held their annual meeting in Scotland just a few days before the G8 summit. Heard about it? No way - the media mogs are top members. *** Read the hot spring '98 Corporate Watch mag- fatter, slicker and more gripping than ever before. Subs £12/£10 a year, cheques/p.o.s payable to Corporate Watch, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ, Tel 01865 791391

STREETS AHEAD

Leeds showed us how to have a good time this summer with their 4th Reclaim the Streets last Saturday. Testosterone-charged West Yorkshire coppers threatened to ruin the party before it had started, petulantly waving around side-handled batons and vigorously wrestling the not-yet-inflated bouncy castle from the vigorously bouncy crowd. They later denied their use of CS gas, despite one officer giving himself a faceful as the gas blew downwind. But after half an hour of unrest the police suddenly withdrew to the full-on 600-strong party: bouncy castle, billowing banners, free food and techno...

At the end of the afternoon everyone escorted the system safely away, whilst the police sent a few cheeky snatch squads into the crowd's dwindling remainder; one person was seen to be run down and then beaten with truncheons. 22 arrests were made. Witnesses: Tel 0441 1994 77.

Wolverhampton partied at their first RTS on that same sunny Saturday. No police violence here, though the old bill did intercept and seize the Headz Collective soundsystem on it's way, but it was returned the following morning. 800 people went for it all day highlighting Wolverhampton's abysmal traffic problem by blocking two major junctions in the town centre. The police helped to prove this point by blocking the road with lines of riot vans. Over 200 officers then forced the protesters back into a pedestrianised section of town where people partied on!

Congratulations to the Polish Green Federation who enjoyed a 150-cyclist demo in Warsaw recently, painting cycle lanes promised for 2 years on the roads themselves! Owing to the high cost of chemical paint remover, the authorities have decided to let them stay!

London RTS on Sat 6th June is not only from Euston station at noon but also from Brixton (call 0171 2814621) *** Hull is also Reclaiming the Streets on Sat 23rd May. Meet 1pm at Queen's Gardens, near Prince's Quay.

SchNEWSAnnual

The sexy SchNEWS Annual features issues 101-150 plus top photos, special articles, cartoons, and a comprehensive contacts list - the Yellow Pages of direct action. It's yours for £6 + 84p SAE to the usual address (see back page)

WELCOME TO THE GLOBAL STREET PARTY!

On the 16th of May the biggest ever party in history kicks off with tens of thousands of people in 37 cities across the world simultaneously transforming their privatised, polluted streets into places of celebration and empowerment; a true global commons - involving RTS groups worldwide. Here's the Global Street Party list as it stands at the moment: Bogota (Columbia), Berlin, Bielefeld, Thuringen, Hamburg, Dresden (Germany), Lyon (France), Birmingham, York (UK), Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne (Australia), Tel Aviv (Israel), Geneva, Zurich (Switzerland), Turku (Finland), Madrid (Spain), Ankara, Istanbul (Turkey), Gothenburg, Stockholm (Sweden), Dublin, Derry (Ireland), Seattle, New York, Berkeley, Olympia (US), Vancouver (Canada) Prague (Czech Republic), Toronto, Vancouver (Canada), Athens (Greece), Luxembourg (Luxemburg), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Bratislava (Slovakia), Utrecht (Holland), Turin (Italy), Zagreb (Croatia). For full review see next issue. For Legal Support in Birmingham Reclaim the Streets take this number with you: 0961 512 147

LYNDIS PERCY

After a month long trial involving 17 MoD witnesses, National Security Agency (NSA) officers and the Treasury solicitors, peace activist Lyndis Percy was found guilty of contempt of court and given a 12 month suspended sentence for pulling up by-law signs outside the US Menwith Hill spy installation. The illegal by-law signs (declared so by York County Court) were deliberately moved on site by NSA staff to entrap Lyndis, as part of a dirty tricks campaign to bang her up for exposing the Big Brother spy base. In January a report for the European Parliament revealed that "within Europe all e-mail, telephone, and fax communications are routinely intercepted by the US National Security Agency". Anyhow, the illegal spy-laws which were put there to outlaw any direct action around the base are still there. So, it's business as usual!

* Sarah Hibson and Peggy Walford were up in court last month charged with causing £10,000 worth of damage to the security fence at Burghfield nuclear weapons factory. The women admitted the damage, but entered a defence of "lawful excuse" arguing that the base was responsible for the increasing incidence of leukaemia cases in Berkshire through radiation emissions. The jury failed to reach a majority verdict and the Crown Prosecution Service is seeking a retrial. Info: 0171 607 2302

STATELY ROAMS

This weeks potential host is the Duke of Devonshire. He's not only claiming a 40% tax exemption for his home, Bolton Abbey. He's also getting it for 18,000 acres of land, 12,000 of which have National Park status. If you want to go and piss him off ring the Tourist Centre to arrange your visits: 01756 710 533

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For walking on the pavement.... Police in Leeds took the 'step off the pavement' message of Reclaim the Streets a wee bit seriously, trying to run into someone by driving along the pavement themselves. When the pedestrian uttered a complaint to the officers, they grabbed him and gave them a ride in the van down to the station.

GATECRASHERS WAKE NEIGHBOURS

On MayDay, typical of current form, Nottingham authorities deployed helicopters and riot squads to trash a free party in Sherwood forest. Desert Storm, Smokescreen and a four other soundsystems along with four vehicles were seized, and 14 people nicked. The various charges, including refusing to leave the land - section 61 of the CJA - were later dropped, or cautions accepted, and soundsystems returned for £150 each.

Might it be that landowner the Duke of Welbeck, being Britain's 5th richest man, explains such police zeal? The nearest house stands on its own 2 miles from the party site. They didn't even notice the party, but were woken up by police sirens and helicopter overhead. One of the officers remarked on the CJA: "It's all a bit vague and ambiguous, we had to sit for ages wondering which bits to use!"

Subscribe!

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

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Sorry for the small type (Is that big enough, Robbie?)

SchNEWS IN BRIEF

Announcing the birth of a shiny brand new force for ecological protection - **The E Team!** Available for virtually any info on setting up and running a campaign, with years of experience and a large database at their disposal. The E Team can be contacted on 0181 28731182, 07970 392904, or eteam@cableinet.co.uk **Mikron Theatre Company presents **If You Go Down To The Woods: tales from the Newbury Bypass** at Manchester's Birch Community Centre Sat, May 23, 8pm. Plus bookstall, bar and vegan food; tickets £5/£3 from Frontline Books *****Women's Environmental Network** are holding a day of workshops, training, info and suchlike, with food and a creche (if you contact them by 22 May). As part of World Environment Week, Making A Difference is on Sat 6 June, 11am-5pm at the WEN office, 87 Workshop St, London, EC2A 2BE and costs £3 (free to members). Call Cathy to register: 0171 2473327 *** **RARR - Residents Against the Relief Road** in Epsom, South London have started building tree houses, walkways and a tunnel but need more bodies urgently. If you can help protect lots of trees in a beautiful park from destruction then call 01372 727014 or 0370 878920 for info/directions *** In Bristol, Knowle West Housing Estate's only green space (40 acres) faces a similar fate - this time for a bus depot. The City Council has neglected to consult residents and much support is needed - digging has already started! So help **Reclaim the Field** on Sat 23rd May, 9am-12noon @ Filwood Playing Fields, Creswick Road, Knowle. Call 0117 9879667 for info *** The **Hillgrove** campaign is as lively as ever with the next (national) demo, planned for Sunday 31st May, 12noon @ the farm - Dry Lane, Witney, Oxon - which breeds cats for vivisection, despite an intensive campaign to discourage the practice! *** For those of you who live an accessible distance from Elephant and Castle/Kennington tube, and have not yet noticed the **DIY infoshop** at 56a Crampton St, it's about time you did. As well as a bike library, 3 day-a-week bookshop and comfy tea-making/drinking environment, 56a houses @n @rchive - a radical reading space housing thousands of items on any subject you can shake a stick at. 56a is open Thur and Fri 3-7pm *** **Movement Against the Monarchy's Enemies of the State** Tour is in full swing, with dates remaining in: Birmingham - on Sat 16th May, 7-9pm at the Friends of the Earth Centre, 55-57 Allison St, Digbeth, following the Global Street Party, Brighton - on Weds 20th May (call London MAM on 01523 160145 for location) Cardiff - on Mon 15th June, 7-9pm @ Clwb Ifor Bach, Womany St, after the Euro-Summit. Also, look forward to an action in Edinburgh against the Queen's summer tea-party. Meet 2pm, Parliament Square on Thurs 2nd July *** In Oxford people have squatted the old London Midland Scottish station building in Park End Street, in protest against a planned "spagetti junction" development Contact 07970 343 486 for more info. *** If you've ever seen a black and white "Fuck Work" sticker, it was produced by UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES. Fundamentally disgusted by the exploitative jobs most people have to do to support capitalism, Unamerican encourages people to take part in building an alternative business model which no longer creates these crap jobs - starting by disseminating 5 million Fuck Work stickers! Send US\$6 for a bunch of them and reading material - (cheques payable to Sñni Kumar) to UA, PO Box 410663, San Francisco, CA, 94141-0663, USA. Or drop in at <http://www.unamerican.com>, or mail at feedback@unamerican.com ***

Italian activist found hung in prison cell

The Turin street party in Italy has been postponed after a massive clamp down by the state. At the beginning of March a police operation led to the eviction of two squats and the arrest of 3 people for their alleged involvement in sabotage against the TAV High Speed Train which is destroying the Val Susa. The next day there were demonstrations, where the cops assaulted people ensuring a riot. At night the squats were re-occupied and there followed weeks of demonstrations to get the three people released. However, the courts refused and on 29th one of the men, Baleno, hung himself in his cell.

The journalists who declared him a terrorist didn't even respect his family's wish to stay away from Baleno's funeral, so one of them ended up in hospital, while others had their cars smashed. The next day eight thousand people expressed their anger in a demonstration that led to one of the local prisons and Palace of Justice being pelted with stones and bottles. One of the two remaining prisoners is now in home detention, the other is on hunger strike - and a street party is still being planned for the future. **Radio Black Out** <blackout@ecn.org>

* A Reclaim The Streets party celebrating the fifth birthday of the road protest camp against the A33 in northwest Germany came up against tooled up cops, not happy with this free outbreak of celebration. They cordoned off the party goes who still went for it for eight hours until 240 were eventually nicked. Undeterred Global Street Parties are planned for Berlin, Nuremberg and Bielefeld. Camp contact: nbg_aktiv@postmaster.co.uk

Inside SchNEWS

Matthew Cowern, on 23 hour bang-up and miles from home for disobeying orders, is serving four years for possession with intent and is bored, bored, bored. Find it in your heart to drop him a line... MF2800, HMP Preston, 2 Ribblesdale Lane, Preston, Lancs, PR1 5AB.

RECLAIM EUROPE! - NO TO BIG BUSINESS! CARDIFF 9th - 16th June

Radical alternative to the Eurosummit and its corporate agenda. Mass demonstrations, cycle blockade, workshops, street events, parties and other surprises. More info 0171 2729333 email reclaim.Europe@btinternet.com

SchNEWS INTERNATIONAL

A sister issue to SchNEWS has been launched in Israel, called HIT'OREROOT, meaning 'waking up'. The first issue reported on activist arrests, elections, Vanunu on nuclear weapons, what to take to a vigil and Reclaim the Streets. Next issue on McLibell Guy Bar-Oz can be contacted on wakeup@truetoyou.com

...and finally...

Mr Daxx Edder has announced modest plans to build a Holyland Theme Park in Mesquite, Nevada an hours drive from Las Vegas. Mr Edder said "We are trying to reconstruct the holy bible. Plans include a tram ride past the parting of the red sea and a thirty three story model of Jesus that you can climb inside." What else - front row seats to watch the virgin birth?

... disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers never to tell the truth especially when the whole world's a stage, you never know who's in the audience. Then you will feel content. Honest..

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

SUBVERTISE

A COMPLETE MANUAL OF BILLBOARD SUBVERSION AND DESTRUCTION

"The billboard artist's goal is to throw a well-aimed spanner into the media's gears, bringing the image factory to a shuddering halt. We work to unmask the real corporate activity behind the glamorous image. Our actions reclaim these billboards and use them as our own canvases. After all, it's our walls that are being rented out for business propaganda."

BILLBOARD IMPROVEMENT - HOW TO CLEAN UP YOUR HIGH STREET

Destruction of any of the State's ideological weapons of control will always be a rewarding experience. Most times it may be that you don't need any more than a tin of paint, a little humour and a quiet night to turn a multinational's expensive advertisement into your own guerrilla tapestry. This deals with the direct subversion of the billboard's message - to answer it, question it, or overturn it, all at their expense.

METHODS

If you want to use spray cans then beware illegible scrawl and spelling mistakes. Also: like the hip hop graffitos, get yourself a pistol grip plastic handle that fits around the can, saving on tired fingers and ensuring that the paint goes in the right direction. These are cheap and easily available at any car-shop. The most effective alterations are certainly the simplest: the addition of one or two letters; or a speech bubble; or pasting over certain words or letters with appropriately coloured paper. A skillfully reworked billboard directs the passer-by to a consideration of the original corporate strategy, in the context of a thoughtful reaction.

For lettering, either paint your slogan on paper or, better still, find a computer and do the alphabet, one letter on each A4 printout. These are your originals - don't paste them up. When you want a slogan, take each letter in turn and blow them up on a copier. With a computer you should be able to find the exact typeface that is already on the billboard. Very impressive was some bright spark's addition to Volkswagon's "We put people in front of cars" by reproducing in exact type underneath: "And children under the front wheels".

REDECORATING

Use wallpaper paste for the hit, a bucket and a paint brush. Coat the area to be covered with lots of paste, place on the graphic and go over it again with lots of paste (a little PVA in the mix makes it set quicker and waterproofs it as well). A broom

will get you higher - cut down the head to fit inside the bucket. Watch the billboards for when they change them - if you catch them right you can get plenty of outside studio space and time for your visual banditry. Rather than skulking around in the middle of the night looking suspicious, put on some overalls, get a gang together and go for it during daylight hours - you'll be able to see what you are doing for starters. Most passers-by we've met think it's a good laugh. If caught while putting it up, "Why officer, look, it peels straight off again!". "We think tampering's far more effective than just spray painting a billboard because people automatically dismiss that. With our slogans people don't immediately recognise it as agit prop." - AVI Billboard Interventions

BILLBOARD FELLING

The following section is taken from the US EFL book "Ecodefense":

Safety: It is important to remove billboards. It is also important not to get caught (so we can remove more billboards). Personal safety from self inflicted injury is also extremely important when using the methods described below. Never stand in the area where a sign can fall (front or back). Walk outside of this danger zone. Watch the sign closely the entire time you are cutting. Leave the outermost poles for last. Always have an escape route planned if the sign shows evidence of falling prematurely. Good safety goggles, available at any hardware stores, can eliminate saw dust problems.

Sign-Cutting: Stop periodically to listen for any indication of discovery. Felling is accomplished by pushing on the outermost poles, aided sometimes with ropes. Use the rope(s) only for monkeywrenching since it may have to be abandoned if your work is disrupted - you don't want it accumulating fibres, dirt and oil stains that can link it with your home or workplace. Store it in a plastic trash bag between jobs.

Evidence that will remain on your clothing includes bits of brush, dirt on boots and knees, and sawdust.

Field Notes: Effective sign cutting requires a three person team: a driver and two cutters. With four, your cutting team can have a look out who can also alternate with the cutters in shifts. A five person team is the largest size for safe operations and permits two teams of cutters and thus faster work at the target site. Axes are the least desirable billboarding tools. Sometimes microscopic marks left on the wood can be matched to a specific axe-saw

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

SUBVERTISE

marks, on the other hand, are usually impossible to match up.

LONG ARM OF THE LAW

If you want to write on a billboard that's too high to reach, you can either get a ladder (which isn't particularly convenient) or build a spray can extension rod. You really need the details & diagrams for this, so see the EF! web site or contact Dead Trees EF! You may have to experiment a bit to get the right measurements to fit your can of spray paint. Although these extension rods are clumsy to use at first, with practice they become very effective.

FUN WITH PAINT

Fill thin plastic bags one third full with half and half paint and thinners (for better splatter); tie up right, squeezing all the air out; carry half a dozen in a box to the target and, standing at an angle-unless you want to cover yourself-throw. Another proven splattering technique involves borrowing a pressurized water-type fire extinguisher from a business or public building. The ones you want are the old red ones with a valve, the same valve as on inflatable tyres. Empty out the contents and

relieve all the pressure inside. Next, open the top and use a funnel to pour in a well stirred 50/50 mix of paint and thinners or the preferred water and acrylic-type house paint. Pressurize the extinguisher secretly at a petrol station; watch the pressure gauge to know when to stop. Use this spray gun to deface billboard ads. Do not attempt to cover the whole sign but make the most of your paint. Clean the extinguisher out after each use or it will clog up. At your earliest opportunity, check your skin, hair and clothes to make sure that there is no incriminating paint on your person. Keep a small can of paint thinners (or water, depending on the type of paint used) and rags on hand just in case.

If you have time to burn and no surfing costs to incur, check out Smashing The Image Factory on ISD's web site: graphics, anti-media, hard politics and suggestions for struggle in the era of the millennium.

The above was taken from an article on subvertising on the UK EF! web site. For more, get in touch with the Subvertising Standards Agency c/o Corporate Watch, or <verify@patrol.i-way.co.uk>

