

GET THAT MOJO WORKIN'



Mike, Paddy & John - they could get that MOJO workin' for you!

Paddy Hill, John Kamara and Mike O'Brien are three men with over 50 years in prison between them, despite being innocent of the crimes they were jailed for.

Hill, one of the Birmingham Six released 10 years ago in March, was wrongly convicted for the murder of 21 people in 1974 in two Birmingham pubs, forcing a Royal Commission of Justice (a root and branch examination ordered by the home secretary) for only the second time in British judicial history. That Royal Commission stated that the right to silence was a cornerstone of British Justice. In the 1994 Criminal Justice Act it was abolished.

"We leave prison but the prison never leaves us. The prison is with us 24 hours a fucking day," says Hill. He takes another puff of his hash pipe. He is constantly smoking - he gets through two ounces of hash a week to calm his anger.

The three have set up the organisation Mojo, Miscarriage of Justice Organisation to investigate cases and care for those who are victims of the justice system.

Hill says winning his freedom is not the end of the story, it's the start. "People all think that's the fucking fairytale ending, everybody kisses and makes up and goes happily ever after, we get millions of pounds compensation and all this bollocks.

"Even though I've watched that scene punching the air outside the Old Bailey at 3.30pm that Thursday afternoon a thousand times over, I've been out 10 years and half of those 10 years I wish to hell I was back in jail," he says.

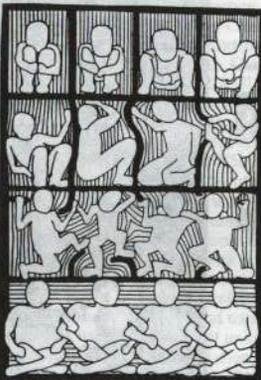
"See when I first came out I used to sit there with the fucking gadget [remote control] after the kids had gone to bed. I'd been trying this fucking thing for the past few weeks and I couldn't get it to fucking work. Every night. In the end I asked my son. He looked at me and says 'you see that down there? That's the power point and you switch that on there and that's the electric.' I'd been too fucking proud to ask, I used to sit there and I'd end up in tears," says Hill.

He slams his keys down on the table. "The biggest problem, drive me fucking crazy. I'd have to smash windows to get in. Screaming, in tears. People haven't got a clue."

Hill received his first interim payment of £50,000. "I didn't spend it I squandered it. I didn't have a clue. The first night I came out I was gonna strangle the barman in the Irish Centre in Camden because I thought he was ripping me off. I got four or five drinks and it came to £14.80. When I went away, I'd get two drinks and a pack of fags for 45p."

Since Hill went to prison, the population has climbed from 30,000 to 69,000. When he went in there was no drugs problem, now heroin is rife. There was no tier system, now there is. There were no privatised jails, now there are.

When he was released Hill says he "was jumping in and out of planes like they were taxis, campaigning for others". He's so far received £300,000 compensation, a third of which



he's spent on campaigning for other people. He runs Mojo from his own house in Muswell Hill, north London, living on £74.98 a week income support.

John Kamara is a classic case of Hills' support. Without him he would have ended up homeless. Kamara was released on March 30, 2000, having spent 19 and a half years inside, wrongly convicted of the murder of a Liverpool betting shop manager. He was told he could be released back in 1990 if he had admitted his guilt, but he refused. "It's when you come out that the problems start" says Kamara.

Kamara was released with a rail voucher to Liverpool, £40 and five clear plastic binbags, four of which contained his case work. "They pushed him out a side door and told him he had to get a Tube to Euston. Johnny says Tube? What's a Tube? He'd never been to London before," says Hill.

Paddy Hill collected him and took him in. "John couldn't sign on because he had to get a sick note. Couldn't get a sick note because he hadn't got a doctor. Couldn't get a doctor 'cause he hadn't got a medical record. Can't get the medical records 'cause it's Home Office property and it's locked up in the prison and they wouldn't give it to you. It took the doctor six months to get it.

"They gave him a cheque for an interim payment for compensation after six weeks but he couldn't do nothing with it. He couldn't open a bank account, because he has no ID. He was like a non-person."

Mike O'Brien, one of the Cardiff three, was wrongly convicted for the murder of newsagent Phillip Saunders in 1988 and was released on December 23, 1998. He's off the scale in tests to measure the severity of his prison trauma. "Seven people were murdered in Langlartin when I was there. Seven. I watched it happen to one in front of me," he says. "And how many were you battered, sliced, scalded, stabbed?" asks Hill. O'Brien studied law for 11 years inside and is now looking into 20-odd cases for Mojo alongside Paddy.

"The hallmark of a miscarriage of justice is police or prison informer evidence that shows up in 90 per cent of cases we look at," says O'Brien. "But not a single police officer to my knowledge has ever been convicted as a result of falsifying a confession. Not one," adds Hill.

Along with aftercare, investigation is the twin aim of the organisation, which says that 4,000 people inside Britain's jails claim innocence. Hill is unrestrained in his criticism of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, which was set up in 1997 to ensure that the injustice suffered by the Birmingham Six and others doesn't happen again.

"You get highly-seasoned barristers taking a case to the CCRC and then your case is handed over to a snotty-nosed arsehole from the CCRC who has never even taken a case to court, who's just qualified," says Hill. "They know nothing about police corruption. The only way you will uncover a miscarriage of justice case is by field work, not sitting looking at the paperwork for a week.

"They only investigate the paperwork you give them. They are not doing their job in a proper manner. How can you find new evidence from prison? Sixty per cent of those who have suffered a miscarriage of justice have had bad legal representation.

"There are highly intelligent people inside who cannot read or write, who cannot get legal aid - and they're trying to read legal papers! It might as well be in a foreign language to them. These are people like Michael Stone [convicted in 1998 for the murder of mother and daughter Lin and Megan Russell], and they are easy prey for the police," he says.

Solicitor Gareth Peirce, who met Hill 20 years ago working on his case, says: "Mojo should push and push and push until the government provides aftercare. At the moment it doesn't exist. It shouldn't fall on the shoulders of these people."

Her former client lights another pipe. "You hear all this bollocks about time being a wonderful healer. The only thing that time does is teach you how to handle it a wee bit better, cry a little less," says Hill.

Mojo: 07050 618240. Email: mojo-uk@justice.com



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER RIPPER!

SchNEWS



WARNING: PRACTISE SAFE CYBER-SEX

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?

Thurs 4th August 2000

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

Issue 269 Free/Donation

THE EMPIRE BYTES BACK

Following closely in the giant state footprints of the Terrorism Act comes the RIP Act (Regulation of Investigatory Powers). Last Friday the RIP Bill was signed by royal assent, and will become law in October - another futuristic slice of Halloween horror from the Home Office.

From D-Day in October, under new powers of the RIP Act, the effect will be triple whammy. Firstly, UK based Internet Service Providers (ISP's)* will be legally obliged to give police, customs and security services open access to monitor all web traffic running through their networks. Secondly, the Act will see the targeting of computer encryption users** with prison sentences of 2 years (if you refuse to hand over your encryption keys to the police), and 5 years (if you tell anyone you are being monitored). And finally, the Act includes extra wide-boy ranging powers to plant Big Brother bugs and parabolic microphones wherever the sun might not shine - in the name of 'national security' and combating 'organised crime'.

Rushed through the back door of the Lord's for a royal stamp, the RIP Act was spearheaded by Jack Straw, and dreamt up by shady New Labour think tanks well over a year ago. With Cabinet sights on fixing a large nail in the coffin of digital democracy, the planned Bill was hammered out by the Home Office's 'Encryption Co-ordination Unit'. The ECU was established last year to look at ways of expanding traditional state monitoring of phone networks into the world of Internet communications. And the Home Office confirmed in a 'Performance and Innovations Unit' report from May 1999 that UK Police, MI5, Special Branch and Customs should have 'real time' access to web traffic, and recommended 'the establishment of a Government Technical Assistance Centre (GTAC), operating on a 24 hour basis' to do just that.

Each UK ISP will be forced to install black interceptor boxes on the backbone of their networks, for redirecting Internet traffic directly to the Government Technical Assistance Centre (GTAC) for monitoring. And this GTAC facility will be handily housed in MI5 headquarters in London. Under the Internet provisions of the RIP the authorities will have an open pass to log into web sites, chat rooms and e-mail boxes at their leisure. The last recorded number of phone tap warrants issued by the Home Office under the Inter-

ception of Communication Act in 1996-97 was 2,700, which was a massive increase on the last official figures. But under the RIP to monitor one person's web communications you have to plug into and filter all web traffic running through one individual's ISP. So virtually anyone's e-mail will be available to be monitored.

With Internet Service Providers being forced to stick expensive black box Internet flight recorders on the back of their communication servers, many companies are now looking at uprooting their business and moving overseas. The British Chamber of Commerce estimate the cost to business of enforcing the law could run to over £60 million. One of the UK's largest ISP's, Claranet (350,000 users), is looking to move its communication technology outside the UK. And UUnet, Poptel, the Co-operative Internet Service Provider, and GreenNet are also considering the prospect of hosting their network servers elsewhere in Europe.

The wider impact of the RIP Act in other areas is clear. Take the recent David Shayler (ex MI5 whistle blower) case earlier this month. The High Court rejected MI5 efforts to prosecute a Guardian journalist under the Official Secrets Act and force the newspaper to disclose e-mails sent between the journalist and Shayler. But under the RIP this case might have been a different story, as police and security services will be able to apply for Home Office warrants behind the scenes. As journalist Roy Greenslade commented - "from this day on, without our knowledge, the authorities can intercept our messages. They will know who said what to whom about what well before the information can be published. Indeed, by having that knowledge in advance they may well be able to take measures to prevent its publication".

RIP IT UP!

On the brighter side here are a few pointers on a few ideas on ways to rip up the RIP for solid on-line privacy and security.

a.. Be careful when choosing your ISP and e-mail account. The big corporate sites like Microsoft (Hotmail), Freeserve (Fsnets) and Yahoo UK (Yahoo Mail) that are already in the process of opening their networks for police 'real time' surfing tracking should be avoided.

b.. Look at ISP's that base their operations overseas, or smaller UK web server companies that are more likely to slip through the government fish net. Make

MASS ARREST OF THE WEEK

Cor blimley. One minute you're at a reception in Clydebank organised by West Dunbartonshire Council supporting the protest, the next you're being dragged away by the cops and put in cells in the very same town. Yes, the Trident Ploughshare crew were in full effect, with the arrestometer for the first day reaching a cell bulging 83. Declaring nuclear weapons illegal they closed down the Faslane trident submarine nuclear base for 2 hours. Some had even walked all the way from Aldermaston in Berkshire where the Trident warheads are made. And then on release many of those who'd had their collar felt were at another civic reception - this time with the Lord Provost of Glasgow! Actions last until the 14 August. For more info ring the 24 hour hotline 01436 850522 Trident Ploughshares www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/ or Scottish CND website (especially useful on Trident) www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com

* As SchNEWS went to press arrests at Faslane were approaching 100!

* On Sunday 282 people were nicked trying to disrupt the Republican convention in Philadelphia, USA.

sure they are not part of the multinational Internet oligarchy.

c.. Do use encryption and anonymous web surfing software like Freedom (www.zeroknowledge.com) or Pretty Good Privacy (www.pgp.com). Use free encrypted e-mail accounts like Hushmail, Messenger and Mail2Web (www.hushmail.com, www.messengerx.com and www.mail2web.com)

d.. Rather than storing data on your hard drive (which under the RIP can be accessed under warrant by MI5 or police) stash your private bit's and pieces on the Net. There are companies like Freedrive (www.freedrive.com) where you can store info on their sites for download at a later date.

More info: Foundation for Information Policy Research www.fipr.org/rip/ Green Net - www.gn.apc.org

SCHNEWS NET-NERD VOCAB WATCH

* ISP's are the first telephone network port of call for anyone surfing the web, sending e-mails or using chat rooms - Freeserve, Excite, MSN, UK On-line etc.

** Encryption is the scrambling of data (sent by e-mail or hosted on a web site) to stop anyone other than the intended receiver from reading it.

DUMP THE PUMP FOR GOOD

"Dump the Pump's" efforts to reduce petrol taxes and do nothing to solve Britain's transport crisis. In contrast, this morning's bike rides provided a positive vision of a way forward which costs virtually nothing and which is available to almost anyone regardless of age or income." So said Fran, one of 200 cyclists who converged on Trafalgar Square on Tuesday morning celebrating "Dumping the Pump for Good", highlighting the fact that cycling is a cheap and environmentally friendly form of urban transport which is good for your health (or would be if you didn't have to run the risk of either being knocked down by cars or choked by exhaust fumes).

The ride was held in response to the Dump the Pump campaign which is linked to the 'get out of our way, we want to drive everywhere as fast as we can, don't talk to us about global warming' Association of British Drivers. The campaign encouraged drivers not to fill up on 1st August, but it had little effect on petrol sales. The tabloid media have been getting themselves worked up into an oily lather over the cost of petrol. But in the past 25 years the cost of motoring has not risen in real terms. The government raises £23 billion per year from road transport taxes, but even the governments own figures show that the true cost of road transport (deaths, health, environment, congestion, etc.) is £42 billion a year. And what about the fact that bus users have seen an 87% price increase and rail users a 53% increase in fares in the last 25 years. Or that road transport makes up 24% of Britain's carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change (SchNEWS 263). Now there's a couple of good reasons to dump the pump.

* Regular London Critical Mass last Friday of each month 5.45pm South Bank Centre "Dump the Pumps for Good" will be repeated on the mornings of Mon 4th September and Mon 2nd October. <http://come.to/londoncm/>

* Transport 2000 campaign for sustainable transport policies. 020-7613-0743. www.transport2000.demon.co.uk

* Issue 11 of Corporate Watch is all about climate change. 01865-791391. www.corporatewatch.org

* 21st September is World Car Free Day - www.carbusters.ecn.cz

* 22nd September is European Car Free Day with streets closed to motor traffic in Lambeth, Southwark, Camden and Merton - www.22september.org

* Fed up with food that travels thousands of miles around the globe before it reaches your plate? 'Food Futures' is a new Soil Association project that aims to help local producers, distributors and consumers find creative solutions to keeping food local such as organic box schemes, transport initiatives and local farmers markets. The Soil Association is running a series of local food link seminars and can provide advice for those wishing to set up local food networks. For further information contact the Projects department on 0117 914 2425 www.soilassociation.org

* Farmers' Markets sell locally produced goods to local people. From none a few years ago there are now 140. The National Association of Farmers' Markets can provide you with a list of markets around the country. Phone 01225-787914. www.farmersmarkets.co.uk

SchNEWS in brief

Aberdeen Job Centre has been advertising a position as a knife thrower's assistant - What do you mean you don't want to be paraded around a stage in a sparkly bikini before doing a spot of knife dodging? You do realise failure to take any work offered could result in the loss of your Job Seekers Allowance... ** The nazis who murdered Swedish trade unionist Björn Söderberg have been sent to prison. The two found guilty of the murder received eleven years, while the getaway driver got three. AntiFascistisk Aktion-Stockholm commented "We expect all three of these nazis to quickly request voluntary isolation. Our connections inside the walls assure us that they will not be winning popularity contests amongst the inmate community!" www.motkraft.net/afa ** 'Tasting Freedom', a film about the struggles of asylum seekers in Britain and a short talk from the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns takes place next Wed (9th) 7.30 pm at the Hobgoblin Pub, London Rd, Brighton. ** There's a coach going from Brighton to Oakington Refugee Detention Centre, part of the Cambridge In August actions on the 19th (see SchNEWS 268) Tickets are £5 and you can get them at the film evening or Brighton Peace Centre ** A group of householders called Custodians of the Land are arranging a peaceful protest and organic picnic at the GM trial site in Sealand, near Chester, meet 2pm on Sat 12th August on the playing field opposite Birchenfields Farm ** Meeting to discuss police racism August 12, 4pm - 7pm Queens Head, Acton Street, WC1 nearest tube Kings Cross For info: Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! BCM Box 5909, WC1N 3XX Tel: 02078371688 email: rcgrfi@easynet.co.uk ** Fancy doing a bit of Guerrilla Gardening? Then pop to Leicester next Saturday (12) from 10am. For location phone (0116) 2109652. Help is also needed before the event. ** Reclaim our Education at University of East London. 11-12 August Organised by Campaign for Free Education, PO Box 22615, London. N4 1WT. Tel 07958 556 756 http://members.xoom.com/nus_cfe ** Couple of festive dates: Northern Green Gathering 9-15 August, £35 Tel: 0113-2249885 ** Hackney Volcano FREE 020 8533 9492 www.continentaldrifts.uk.com/ ** And if you're in Brighton this Sunday don't forget the Street Party at Tamplin Terrace (by the Free Butt Pub) 1-9pm ** And some cancellations: The Midsummer Mass Trespass advertised in last week's SchNEWS is off ** So too is the The Land Is Ours Summer Gathering in Yorkshire ** And the Noah's Ark Millennium Gathering due to start later this month near Llangollen has apparently been cancelled due to er, flooding! ** For a full list of party and protest dates go to the SchNEWS website.

Rio Tinto Go Soft Shock
Notorious polluters RioTinto have - for once - made a stunning admission regarding the Capper Pass tin smelter near Hull. There are 400 cases of cancer believed to be caused by the smelter and seven children have died. Following decades of denying any liability the families of the victims have had a surprise admission from Rio Tinto that they will be paid compensation cases out-of-court - which could cost RT £millions. The smelter's discharges include radioactive, carcinogenic and other toxic substances such as arsenic into the Humber River and the East Yorkshire air. www.columban.com/amatter.htm
* Don't worry readers, Rio Tinto haven't gone all soft, but all still carrying out stirling work across the world digging big holes and destroying the environments of whole communities. See SchNEWS 212 for one example or call PaRTiZans on 020-7700-6189

NATIONAL THRUST

A Gypsy community in Plymouth has gained breakthrough in their ongoing battle with the city council. For the past twenty years there has been an unofficial Gypsy site on a narrow strip of land belonging to the National Trust alongside a dead-end road that belongs to the Council. One Gypsy woman Susan Watson explained what happened to the site this year: "In February, we were served with a 24 hour notice of eviction...we then had to make a gentleman's agreement to get us more time to try and find somewhere else to go. Then just two days later we were invaded by about forty Sheriff's Officers, forty Security Officers (most of these were heavies, brought in from Wales) and six riot vans full of police in full riot gear, and last but not least, two heavy earthmoving machines. The National Trust also sawed down ancient trees, and they said we were vandalising and polluting the land. They destroyed gardens and fences and left huge banks of earth and spoil on the other side of which is a fifteen foot drop..."

We rang the media...they all came, but the security men blocked their entry to us. The Sheriff said it was for safety reasons and everyone who came on to the site had to have a hard hat. It was too dangerous for the media to come in, but it was not dangerous for us or for our children who were playing outside. In the days after the National Trust caused all this mess, all the young babies came down with gastro-enteritis." There has been a reprieve, with the help of various organisations the families have now unofficially been allowed to relocate to a disused car park near the Plymouth estuary.

* Friends and Families of Travellers, Community Base, 113 Queens Rd., Brighton, BN1 3XG Tel 01273 234777.

Positive SchNEWS

The Steward Community Woodland is an exciting new sustainable working woodland and conservation project near Moretonhampstead in Devon. There are plans to use the woodland for walks, permaculture gardens, orchards, low impact dwellings, low intervention wildlife zone. They have recently applied for planning permission for change of use in order to obtain the legal right to be resident on the land. "Projects like this do not easily fit within current planning policy guidelines and it is therefore important that we demonstrate a high level of interest and support for our project if our application is to be taken seriously."

Big up the project to James Aven at Development Control, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9JQ - quoting the application reference number 0427/00 Deadline for letters is 11th August. * Steward Community Woodland, Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 8SD Tel: 07050-674464, www.stewardwood.org.

...and finally...

Do you want to smell like Brad's 'pits? Kiotech International have just developed Xcite! facial wipes, a human pheromone concoction which is supposed to make you smell more attractive to anyone within a three foot radius... "users were described as friendlier, warmer and more inviting" says George Dodd, a Biochemist and smell scientist. If they prove popular then we might find Eau-de-famous-fanciabes on our supermarket shelves. However, Rick Neave, a biological psychologist has splashed refreshing cold water on the product "...Once the wipes have mingled with the sweat produced on a dancefloor, they might be as unappealing as the urine-like stench of stale body odour".

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns you not to have any cybersex - you never know who might be getting their kicks from your e-rotic e-mails. Honest

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX. Tel/Autofax : +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

Severn Revels Festival

Warren Makepeace was among a number of festival-goers none too impressed with the policing strategy at one of the UK's more established summer festivals....

If your idea of fun is having police and security guards constantly peering over your shoulders then the Severn Revels Festival was for you. Tucked away in the Forest of Dean with a capacity of just three thousand this family-friendly event had the feel of a village fete. The dance tent on Saturday night resembled a wedding reception, with babies and grannies largin' it on the dance floor. Yet Gloucester Police's reaction to the Severn Revels can be best summed up by one local who complained: "The police came prepared for war rather than a summer music festival."

On arrival you had to run the gauntlet of jackbooted cops in blue boiler suits at the gate pulling vehicles over and searching people for drugs. Once inside, police and security made their presence known. During the weekend they nicked 40 people, the vast majority for possession of cannabis; a victimless crime. 11.30 P.M. was curfew and the police made sure this was strictly enforced. At one point they threatened a stall for selling post curfew tea and coffee, while a lone acoustic guitar player was warned that his strumming was in breach of the license! They even threatened to nick someone for having the cheek to get a petition together complaining about police heavy handedness.

To say the Severn Revels festival organisers have never had it easy is an understatement. Last year's event was cancelled in part because the cops told them they would be charging nearly £15,000 a day for their services. The year before 58 people were nicked for mainly drug offences. However, Gloucestershire's finest don't seem as keen on this zero tolerance approach when it comes to policing the rest of the county. At a recent stormy public meeting the Chief Constable heard locals complain that they were sick of excuses about a lack of manpower being blamed for the long delays in responding to reports of crime. Especially when the police managed to dream up so many for the festival. Another resident, Roger Price, accused the cops of putting fears into the minds of residents in the neighbouring villages in the run up to the festival. He added: "During the festival there was an incredibly heavy-handed attitude by the police. They really were very, very aggressive to people."

Local Forest of Dean MP, Diana Organ, has now written to the Chief Constable telling him that she had received several reports from organisers and constituents saying the policing of the festival was "aggressive and provocative". Another Labour MP, Dawn Primarolo, who went along to the Revels, commented on the "large and threatening police presence" particularly compared to festivals in Bristol. While Paul Knowles, one of the Rev-



Severn Revels: family fun ready to kick off at any moment

els licensees has asked the police why the event had not been policed in the same low-key way as the Coleford Switched-On Festival which had happened a few weeks earlier just a couple of miles down the road from the Revels.

So why the police reaction to an event which is a culmination of the Revels Community Programme, where many of the artists and performers at the festival took part in 30 workshops at schools and special needs centres throughout the area? Why the reaction to a festival which receives funding from the Forest of Dean District Council, the National Lottery, and the public service union UNISON? Some people reckon the powers that be are worried that it is the 'thin end of the wedge' and could become another Glastonbury. But maybe a local doctor hit the nail on the head: "It was fortunate that the over-policing did not spoil the good natured and happy atmosphere of the festival." Unfortunately for many the policing did seriously spoil the atmosphere.

Maybe the over-the-top policing was a deliberate policy in making organisers and punters have such a miserable time that they won't want anything to do with the event ever again. But the most depressing thing is that the Severn Revels experience isn't a one off. All too often festival organisers up and down the country have to put up with this kind of unjustified treatment.

SQUALL Frontline Communiques are unedited dispatches from the frontline of an action, event or incident



Gratis police display at er.... hang on that's Prague isn't it?

DUMP THE PUMP

for good



Pic: Jenny Pickerill



(top) 2nd August: Motorists in Newcastle were encouraged to dump the pump for good.

(left) 8th August: 200 bicyclists converged on Trafalgar Square.

Pic: Richie Andrew



Graphic: Nicky



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER ROTTEN BOROUGHS

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 11th August 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 270

Free/Donation

TOWN WHOORES

"The New Local Government Network's debate on the Government's reform programme and its implementation are vital to the cultural change we seek. I know that the Network is committed to a brighter, more dynamic future for local government."

Hilary Armstrong MP, Minister for Local Government.

Local government is the latest institution to be the subject of the New Labour "modernisation" agenda. And modern it certainly is, paving the way for a small group of people to meet in secret to decide the day to day running of a democratically elected organisation.

The Local Government Act, which became law last month, abolishes council committees, and in its place we get the choice between either elected mayors or council cabinets. Either way, they will be free to meet in secret, with numerous loopholes to stop voters and journalists finding out what they are up to. Mind you, the government has said that councils should meet in the open when they make 'key decisions' But who chooses what is a 'key decision'? Well, the Councils of course.

As journalist Nick Cohen points out "What we are seeing in short is a return to the rule of closed local elites"

CAUGHT IN THE NETWORK

Pushing for the new law has been an alliance of New Labour politicians, lobbyists and corporations, coming together under catchy title - the New Local Government Network.

Now here's a co-incidence. One of the main movers behind the Network is Professor Paul Corrigan, who just happens to be romantically involved with Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government Minister who pushed the legislation through the Commons in the first place!

Still, why would corporations want to hand over cash to help pay for the Networks' plush conferences and glossy brochures? Well, in return for their cash these 'corporate partners' are promised articles in the Network publications 'circulated to over 15,000 leading local government politicians and top managers', platform seats at its conferences, and 'informal discussions' at 'private briefings' featuring 'high profile speakers and participants'.

Councillor Gerry Harrison from the Labour Campaign for Open Local Government describes the Network as a 'front

organisation' pushing 'anti democratic measures on behalf of private interests.' While Green Party Councillor Pete West describes how this new style of government has already been working in Brighton: "Whereas before there were public committees, we now have Executive Councillors making a lot of the day to day decisions in private meetings with council officers. Access for the vast majority of councillors is restricted and the press and public aren't allowed in. This means that there is a real lack of opportunity for people to influence and scrutinise decisions. If we aren't involved in the everyday running of the council, it's very difficult to follow the plot. I get the feeling that removing the majority of councillors from the decision making process is the first step in putting us out to pasture, as now the intention is to cut the number of Councillors by a quarter."

The Local Government Act talks about councils promoting "the social, economic and environmental well-being of their communities". More like the well being of the corporations that have been behind the scenes pushing for this legislation.

The Act will mean handing over great swathes of public services to corporations. And the company executives will no doubt prefer cabinets and mayors to the slow and often painfully revealing process of explaining themselves before councillors, voters and journalists.

Brilliant! Instead of life before the Act, when small dodgy cliques of councillors lined their back pockets and those of their mates, why not instead line the pockets of big business.

So that's what New Labour calls modern.

New Local Government Network, 2nd Floor, 42 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1UN Tel. 020 7357 0051 www.nlg.n.org.uk

The Exodus Free the Spirit Festival has been moved from the end of August to 8th-10th Sept, so that the event can be licensed (but it'll still go ahead even the license isn't granted). 01582 508936
But if you can't wait that long, then get to the Enigma in Ship Street, Brighton next Tuesday (15th) to see Exodus DJs spinning their tunes at the SchQUALL book launch. Copies of the SchQUALL book - issues 201-250 of SchNews, plus more in depth articles from SQUALL, photos, cartoons and a contacts database of over 700 grassroots organisations - will be available for £7.00 (or from SchNews for £8.50 inc. postage)

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For playing football. A 14 year old boy was arrested for riotous behaviour and resisting arrest after going to play football with his friends on his local green. The green in northern Belfast borders both loyalist and nationalist housing estates. Since the beginning of the Orange marching season local nationalist children have been too afraid to play on the green and have been forced to play in the street behind a high iron railed fence. At a loyalist 'funday' on the green, nationalist residents were warned that if they set foot in the field they would be arrested. But finding the field empty in the evening a handful of teenagers decided to have a game of football, within minutes they were confronted by an angry violent crowd. The mother of the 14 year old boy arrived later to find him being beaten up by six RUC officers.

SOME CORPORATIONS BEHIND THE NETWORK

Capita 'the outsourcing'* specialists who've been taking over housing benefit services up and down the country. They told a parliamentary committee on local government that it would be easier to negotiate contracts "without the hindrance of party politics on a day to day basis." They have also suggested 'business and professional interests' should be co-opted onto cabinets and committees.

Nord Anglia who are busy behind the scenes pushing for more school services to be privatised. (see SchNews 257)

BT and Cable & Wireless Listening in on the possibility that councils will start using call centres to deal with enquires.

Construction firm AMEC who are no doubt waiting in the wings hoping to pick up the odd building contract under the Private Finance Initiative.**

Servicetam and Onyx sniffing around for more council rubbish collections.

KPMG and Deloitte & Touche Accountancy firms wanting to cook the books for their corporate mates.

SchNEWS VOCAB WATCH

* Outsourcing = privatisation

** Private Finance Initiative = privatisation

SchNEWS presents

Exodus

Techno/Drum&Bass

Book Launch Party

The Enigma

Ship Street Brighton

OUT NOW!

Tues 15th Aug 10-2AM £2.00
Small venue - be early!

Inside SchNEWS

On 4th August 1999, Sarah Thomas, a young black student was arrested for 'acting suspiciously'. She was taken to Stoke Newington Police Station, where she collapsed and stopped breathing. Sarah was taken to hospital, but never recovered consciousness and died two days later. Call us cynical, but the fact that no reasonable explanation for her death has been put forward, combined with the fact that Stoke Newington Police Station has the highest rate of death in custody, unlawful arrest and violence against those arrested - especially involving black and ethnic minority people - and you begin to wonder just who was actually 'acting suspiciously'. Surely not the boys in blue? The two plain clothes dicks involved in Sarah's arrest have not been suspended, the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) are still conducting an investigation. Friends of Sarah want an independent investigation, not just another cover-up of a death in custody. Justice for Sarah Thomas Campaign, c/o 14 Chardome Road, London N16 6JD. Tel 020 8806 0742.

* The family of Roger Sylvester, who also died in police custody in equally suspicious circumstances last January (SchNEWS 199), are holding a rally next Thurs (17th) on the anniversary of Roger's birthday. Meet outside the Home Office, 50 Queen Ann's Gate SW1, 2-4 pm, and dress in black. Roger Sylvester Justice Campaign 07931 970442 www.rsjc.org.uk

S.O.S Mayday

Recently two people, Ashley Warder and Paul Revell were sent down for the Mayday demos (see SchNEWS 258). Ashley was sentenced to a year and Paul got 18 months, both for violent disorder. Ashley's "brush" with the law started on April 31st after he had been visiting friends on a traveller site in Streatham, London, which had been under surveillance for the week leading up to Mayday. Driving away in his mobile home he was pulled by no less than three cop cars. They first reckoned he had been speeding, then after smashing his back light with a truncheon said his light was out! Finally after all this failed they proceeded to "search" Ashley's truck/home for drugs. This consisted of basically destroying his gaff, smashing his TV, tipping over a kitchen unit and kicking in a chest of drawers. After this "meticulous and scientific" search in which nothing was found he pigs let him go saying ominously "We'll see you tomorrow".

The next day Ashley, dressed in a monk's robe, ended up stuck in Trafalgar Square with lots of other people, surrounded by irate riot cops. After trying to leave and then being stopped he threw a plastic bottle in frustration. He was then jumped on, beaten around the head by the thugs in blue and then arrested. The charge was violent disorder, rather than the lesser charge of threatening behaviour or affray, because Ashley was with more than two people and according to the boys in blue caused members of the public to fear for their safety. There were several hundred people in Trafalgar Square that afternoon and they were all in fear of their safety from the advancing lines of riot cops. Letters and cards to Ashley Ward FR5464 and Paul Revell, FR 5599 who are both @ HMP Wandsworth, PO Box 757, Heathfield Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 3HS.

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS in brief

American cops had a busy time arresting and beating up people at last week's **Republican Convention** in Philadelphia. Nearly 430 were nicked and reports from people who spent time in jail talk of everything from having ankles tied to wrists behind their backs for 14 hours, beatings with truncheons, gloves soaked in pepper spray being rubbed into faces - and much worse. One man John Sellers an active member of the Ruckus Society had his bail originally set at \$1,000,000! www.indymedia.org ** This Saturday (12th) protest by the only genetic test site in Wales. Meet outside Sealand Farm, Flintshire, North Wales 2pm. ** The following Saturday (19) **Doncaster Committee against GM** are holding a demo against a genetic test field site in Armthorpe, Doncaster. Meet 11am Armthorpe Community Centre. 01302 531762. ** On 16 August 1819, 11 people were killed outside St Peter's Fields, Manchester at a protest demanding radical reform of the government. In remembrance of those killed, and as a protest against the new Terrorism Act there is a **Mad Hatter's Teaparty**, on Thurs 17th August, 4.30pm, St. Peter's Square (outside Central Library). Bring some banners, instruments, appropriate dress. Info 0161 226 6814 teaparty@nematode.freeserve.co.uk ** For all you seriously organised people, the **2001 Housmans Peace Diary** is out now. Cheques payable to Housmans for £6.95 (inc p&p) from 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX ** Don't forget 10-13 August is the **Bristol International Balloon Fiesta** a great day out if you want to see flying replica Coca-Cola bottles or other blatant flying commercials www.bristolfiesta.co.uk
For an up to date list of party and protest dates go to the SchNEWS website

Pushed About

Mums in Camden fed up with being forced to collapse their pushchairs on buses, held an impromptu protest, when a bus driver of a low floor bus refused to move the bus until a mum either folded her pushchair or got off. Mums on the bus rose up in solidarity and staged a sit in on the bus until the local copper arrived. London Buses has a policy that pushchairs must be folded before boarding. I wonder how many of them has had to fold up pushchairs with toddlers in tow and their weekly shopping between their teeth. Keep up the resistance.

IRAQ DIE-IN

On Monday (7th), 300 protesters gathered in Whitehall to protest 10 years of sanctions against Iraq, which have resulted in the deaths of over half a million Iraqi children due to starvation and disease (SchNEWS 235). 90 people "died" on the doorstep of the Foreign Office, bringing traffic to a standstill. Four people were arrested for highway obstruction. After occupying Whitehall for 90 minutes the group held a minute's silence and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph.

* Meanwhile in Washington, 114 of 500 protesters were arrested for trespassing on the steps of the White House.

* Two former UN Humanitarian Coordinators, Denis Halliday and Hans Van Sponeck, have resigned in protest at the effect sanctions are having on ordinary people. As Halliday said, "We are in the process of destroying an entire society. It is as simple and terrifying as that. It is illegal and immoral."

* Voices in the Wilderness break the sanctions by taking medical supplies to Iraqi children. 01865 243232 www.nonviolence.org/vitw

Positive SchNEWS

We know it's still summer and too soon to think about the gloomy months of winter and the new school term, yet how about getting things off to a good start by setting up a walking school bus?

Parents at schools in Maidenhead and St Albans, fed up with the constant congested traffic and pollution at school times, took matters into their own hands and set up the walking bus. It allows groups of children to walk to school together in safety under the supervision of adults who act as drivers and conductors. Like a normal bus, the walking bus stops at certain places on the route to school.

Why not set up a similar scheme and help the environment, children's health and also save money!

Friends of the Earth, Maidenhead: 01628 782651

ROAD WAGE

For those of you who naively thought that once a road was finished, it stopped costing money, think again. That old fave the M11-link road in East London was budgeted at £150m when it was first started 7 years ago. By September 1999 that had risen to £340m, and the 'latest forecast' this June was at £430m, even though it was completed 2 years before! Yes, W.S. Atkins' consultancy fees are still rising because they are delaying negotiations. Send your estimate of the final cost to be entered in the SchNEWS sweepstake.

Meanwhile Walmart are getting in on the act of developing what's left of greenspace in the area, with plans to build a superstore on land by Leyton tube station. Walmart have bribed the council with a million quid, who will use the cash to complete the Leyton 'Relief' Road. Then the whole of the area's traffic problems will be solved....(er, maybe not)

Work is due to start soon with plans are afoot to squat two empty properties on route. Please contact STORMM at Hornbeam Environmental Centre, 458 Hoe Street, Leyton Green, London E17 9AH 0208 558 5527

* Celebrate Lughnasadh (Old Lammas Day) with the New Lammas Lands Defence Committee on Leyton Marsh, Sunday 13th August 3-6pm. Meet by Parish boundary (black poplar trees) behind Lea Valley Ice Rink near Sandy Lane (path alongside river).

...and finally...

If you're miserable, have no friends and can't sleep the good news is that you are more likely to be rich and successful, according to a recent report by the American Psychological Association. The findings from a study of US stock-brokers found that those who suffered the greatest levels of anxiety and depression and got the least sleep were the most successful. An alternative conclusion could be that that money don't make you happy - surely not! The report goes on to look at the personalities of politicians and concludes what we'd all guessed, to get to the top politicians need to be egotistical, stubborn and disagreeable, and economical with the truth (i.e. a liar). Many of history's most favourite politicians were also highly disorganised which proves that SchNEWS could yet go down in history.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all citizenry not to be subject to the slavery of big biz and puppet politics, but to vote with their feet (literally). Honest

Toker trouble

Police, sniffer dogs and toupes at Smokey Bears picnic



Police sniffer dogs bounded out of the unmarked van as over 50 officers closed in on this year's Smokey Bears picnic in Portsmouth. Nearly 400 people gathered on Portsmouth Southsea Common on August the 13th for the longest running annual protest against the prohibition of cannabis. Despite most people arriving for the picnic clutching only dummy joints containing legal herbs, Hampshire police sniffer

dogs targeted dozens of people. Police spokeswoman Susan Rolling later claimed: "Anyone who wore hemp trousers in an effort to confuse our sniffer dogs should not have been surprised to be temporarily detained". Using their own sense of smell, officers succeeded in arresting three teenagers for possessing cannabis as police cast their net beyond the protest and out to the public passing by.



Anarchist and 36 year-old shop manager, Jonathan Neil was arrested for making comments about a police surveillance officer's ill fitting wig. Police mistakenly reported to the press that his arrest was for drugs. "My name and address was splashed over the local media for being in possession of drugs when it is a total lie. I feel that the police really don't care whether the information they release on protesters is correct as it is difficult to raise funds to mount a legal case. This could either be an attempt at defaming me or sheer incompetence" said Mr Neil.

Hampshire police later stated that a mistake had been made but a public apology has not been issued.

Death by truncheon

Commemoration and demonstration for man killed in police custody

The parents and family of Roger Sylvester gathered for a vigil outside the Home Office on August 17 2000 on what would have been Roger's 32nd birthday.

On Jan 11 1999, the healthy 30 year old black man was 'restrained' outside his home by eight officers from Tottenham Police Station. Roger sustained multiple injuries and then slipped into a coma and was put on a life support machine. Seven days later he was dead. None of the eight officers were disciplined and Roger's mother and father are spearheading a campaign for an inquiry into their son's death.

For more info on the case check out the Roger Sylvester Justice Campaign website at www.rsjc.org.uk

For more information on deaths in police custody check www.inquest.org.uk



Roger Sylvester's family members and justice campaigners hold a vigil outside the Home Office Pic: Richie Andrew

IF ORDINARY PEOPLE BEHAVED LIKE-

NIKE 



VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS



In the 11 years since their imposition, economic sanctions against Iraq have contributed to the death of 500,000 children and continue to devastate the lives of ordinary people in Iraq. They are preventing the reconstruction of its civilian infrastructure – basic amenities like water and electricity supply which would cost \$50–100bn to restore, according to the not-very-radical economist Intelligence Unit.

Economic sanctions also prevent the refutation of Iraq's wrecked economy, contributing to widespread misery for all but the richest Iraqi citizens; and so ordinary people bear the brunt of the West's actions, while Saddam remains immune (haven't we heard this somewhere before?). Contradicting the assumptions of the US-UK axis, the UN's Humanitarian Panel has stated that the revival of the Iraqi economy 'cannot be achieved solely through remedial humanitarian efforts' such as the oil-for-food programme, under which Iraq is permitted to sell oil to fund the purchase of humanitarian supplies (even under this scheme, the UN deducts 28% of revenues for war reparations and UN expenses).

Get Smart?

With their customary dishonesty, the US and UK governments are currently trying to repackage the economic embargo as 'smart sanctions' – part of a 'new propaganda drive' to 'refocus the public debate' and head off mounting public disquiet at the slaughter that is being perpetrated in our names (*Guardian*, February 20th). The measures proposed are likely to involve streamlining the oil-for-food programme, for example by reducing the number of items placed 'on hold' by the Sanctions Committee. But, whatever the PR merits of such an approach, it cannot solve the humanitarian crisis. It offers, in the words of the *Economist*, 'an aspirin where surgery is needed.' The only way to restore a decent standard of living for the Iraqi population is to lift all the economic sanctions.

Anti-sanctions Diary:

A round-up of news and resistance from the voices newsletter.

2000
February 14th (9th anniversary of the bombing of the Ameriyah shelter): UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Iraq, Hans von Sponeck (see Squall feature in this book), resigns in protest over the impact of sanctions on ordinary people in Iraq: 'the way out is to lift the embargo, and de-link the disarmament discussion from the humanitarian discussion.' 86 anti-sanctions campaigners are arrested during a non-violent protest at the US Mission to the UN. In a solidarity action in London three people are arrested for holding a banner on the steps of the US embassy.

* March 6th: ITV broadcast John Pilger's documentary 'Paying the Price: Killing the Children of Iraq', which prompts the *Guardian* to run a lengthy editorial highly critical of the sanctions ('the human cost has been horrendous [and] few believe it is morally justifiable').

* March 22nd: In an open letter to the Security Council calling for a 'radical redesign of the sanctions regime', Human Rights Watch and Save the Children UK state that 'human rights principles have been consistently subordinated to political considerations in the Council's approach to Iraq.'

* March 31st: Activists fly-post the Foreign Office to mark Hans von Sponeck's resignation. Six people are arrested after staging a sit-down protest in Robin Cook's driveway.

* July 24th: ARROW (Active Resistance to the Roots of War) marks 9 years of its weekly anti-sanctions vigil outside the Foreign Office (Mondays, 17.30–19.00).

* August 2nd: Former UNSCOM (UN weapons inspectorate) head Richard Butler admits that 'sanctions simply aren't working other than to harm the ordinary Iraqi people.'

* August 6th (anniversary of the sanctions imposition): Welsh boat builder Dave Rolstone climbs the London Eye in a one-man anti-sanctions protest.

* August 7th: Over 300 people attend the 'Die-in for the People of Iraq' and 90 risk arrest as they block Whitehall for 2 hours. As the rats hurry to get off the sinking ship of Western injustice, the action even receives sympathetic coverage in *The Sun!* In the US 104 people are arrested at a similar protest outside the White House.

* August 19th: A sanctions-busting Russian airliner lands in Baghdad, triggering dozens of other flights in defiance of the 'air embargo.'

* October 11th: 'I want [sanctions against Iraq] to be tougher.' (George Bush Jnr, Presidential debate).

* November 25th: 120 people stage a sit-down protest against the sanctions outside the US embassy in London.

* December 1st–3rd: 80 people attend an anti-sanctions conference in Manchester.

2001

* January 9th: Tony Blair is hit by an anti-sanctions tomato, which is immediately arrested and charged with crimes against hand-died linen.

* January 16th: 200 people attend a sit-down protest in Parliament Square on the 10th anniversary of the Gulf War. At least 17 people are arrested.

* January 20th (George Bush Jnr's inauguration day): 2 anti-sanctions campaigners are arrested at a sit-down protest on the steps of the US embassy.

* February 16th: US and UK launch air strikes against Baghdad.

* March 10th–11th: Over 170 people from 8 different countries attend the Campaign Against Sanctions on Iraq's 2nd conference in Cambridge.

All pics: Tenth anniversary of sanctions, 7th August, Whitehall.
By Richie Andrew

Get Active!

A list of anti-sanctions groups can be found at www.cam.ac.uk/societies/casi/info/groups.html
Voices In The Wilderness uk, 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG tel 0845 458 2564,
E-mail: voices@vivuk.freeserve.co.uk www.welcome.to/voicesuk

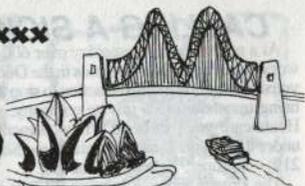


WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER WE DON'T GIVE A XXXX



SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



"...And here we have the Nike Opera House, and the McDonalds Harbour Bridge..."

Friday 18th August 2000

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

Issue 271

Free/Donation

Swizzlers Of Oz

And the winner of the Gold Medal for the 50 metre sweeping-the-dirt-under-the-carpet race is... Sydney. The Gold Medal for the biggest Olympic Greenwash ever goes to... Sydney. The Gold Medal for the biggest Aboriginal peoples' protest of the year goes to... er Sydney. Other events this year in the Games will include the four day dash from the S11* kick-off in Melbourne to the Games opening ceremony protest, and the 100 metre dash for people covered in company logos.

The arrival of a major sports event is supposed to help local economies - but typically it's the opposite and the community suffers: In the lead-up to the games rent prices in Sydney have soared, as have homeless figures: in the past year high rents, evictions and gentrification have forced the homeless numbers up to 35,000 in Sydney, a fourfold increase since the city was awarded the Olympics in 1993. An Aboriginal community who lived near the new stadium site have been evicted and found themselves on the outskirts of the city.

A set of laws specific to the Olympics have been brought in, making activities such as public assembly, busking, or the giving out of flyers, stickers or other unauthorised material banned within certain areas. Sound systems including PA's or even megaphones will be banned. CCTV cameras are everywhere - some with face recognition software in them. There is to be a 25,000+ security force in place for the games - this includes all types of police and some 'legally empowered' civilians (Temporary Enforcement Officers) who will have virtually as much power as a police officer.

The Olympic organisers are trying to divide the Aboriginals by employing black security workers, to deal with Aboriginal protests. The very same people used as scabs and bouncers in a recent dock dispute (see SchNEWS 163).

Meanwhile a senior Sydney policeman has warned protesters from the Olympic Impact Coalition - a group campaigning against the social costs of the games - that 'silence is a form of violence' and that police officers '...due to minimal exposure to command situations involving non-violent activists, may act inappropriately...'

GOING FOR GOLD

Going for gold circles - on a black and red flag - will be the planned celebrations and protests of the Aboriginal people:

A group of Aboriginals began the 1800 km walk on the 10th of June from Lake Eyre in central Australia to Sydney stopping

along to the way at various places including the site of the new Beverly Uranium Mine where brothers and sisters fought a losing battle for their land. 'We will celebrate and affirm our obligation as carers of the country' said a spokesperson.

On the 14th July - National Aboriginal Day - a tent embassy was set up at Queen Victoria Park in Sydney with the involvement of the local Gadigal people. This is an extension of the Canberra tent embassy which has been going for 28 years and which remains an important part of the continuing Aboriginal struggle for rights. (check out www.graffitihalloffame.com) This week the local council are threatening to evict the tents.

Coming together on the opening ceremony an Aboriginal-led march will arrive at the Olympic stadium. Part of the 'Protest 2000' campaign, this march will bring to the attention of the world's media the plight of indigenous people worldwide with 500 Aboriginal groups plus guests from other peoples including Maoris, Zulus and Canadian-American Cree and Mohawks. For the duration of the games there will be a camp as near to the action as possible - with space for thousands.

All this comes after the march in June this year where 300,000 people - the biggest demo in Australian history - marched across the Sydney Harbour Bridge supporting the issues of Aboriginal reconciliation.

GREENWASH

The Olympic Games will be held at Homebush Bay, a disused industrial site subject to years of unregulated waste dumping with heavy metals, asbestos, chemical wastes including dioxins and pesticides under the surface. Some efforts have been made to contain these chemicals, but in many parts of the complex, gases and toxins are free to seep up through the soil. "Beneath the fine landscaping of the Olympic site lies one of Australia's worst toxic waste dumps. It will be covered by a metre of dirt and a mountain of PR." Sharon Beder, Canberra Times, 23/9/99 Yet this Olympics has been declared the 'most green ever.'

On the famous Bondi Beach a Volleyball stadium is being built. Local Aboriginal Councillor Dominic WY Kanak explained to SchNEWS 'while the Federal Court ruled that the Darug Traditional Owner's 'Native Title' to Bondi Beach still stands, the Olympics Minister Michael Knight said he would 'get back to them' about that before illegally overruling the law and authorising the building of the stadium on the beach.'

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For complimenting a police officer on his toupe. At last weekend's Smokey Bears picnic police were only able to make three arrests for possession of cannabis. They did however manage to haul in a large quantity of Oxo cubes, which we hope they will use to make some lovely veggie slop! In order to justify their presence they had to arrest somebody for commenting on an officers ill fitting toupe. * In the fight against growing the weed Mexican authorities have resorted to the aerial spraying of marijuana crops. In Chihuahua federal authorities doused an indian village killing a two year old girl and leaving 320 others suffering from sickness rashes and respiratory problems. * Nearly a quarter of America's prisoners are serving sentences for non-violent drug related crimes. That's around 460,000 people.

Companies kind enough to lend their money and name to the Games this year will be: McDonalds, Coca-Cola, IBM, Murdoch's News Ltd, General Motors, Nike, Shell and some dodgy Aussie companies as well.

The greenest Olympics ever? Luckily that's in safe hands: One of the green guidelines of the Games was that all drinks refrigerators must be HFC free - but unfortunately Coke are the suppliers of drinks and fridges for the games and none of theirs are HFC-free. McMuck are doing their bit with some lip-smacking enviro- lip service - they're going to be wrapping the half-a-million burgers they plan to sell in recycled paper - so there! Certain brands of sportswear have bought the 'rights' to appear everywhere, and this means that the Olympic Committee is 'policing' so that the right ones are on the billboards, t-shirts, and written in the sky - to the exclusion of their competitors of course - and apparently during the Games authorities will have the power to exclude spectators with 'inappropriate' attire.

Activists from all round the country will converge on Sydney for these historic actions, including one group of activists who are riding bikes 4000 kms from Perth. Many will stop in Melbourne on Sept. 11th for the southern equivalent to Prague - the meeting of the World Economic Forum. Guess what - they're calling it S11.

See: www.realgames.org, www.samcentre.org, www.sydney.indymedia.org.

*S11 The World Economic Forum - a multinational knees-up where assorted execs and politicians wine and dine whilst bringing the world to an end - is having its Asia-Pacific Summit in Melbourne from September 11 - 15th. In response there will be a 'kaleidoscope of actions, conferences, workshops, music, united in opposition to corporate globalisation and the WEF' for a week starting on Sept. 7th. See www.s11.org.

CALLING A SICKIE

... yesterday over 600 hospital ... industrial action to stop their jobs ... to a private company. Summit ... to build a new 'superhospital' ... Finance Initiative (see SchNEWS ... 70 beds will be lost.

... Finance Initiative (PFI) is an inter- ... corporations manage to ... more of our public serv- ... the back door you might call ... financial idiocy that could de- ... the NHS", but then what do they know.

... the companies involved want ... staff at the four Dudley Hospitals are worried about worse ... conditions if Summit Healthcare take ... As Mark New, Unison branch secretary ... "we're on strike to keep our ... Any new ... get the con- ... worse pay and conditions.

... Well, ... an afternoon ... telling ... to keep ... super soaraway ... reveal (well, maybe ... good) that the con- ... - the building ... - the electronics firm who man- ... to bugged up the passport and immigration ... Building and Property and ... names synonymous ... who will obviously have their ... best interests at heart. In ... already taken ... where ... led to 40 clean- ... getting the sack.

* This Saturday (19) there's a march in support of the strikers, Assemble 11am outside ... Hall Hospital, Dudley

* Donations and letters of support. Cheques ... Group of Hospitals, Union ... Wordsley Hospital, Stourbridge, West ... 01384 244350

* Perhaps we can see why the PFI is so popular ... At the University College ... would build ... £200 million. The taxpayer ... £30 million annually ... 60 million thank you very much.

* The Crawley Hospital Campaign are stand- ... a candidate at a forthcoming by-election. ... to be a referendum ... slash services ... Local people will have ... the de- ... Crawley Hospital Cam- ... in favour of a new ...

This isn't the first time hospital campaigners ... Health Concern- ... now have 19 coun- ... are the largest group on their council!

"Deficits before patients" is a report show- ... the new PFI hospital has ... a 35% cutback in acute ... The report is by ... School of Public ...

There's a Save Health Services public meet- ... at the West Green ... Crawley ... Health Con- ... and Dudley ...

SCHNEWS VOCAB WATCH

perfidious = Breach of faith, treachery.

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS in brief

Cheeky protestors climbed onto the roof of a McDonald's in Bristol last Sunday, unfurling a banner and cooking veggie burgers on the roof lowering them down on a rope to be given away free to shoppers. They were there 3 hours before the stock of veggie burgers ran out. ** Jean Chretien, Canada's head of government became the latest lucky person to receive the honour of being pied. Chretien was chosen for his services in helping to push the biotech industry round the world. The pie-thrower was nicked and bailed for court later this month. One on-looker commented, "I think the pie-thrower should receive a trophy instead of handcuffs."

** There's a demo against our old mates Balfour Beatty (SchNEWS 266) to protest about their involvement in the Iisu dam construction on 1st September. Meet Crombie Rd., Aberdeen 7.45 am outside their offices to leaflet workers

grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com PO Box 248, Aberdeen, AB25 1JE ** Bombing People is not always beautiful a play set during the Cuban Missile Crisis will be showing from 22 Aug - 10 September at the Jermyn Street Theatre, London. Tickets £12/10 Tel: 020 72872875 ** Campaigners from Friends of the Earth Netherlands urgently need your help!

They own a small plot of land next to Schiphol Airport which is now under threat from developers wishing to build a fifth runway (calling it an environmental runway) FoE are now planning to move onto the land to ensure that it is protected 24 hours but they need more people. www.milieudefensie.nl/airtravel **

From the 23-27 August is the World Voices Festival looking at 'alternative sustainable solutions'. Green & Away, Gloucestershire. 020-7372-7117. www.worldvoices.org ** The bank holiday weekend is also The Free Range Weekend near Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire. A Gathering 'for mutual education and planning

examine how small groups of people can 'plug-in' to power structures and use them, as well as discussions on the new Terrorism and the RIP Act. email timshaw@gn.apc.org ** On Bank holiday Monday its the Colchester Free Festival, Castle Park, Colchester, Essex. 3 music stages, green area and childrens theatre 01206 547505 www.go-n8tive.com/colfreefest. ** On the same day is the Sutton Green Fair, Carshalton, Surrey Carshalton Park, Ruskin Road, Tel: 020 8647 9201**

The Naked Crusade Vincent Bethell from the Freedom To Be Yourself Campaign has been wholeheartedly pursuing his naked crusade. Earlier in the month he announced his intentions to remove all his clothes and remain that way until nakedness is legalised (see SchNEWS 268) and since then the campaign have been roaming the streets of London naked.

Their first escapade lasted a mere half hour before the police arrived and arrested the group of 12. In court the next day Vincent refused to put on his clothes, left court that way and was promptly arrested again. Appearing in court the following day, once again Vincent was naked, left court naked and was arrested again! So does he think he's made his point now? Apparently not. A spokesperson from the campaign stated that "Vincent will be leaving his clothes off indefinitely until nakedness is legalised." As SchNEWS went to press he was due back in court. www.geocities.com/thehumanmind/

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

... and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

Simon Jones

On 24th April 1998, 24 year old Simon Jones was sent to work for Euromin at Shoreham docks by the employment agency Personnel Selection. Despite the job he was doing being one of the most highly skilled in the country Simon received no training. Hours after starting work he was dead, his head crushed by the grab of a crane.

Simon was a victim of the growing casual labour workforce. Sadly his case is not an isolated incident. Behind the glossy front of employment agencies lies a world of workplace deaths, injuries and exploitation.

The Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, formed by his friends and family decided that enough was enough and rather than waiting for justice, got out there to seek it for themselves.

Two years later, and the mixture of consistent lobbying, raising of awareness and direct action has seen Simon's name come to be associated with all that's wrong with casualisation. Despite a High Court ruling ordering the Crown Prosecution Service to reconsider their decision not to prosecute Euromin, nothing has been done.

"1st September would have seen Simon celebrating his 27th birthday if he hadn't been killed by the profits-before-everything economy he hated so much. Simon always enjoyed a good party. Let's give him one."

Meet 1pm, steps of St Paul's Cathedral. Transport from Brighton, tickets available from the Peace and Environment Centre £3/£1 concessions.

Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX, 01273 685913, www.simonjones.org.uk

SOUND PROTEST

Residents of Toronto, angered by the excessive noise and pollution generated by the annual Molson Indy Car Race decided to take matters into their own hands by making even more noise! Armed with a bicycle, amplifiers, speakers and a tape of the roar of last year's race, the noisy protest made its way into the city centre where largely sympathetic passers by were given ear plugs and leaflets.

From here they decided to get right to the source of their problem and headed off to the Mayor Mel Lastman's house which unsurprisingly was situated in the affluent suburbs far away from all sounds of the race. Unfortunately the man himself didn't appear to be around, although his wife appeared briefly before being whisked away by her chauffeur. Local residents and neighbours were understanding of the protest apart from one man who felt that it was a bit unfair, "You shouldn't pick on Mel," he said, "He's done so much for the city."

How about being a really radical mayor and organising some eco-friendly events? www.IndyOut.com

...and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

...and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

...and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

...and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

...and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

...and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

...and finally... Here are some queries posted on a Sydney Olympics web-site from prospective international visitors: 1. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK) A: Yes but only on your feet. 2. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany) A: Yes to the first question, and yes to the latter. 3. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK) A: Why bother? Use your fingers like the rest of us... 4. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA) A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first. 5. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)



INT'L ACTION CAMP
Urgent Call to everyone who can come to
STOP the CONSTRUCTION SITE
the DESTRUCTION SIGHT
We want a green World
for our children...
THIS is what we can do about it!



The ten year struggle to stop the E7 motorway going through the vallée d'aspe in the French Pyrénées has been very successful: the road was to have been built within three years, but after ten years it is only a third complete! This anti-road campaign represents several things: a fight to save an important and beautiful ecological site, of course, as well as the surrounding local villages and small-farm traditional communities. But also this road is set to become an important link in the Trans-European Network (TEN), part of the agenda of the economic centralisation of Europe.

Ecologists have condemned the road, and business people in the region have long since realised that the pro-economic rhetoric about the road lies, as this road will not benefit them, it will open the way for tourists and traders to go through to the cheaper south. Others have pointed out that a far better transportation idea anyway would be to refurbish and make more use of the nearby railway line.

Les Asperches

On the 7th May 2000 more than 4500 people arrived for a demo at the actual site of the work. Following the action, a group of people planted trees on the work site. After these actions were evicted a diverse group came together to form 'Les Asperches'. They have built a new protest camp near the village of Bedous, 50kms south of Pau, with the aim of continual actions against the E7 motor-route. The camp and its actions work with a no-leader, non-sexist, non-racist, anti-national and non-violent basis.

This summer was one of actions and parties and the first Aspaix festival was held from the 26th August to 4th September. The tree village was host to 100 people, with a festival of musical, circus and other performances plus eco-actions and an info shop. Some of the local villagers lent support and a warm welcome to the visitors and activists.

In October seven tree houses were put in place for the winter, but there was an eviction on the 1st of November. Now we are starting a new collective with some people of "la goutte d'eau" and are preparing a big demonstration for this September. Please visit and support the struggle.

The Trans European Network

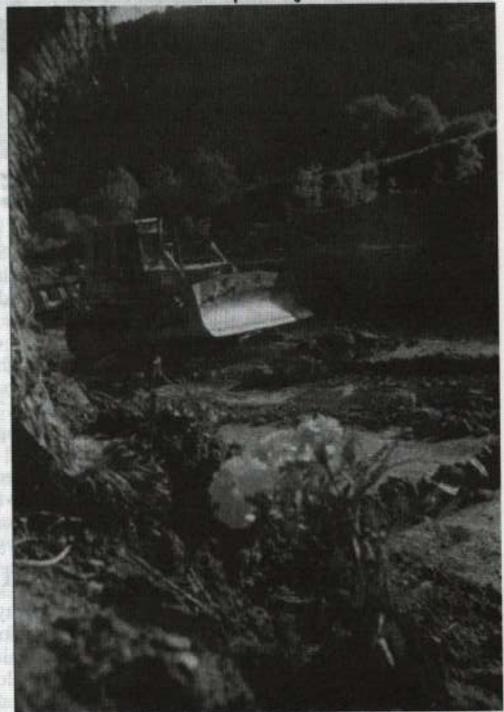
The TEN is an important part of European capitalist infrastructure — production, consumption and transportation. It follows a model of large scale production run from centralised, specialised locations — e.g. pork from Bretagne, wheat in the Beauce, sheep in the Pyrénées, etc, and it needs an efficient system of distribution — hence an (oil lobby backed) road network. This approach takes away regional diversity and trounces local produce with the cost effectiveness of mass-scale production, destroying local communities and economies. TEN is part of an agenda being pushed by the European Round Table of Industrials (ERT) [See SchNEWS 284], like the introduction of the Euro. The aim of the 45 mega groups who meet regularly as ERT (eg Renault, Fiat, Siemens, Philips and others) is virtually the construction of a 'United States of Europe', run by an economic elite, at the expense of the local and intolerant of those outside 'Fortress Europe'.



tree village

pics: www.citoweb.net/asperches

Work commences - planting flowers that is



CAPTAIN'S LOG: THIS IS ILLOGICAL

HOW MUCH MORE CAN - A - DA BEAR?

After five years of intense negotiation, on the 1st of April this year the Government of British Columbia - in co-ordination with environmental groups, logging groups and First Nation people - announced the largest rainforest conservation measure in North American history. A deal has been struck to protect the 800,000 hectare area known as the Great Bear Forest around the west coast from Vancouver Island to Alaska, including islands along the coast. Twenty large pristine valleys representing an area four times the size of Greater London (603,000 hectares) are

now permanently protected (all these areas were under threat), with a two year moratorium on logging in 68 other valleys (536,000 hectares) until a sustainable logging programme can be agreed on for these and other areas (we'll wait and see on that one then).

With 80% of the world's ancient forests now lost, and mostly in the past 30 years, and a quarter of all remaining temperate rainforest on the west coast of BC, a programme to protect the Great Bear Forest can't come soon enough.

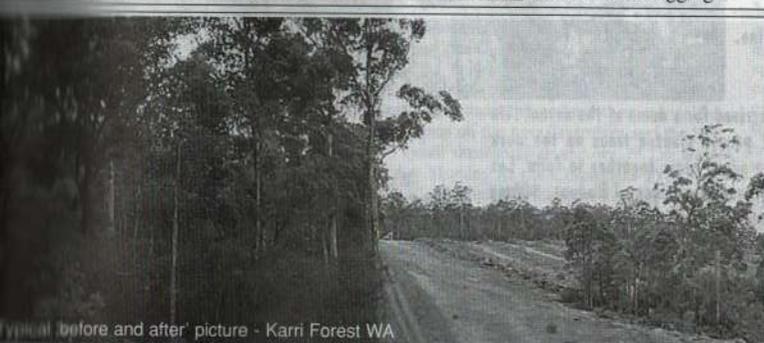
Forests like this evolve over three billion years, contain some of the highest levels of bio-diversity in the world - with many species still unknown - but are clearfelled football field by football field. The economic benefit? Timber corporations flog the timber for bargain prices and the 'jobs argument' doesn't hold: logging in



BC creates one job per 1000 cubic metres of wood harvested, with 89% of jobs going to outsiders in highly mechanised operations.

The Great Bear Forest is home to eagles, wolves, salmon, grizzlies, 1,000 year old spruce and cedar trees. The plight of the 800-1200 known remaining kermode bears which are concentrated on the islands off BC of Gribbell and Princess Royal, and particularly the rare white 'spirit' variety of which numbers are down to 400 has been a significant part of the campaign. Earlier this year a three year moratorium was called on killing grizzly bears, who are on the endangered list.

The area encompasses the area of seventeen First Nation peoples, but said Guujaw, of the council of the Haida Nation, 'It (the deal) involves compromise from all



Typical 'before and after' picture - Karri Forest WA

AUSSIE CHIP ON THE SHOULDER

After nearly thirty years of wanton logging and a century of clearing forest land for farming - Australian old growth forests are dwindling to such an extent that a high intensity has built up on both sides of the light. The logging industry is getting what it can before the remaining bits finally get protected, while protesters intensify the struggle to save individual coupes. As remaining old growth forests dip to the 10% mark, public opinion is weighing further down on the side of conservation, and pro-logging governments in Western Australia and Victoria lost recent elections.

But as the stakes get higher the protesters face more destruction and the loggers face unemployment and get more violent. All over the country there's been confrontations like the Goolengook (Victoria) riots on 21/2/2000. In a scene which was like the Blair Witch Project meets Mad Max, fifty loggers and millers

attacked a protest camp in the forest at midnight. Several people were severely beaten with sticks and clubs, sustaining head wounds, and then chased in into the forest. The camps and equipment were destroyed, cars overturned and cameras smashed. The protestors were told to kneel with their heads down while being abused and spat on. The police arrived as the loggers were leaving and stayed in their vehicles to keep out of it, and only got numberplates. 20 of 21 later identified are facing the charge of 'riot' - with the police as main witnesses - and are supported by logging industry lawyers. (www.geco.org.au)

Wild Axe Murderer!

The majority of wood taken from Australia's native forests is exported as woodchips - a low value activity, with government subsidised logging outfits often running at a loss. A leaked document from Victoria's

Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment stated that Goolengook, one of its last vestiges of ancient forests, was being woodchipped for a profit of nine cents (3.5p) per tonne. Meanwhile foreign woodchip and paper companies like Harris Daishowa are making \$A6 million profits (£2 million) a year. The clearing of Victoria's forests runs at a \$50 - 85 million (£20-30 million) per annum loss. In a forest of 273 rare and threatened plant species and 43 endangered animals this is insane. (see www.oren.org.au)

About 200,000 tonnes of the 800,000 tonnes of timber from East Gippsland now being woodchipped a year could be used for timber rather than woodchips. 97% of Marri trees taken from WA's southwest help make up the 900,000 tonnes that are sent straight to Japanese pulp mills each year. WA's Karri trees - at nearly 90 metres the world's third tallest tree - are routinely chipped and not even turned into timber, even though they're dead straight. Current levels of harvesting are often as much as 63% higher than is sustainable. Many recent independent reports on forest activities reveal appalling waste and mismanagement. Satellite photos of land clearing shows figures six times higher than the government have released.

Tasmania has the tallest hardwood in the world - the Huon Pine - in the Tarkin and Southern Forests, which a heavily subsidised and in-debt timber industry flogs off for \$A13 (a fiver) a tonne as chips. 95% of the Tarkine Forest is threatened by logging, while certain areas of the Southern were deliberately excluded from World Heritage listing, so they were available for chipping.

parties, including ourselves and the BC Government. While compromising can be difficult, the alternative is much less acceptable.'

The success of the decision seems to have come from campaigns which put pressure on companies involved in logging, and organising consumer boycotts. Groups such as ForestEthics, Rainforest Action Network, Natural Resource Defence Council and Greenpeace applied a lot of pressure on companies to refuse to buy products derived from ancient forests, and eventually hundreds of companies from large corporations such as 3M down to small companies were boycotting. Now the BC Government must go through and implement the restructuring of the timber industry to make sure the rest of the forest is saved, that a 'sustainable level' of logging is kept to (if that's possible), and also that it provides promised compensation for those in the timber industry who have lost their jobs because of this.

But while this may be a victory for these forests, the consumption of timber products goes on, and those right-on companies who boycotted Canadian timber probably turned round and queued up for timber from the Amazon and South America, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Congo Basin and all over Africa, Russia or other countries with natural resources to be extorted. Unfortunately many of those countries are suffering under the tyranny of multinational exploitation and may not have the green lobby that a country like Canada has.

www.ran.org www.greenpeacecanada.org

The Federal Government brought in its Regional Forest Agreements several years ago - which have basically taken away the need for Environmental Impact Statements and enabled logging in National Parks. WA's RFA was shelved after campaigning by the WA Forest Alliance. (www.wafa.org.au)

Chips Are Down

Even the forestry industry is realising that it's 'become sustainable or die'. Bob Humphries managing director of one of East Gippsland's largest mills recently admitted that there must be an independent inquiry into the management of native forests. This comes from a man who once said that he '...would pay the assault charges of his workers if any protesters got hurt at his mill.' But the timber industry needed to begin the process of planting plantation timber such as the Blue Gum decades ago, so it was harvesting plantations instead of ploughing through the old growth - which it gets for nothing. Because the industry has not been set up sustainably jobs are going, towns are suffering, and the mill workers who are being fucked over typically support the logging company - and their own jobs.



Karri Tree WA

Protests have been building up over 25 years. Lately high tension stainless steel cables have been used to good effect, and lockon designs have come such a long way that it is sometimes easier to take a vehicle apart than a lockon. Woodchip ship actions proved to be a favourite with the media, and stopping mills, and hiring of commercial billboards highlighted the woodchipping fiasco in a big way. Independent media is helping to spread the word as it happens, while the fleet of cameras at every blockade are as much self protection as they are media tools.

* The long-term survival of Australia's forests are also under threat from 'Dieback'; a fungal disease affecting native forests, introduced by dirt on foot and truck tyres. Skeleton trees, or withering branches are the signs of dieback - invariably seen near logging or agricultural activity. The government does nothing to stop it.

* The Federal Conservative government - one of America's keen anti-Kyoto allies - has recently introduced legislation which will see two million tonnes of native forest burned for power!! as part of Australia's efforts to meet the '2% Renewable Energy' Kyoto Protocol. Killing two birds with the one stone! thanks to Jerram visit www.lockon.org.

SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES

While we need to stop burning fossil fuels to halt global warming, we also need to protect the 'lungs' of the earth, another key factor to climate change. Apart from providing clean air they also provide clean water, and not only are they havens of bio-diversity, they are also sources of food, medicine and incredible beauty as well. Sorry about the facts'n'figures but get your head around this lot...

AMAZON

More than one third of all species in the world live and reproduce in the Amazon, a tropical giant extending over 5.5 million square kilometres, mainly in Brazil and extending up to Ecuador and down to Bolivia. But the deforestation figures are frightening: 34% of it was lost from 1992 to 1994. The area cleared yearly was slightly over 11,000 sq km in 1991 and now exceeds 14,800 sq km (the size of Wales), according to government data. Unsustainable farming continues and timber extraction is increasing, as Asian stocks of tropical timbers are depleted. Figures suggest that 80% of the timber in the Amazon comes from illegal logging activities. There are 22 known foreign mills operating in the region, and very little en-

forcement by government agencies.

The Amazon is the largest river basin in the world, and the river crosses the continent to discharge approximately 175 million litres per second into the Atlantic Ocean, or 20% of the combined discharge of all rivers on earth. The largest fresh water fish in the world - the 5 foot pirarucu - is found in the Amazon.

Of the 100,000 plant species in Latin America, 30,000 are found in the Amazon forest, with around 2,500 species of tropical trees. The diversity of the flora is repeated in the fauna of the region with different varieties found in all forest strata. The higher places harbour humming birds, macaws, parrots, and parakeets in search of food, tender shoots and nuts. The short-distance flying toucans live in the highest trees. The intermediate level is inhabited by jacus, hawks, owls, and hundreds of small bird species. On the ground are found terrapins, agouties, cavies, tapirs, etc, feeding on the fruit that fall from the trees. These animals, in turn, are the food of large cats and snakes.

The Amazon is also greatly threatened by development of infrastructure: a \$40 billion government project called 'Advance Brazil' involves the construction and repair of highways, railroads, pipelines and hydroelectric schemes. Studies have shown that such infrastructure encourages human activity in areas at the expense of the wilderness.

INDONESIA

Some 10 percent of the world's remaining tropical forest is found in Indonesia. According to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), Indonesia has a total forest area of 911,000 square (about the size of Spain) kilometres - a quarter of what once was - and of this total, 559,000 km² (61%) are lowland evergreen broadleaf rain forest. Only 21% is protected and According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation deforestation is occurring at an annual rate of 1 percent.

Again the area features high bio-diversity: Indonesia has 60 species of reptiles and amphibians, include the comodo and python. It has 1,519 bird species - including the bird of paradise and Javanese eagle - a third of those species being unique (endemic) to Indonesia. Indonesia has the largest number of species of palms, approximately 400 species of dipterocarps, and approximately 25,000 species of flora and fauna in total.

A recent study claims that because of excessive logging - mostly illegal - the rainforest on the Sundra Shelf in Sumatra will be totally destroyed within five years, leaving the Sumatran rhinoceros, Sumatran tiger and the local elephant heading for extinction.

RUSSIA

Nearly a quarter of the world's current ancient forest area is in Russia, in a forest type featuring boreal coniferous and broadleaf forests. Two thirds of its estimated original forest area remain, but

According to the World Resources Institute, Russia has already lost 71 per cent of its original 'frontier forest'. Almost a fifth of this remainder faces the immediate danger of logging.

Given the enormous magnitude, Russia's forests play an important role in the world's climate, with the potential for carbon sequestration significant. The forest areas extend into European Russia, the Russian Far East and Siberia, the latter of which holds half the total forest cover in Russia.

Today the forestry sector is among the top five industries of the Russian economy, but reliant on foreign investors because the wood is worth three times the value outside the country.

As in many ancient forest regions of the world, the all too familiar story of illegal logging has become common place in Russia. Investigations this year have revealed that forest felling in the far east Primorye region of Russia continues to ignore existing legislation, with felling continuing outside the borders of the permitted logging sites. There are many cases of permits being unlawfully issued in prohibited areas, and logging limit figures being ignored. The extent of the problem was revealed when in Primorye in 1999 well over 500,000 cubic metres were exported, despite the legal cut of valuable tree species (oak and ash) being set at around 260,000 cubic metres of timber.

CONGO BASIN

The forests of the Congo Basin in Central Africa (Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Congo-Kinshasha and Congo-Brazzaville) form the second largest tract of tropical forests in the world. These forests have yet to be protected and are home to our closest relatives, the chimpanzee, the bonobo (dwarf chimpanzee) and the gorilla, as well as numerous other unique and fascinating animals such as okapi's, forest elephants and an abundance of

colourful bird species. In Western and Central Africa most of the remaining areas of ancient rainforest are threatened by industrial logging - the single biggest threat to their survival.

The natural forests of West Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and the Ivory Coast have been almost entirely eradicated. Until recently, Liberia was the only country in this region where large areas of ancient forest still remained but since the end of the war in 1997, foreign logging companies have moved in and started destroying these forests on a massive scale.

Most of the logging in Africa has been traditionally carried out by the large European consortia made up of the following influential players - who enjoy large concessions from governments: Rougier (France), Thanry (France), Bolloré (France), Danzer (Germany) and Wyma (Netherlands). Additionally, numerous Asian logging companies have come on the scene recently including Malaysian-owned WTK and Rimbunan Hijau - known back home for creating huge social conflicts and environmental havoc in the rainforests of Malaysia and the Pacific.

In Cameroon, in the Congo basin, three quarters of all forest cover has been logged or slated for logging. According to UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, nearly 2 million hectares of forest (nearly the size of Ireland) has been lost between 1980 and 1995 - about 10% of forest as it stood in 1980. This forest features 831 known plant species and 180 known mammal types including gorillas, elephants, leopards, buffaloes, antelope, and the even rarer colobus monkey. The World Wildlife Fund are lobbying for the most biologically di-

verse areas in Cameroon - Boumba Bek and Nki - to be turned into a 6,000km² national park (size of Norfolk) (drana@wwfint.org)

Alqueva Dam, Portugal

Portugal: Europe's largest logging operation is underway in a semi-arid region of southern Portugal. A million cork oaks and olive trees, many of which are ancient old growth trees, are being cut down to make way for Europe's largest dam reservoir - the Alqueva dam on the River Guadiana in southern Portugal. In order to make room for the reservoir, the company responsible for building the dam has ordered Europe's most extensive logging operation ever. In addition to the massive loss of old growth trees, the region is the habitat of highly endangered species, including the Iberian Lynx, golden eagles and river otters.

A call is going out for international support because it is still possible to limit the damage: Much less land would be lost and 400,000 trees could be saved if the initial dam height is kept to a certain height above sea level. Take action and join their urgent appeal for help.

<http://www.actionnetwork.org/campaign/logging/forward>

<http://forests.org>



BEYOND THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD: LEICESTER RTS



Around 150 local parties joined together to block off part of Leicester's Evington Road and replace the cars and petrol fumes with wild music and dancing, paddling pools and colourful chalk drawings on August the 19th. Leicester's third Reclaim the Streets, like the previous two was peaceful, positive and good-natured.

The police attempt to stop us by nicking the generator was foiled when a local shopkeeper let us power the PA from his shop. Police officers went in: "Do you feel intimidated by these people?" "No," replied the shopkeeper, "I feel intimidated by you." Police officers went out.

One reporter writes: 'I was in a taxi coming back to the party with 300 veggie sausage rolls. The driver was keen to see what 150 people, a PA, furniture, and bloke on a 12-foot tripod would look like in the middle of the road. As we pulled up, a policeman told the driver not to block the road. His response: "I think it's a bit too late for that, officer." The support of local residents was fantastic, and many of them were out dancing with us. One mother was beaming as she told us that her little boy had been able to ride his tricycle all the way down the middle the road. Kids and adults joined in the mad water fights without worrying about being run over.

We held the street for four hours without any problems, and then moved on to Victoria Park to continue the party. Even the Leicester Mercury seemed to welcome it in their subsequent write-up.





CZECH-POINT CHARLIES

Playing the nervous host at the moment is the historic city of Prague, venue next month for the annual autumn meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). This pair of institutions is not as well known to most of us as the banks on the high street, and they won't be able to cash your pay cheque. But for years they've been prizing open the poor countries of the world to the turbulent winds of international commerce. Now half the world seems to be heading in the Prague direction, and they're kicking up a storm.

Remember the scene in Seattle last November, when a conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was effectively de-railed by 50,000 uninvited guests who turned up to give them stick? The WTO is still at it, trying to usher us all into its global marketplace, a level playing field on which multinational corporations can kick the rest of us around. But the fiasco at Seattle was a major blow for them, and they're not the only ones who were a little rattled. Next in the spotlight... bring on those globetrotting bureaucrats from the IMF and World Bank.

Large Westerns

As they'd have it, their job is to help out the world's poor and needy. That was the plan when they were set up back in 1944, at a meeting of hot-shot economists in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA. But it's not how everyone sees it. If you're a poor nation with a largely destitute peasant population, you might like to apply for a loan - just don't forget to read the small print. Far from having no-strings-attached, the IMF has demanded countries open their doors to large western corporations. And those corporations have never been slow to move in, taking good advantage of all the desperate people down there, prepared to work for peanuts.

The World Bank, meanwhile, has a long tradition of funding large projects - such as dams, roads and power stations - aimed at developing the infrastructure of the countries it tries to help. Fair enough - unless you're one of the 25 million Indian villagers threatened with flooding by the colossal Narmada Dam. The World Bank has (eventually) now pulled out of that particular scheme, such was the scale of the outcry, but they've always displayed that preference for projects that give juicy contracts to construction firms based in the North. In fact, the Bank has never denied

that the main people to benefit from their hair-brained schemes are - er - large western corporations. If you're a rich country, returns like that are a better reason to put your money in the bank than the promise of a flash credit card and a few money-off vouchers for HMV.

Armed with their crystal-clear economic vision, for two decades or more the two institutions have been following the righteous path to a global free market. Michael Chossudovsky, economics professor at the University of Ottawa, explains it thus; 'they are simply two tools used by the Western elite to destroy nations, to turn them into territories.' The results have not been pretty. Says David Korten of the People Centred Development Forum; 'Between them the IMF and World Bank have caused more harm to people than any other non-military institutions in human history.'

Cracks

But the cracks are beginning to show. Three years ago, economic crisis swept through east Asia, and the IMF responded with its usual prescription; further squeezing the amount of government spending on health and education, and smashing down trade barriers. Predictably, this didn't help matters. Now even the US Congress is taking the hint. 'As we have painfully discovered', observes California Representative Maxine Walters, 'the way the IMF works causes children to starve.'

In preparation for next month's Prague shindig, the World Bank have been putting together their annual World Development Report. But after the first draft was published, Ravi Kanbur, its lead author, resigned. Having been brought in from outside the Bank, he'd been stressing the need for their economists to work closely with local populations in poor countries, rather than entertain themselves in front of their calculators. But he said he experienced too much pressure from the World Bank chiefs wanting him to change his tune. Apparently sec-

tions of his report are now being written by Lawrence Summers, the US Treasury Secretary. He should know what he's doing, as he used to be ex-vice president of the Bank. An enlightened bloke, then? Take a look at what he wrote while doing that job back in 1991, in a (leaked) secret memo (this is not a joke): 'I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that.'

With such sympathetic appraisals of world inequality coming from the besuited bankers, it's hardly surprising that so many people are heading to Prague next month. Imagine if Myra Hindley, having carried out her serial murders, afterward set up a public meeting about it to discuss her future plans. You might expect a few hecklers.

Feathers

The events in Seattle last autumn certainly ruffled a few feathers amongst the world's financial elite. A recent, high-level seminar entitled 'After Seattle: Restoring Momentum to the WTO' brought out some anguish that grassroots groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had been having so much effect. One former White House budget official suggested diverting their attention from where the real power lies; 'can't we give the NGOs other sandboxes to play in and have them take their concerns to groups like the International Labor Organization?'

While the Czech police force gets tooled up, President Vaclav Havel is playing it cool. 'The media attention given to security issues "pains me," he said. "It seems as if we are preparing for civil war. We should take this more positively."

* 20th Sept. Anti-capitalist film night Two showings: 8pm and 10pm at Cinematique, 9-12 Middle St., Brighton £2/1.50 01273 384300

* 4th Sept i-Contact Video Network will be holding an evening of groovy grassroots activist films at the Hat & Feather pub, Walcot Street, Bath. All the films centre on The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation. 8pm, £1 www.videonetwork.org

* Big Rattle in Seattle and Capitals ill - the A16 videos are both available from SchNEWS priced £5 and £6 plus a SAE with 80p postage.

Contacts:
* S26, PO Box 30594, London SW16 2WD, www.s26.org
* http://inpeg.ucn.cz
* www.lobsterparty.org
* www.whirledbank.org

Party for Simon

The 1st September would have been Simon Jone's 27th birthday if he hadn't been killed by the profits-before-everthing economy he hated. Simon always enjoyed a good party, so let's give him one. Meet 1pm steps of St.Paul's Cathedral, London. Transport from Brighton, tickets from the Peace Centre. 01273 685913 www.simonjones.org.uk

FORTRESS EUROPE

After a four year struggle for asylum in 6 EU countries and a 7 month battle in the UK, Kurdish asylum seeker Amanj Gafor was removed to Germany by boat. Tired of the endless cycle of removal, confusion and inhumane treatment, the final decision to go was his. "I will not beg those who do not want me anymore, the solicitors, the governments. I know it is not people's wish, but I want to go back and fight," he said. The removal of Amanj by boat came after airlines refused to take part in his deportation, fearing for their public image after successful actions against British Airways and Lufthansa halted previous attempts to remove him by plane. He is currently being held in a refugee camp in rural Germany pending removal back to Kurdistan, from which he fled in 1996.

*On 31st July the government spent over £30,000 deporting Patience Sapani-Awnobi back to Ghana on a private jet after commercial airlines refused to leave when she became too distressed.

*On May 1st 1999, Nigerian asylum seeker Marcus Omofuma was killed during a forced deportation to Austria. After being handcuffed, chained and having his mouth closed with tape he suffocated.

*On 22nd September 1998 Belgian police suffocated 20 year old Semira Adamu from Nigeria with a pillow whilst trying to silence her.

*When commercial airlines refuse to take part in enforced deportations there are other options open to officials. These include military flights, group deportation flights and ultimately the drugging of asylum seekers.

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, 110 Hamstead Road, Birmingham, B20 2QS 0121 554 6947 www.ncadc.demon.co.uk/

MARCHING ORDERS

Next Wednesday (30th) there's a picket outside the US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, W1 (nearest tube Bond Street) 4-7pm to coincide with President Clinton's visit to Colombia and to protest against the US 'Plan Colombia'. The 'Plan' - pushed for by US Defence contractors and oil companies - is that \$1.3 billion of 'aid' is going to fight the war on drugs. And what a war it is, already being described by some as 'the new Vietnam' with planes spraying areas growing cocoa, killing everything in its path, and funds going to the paramilitaries, who according to one human rights group were last year responsible for nearly 80% of Colombia's human rights abuses.

More on this story next week. email: lasocollective@hotmail.com

MARCHING ORDERS II

The National Front are set to take to the streets again on Saturday 26th August. They are planning to march through Nottingham, this time exploiting the media generated tensions around paedophiles claiming a link between homosexuality and paedophilia. A counter demonstration called by Nottingham Anti Fascist Alliance will begin at 11 am in Nottingham Market Square.

*A new supermarket is set to open. Nothing new there, you may think, yet this is a development with a difference. It is to be situated on the site of Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz. Yes, that's right, the site will now play host to a snack bar, restaurant, post-office, bank, large car park and a gift shop. German-Polish MAJA group had been keen to develop the site since 1996 yet had been stopped by the state governor, but thanks to legal tricks and lots of money it looks as though it may yet go ahead.

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS in brief

Workers in India's eastern Calcutta port have held up a ship from the military regime of Burma. The ship, M.V. Pagan was delayed for 24 hours, triggered by a letter from the International Transport Workers' Federation. The Federation are demanding an end to the regime, better working conditions for Burmese sailors and trade union rights ** A 5th World Conference on Bioethics is taking place 21st - 24th September as part of the 'Creating Sparks' exhibition/conference in London; sponsored by the usual - Novartis, AstraZeneca, GlaxoWellcome etc. The exhibition will use loads of lovely artwork as a cover for biotech talks with lectures like "How is the 3rd world to benefit from new Information technology?" (er, half the world's population hasn't even got electricity so probably not a lot). Wellcome are also hoping to get you drunk so you'll believe they're doing a good job monopolising the world drugs market 0117 928 9843 www.creatingsparks.co.uk ** This Sunday (27) there's a techno benefit night to help subsidise Glasgow-Prague transport at the 13th Note Club, Clyde St, Glasgow, 10 pm till 3 am. £4/£3 (followed by another benefit night on the 17th September globalactionscotland@egroups.com ** And on the 5th September local bands and poets will be raising funds for a Colchester-Prague minibus at the Oliver Twist, 8pm £3 (Anybody wanting to go to Prague from Ipswich, Colchester, Chelmsford Area should contact boundforjorly@hotmail.com. Tickets are £70) ** Next weekend (1-3 Sep) "somewhere in Norfolk" (we know it's a big place but that's all the info we've got) there's a "No K Limits" Technival bring-a-sound- system Party! ** A street carnival is being organised in Norwich on the 16th September, meet 1:30pm outside city hall. The organisers are really looking for more people to help out so contact them at onrandombods@hotmail.com www.gn.apc.org/rt ** And therewill be a benefit for the Street Party on Friday 8th September at the Hog in Armour, St Andrews Street. DJ's from ReadyBreak, Suspect Sound System, Millenium Bug, Loose Booty, E-Flex, Rebel Lion and Backroom Beats. Tax on the door - donation ** National Speakout Week, 11-18 September, helping to tackle homelessness and poverty. Contact Groundswell for a Speakout recipe book and video everything you need to organise your own event. Tel: 020 77132880 www.oneworld.org/groundswell/events.htm ** Did you witness an arrest of a man at last year's N30 demonstration? The man was 6ft with shoulder length brown hair and a black beard, he was wearing a green parka and blue jeans. If you think you can help contact his Solicitor Lindsey Rattenberger on 020 7697 9977 ** Don't miss this years bigger than ever Worthing Green Fair 10am Saturday 2 September, Beach House Green (Worthing Seafrost), with live music on 2 pedal-powered stages, kids activities, , swarm info/chill space, healing area, and circus. There are still a few stall spaces left if anyone is interested. Give 'em a call on 01903 210351** Barbed Wire Europe Conference Against Immigration Detention, organised by the Close Down Campsfield Campaign, at Ruskin College, Oxford, 15th -17th September. £80/40 with accommodation, £25/15 without. Free to asylum seekers. To book a place contact Suke Wolton, 40 Richmond Road, Oxford OX1 2JJ 01865 557282 (suke.wolton@stx.ox.ac.uk) before 8th September ** One for all you wombles - 3rd annual litterpick 16-17 September. Meet 12 noon, Red Hill car park, Devil's Dyke Rd., Brighton. Gloves, bins and refreshments provided ** For even more party and protest dates check out our website

Positive SchNEWS

Energy 2000 is a 3-day festival celebrating renewable energy! It's taking place in Leicester from 8 to 10 September and is totally free. Find out how we can use renewable energy in our homes; displays of the latest electric vehicles, live music, and a pedal powered live radio broadcast. There will be workshops on kite making and circus skills, and if you need relaxation there will be a solar heated spa and showers and a solar powered cinema. The event takes place from 10am-6pm each day in Western Park, Leicester. There will be secure bike parking at the event and free buses from Leicester City centre. For directions and more information contact: Ruth Stockdale at Environ, Parkfield, Western Park, Hinckley Road, Leicester, LE3 6HX Tel: 0116 222 0254 www.environ.org.uk

GOREY DETAILS

The American cops were reported to be pleased with themselves after last weeks Democratic Conference in Los Angeles for "having allowed citizens to exercise their First Amendment right to protest". Protesters however had a different story to tell. There were 198 arrests over the week - bystanders and even conference delegates were greeted with batons and rubber bullets. A concert by Rage Against The Machine on Monday night became violent as the cops shot high pressure water and pepper spray pellets at protesters, while the LA Indymedia Centre was closed down after an alleged bomb threat. This didn't stop the protests though, on Thursday anarchist groups were joined by several thousand local people from a wide variety of backgrounds, marching against sweatshops and for immigrant rights. The march began in the garment district and made its way past downtown sweatshops where garment workers waved and cheered as they poked their heads out of upper-storey factory windows. Across the street from the convention centre they were joined by another large march, against U.S. Navy bombing on the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico. For more on the weeks events check out www.la.indymedia.org

HUNTINGDOWN

Police in Cambridgeshire were busy last week as an operation launched to combat Cambridge In August activities reached a head. Four people from the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign had their offices raided two days before the event and had their computers, literature, merchandise and information confiscated. They were subsequently arrested, remanded in custody and charged with conspiracy to incite criminal damage, GBH and conspiracy to disrupt traffic on the A1 into Cambridge! * Saturday 19th also saw 100 people demonstrating outside Oakington Detention Centre. Toys and clothes were able to be taken into the centre along with messages of support. www.indymedia.org.uk

...and finally...

Talk about using a sledge hammer to crack a nut, well this is more like using a ten ton block of concrete to crush a grape. The S.A.S., the British army's elite, are being used to train benefit agency fraud squad to catch those heinous terrorist's who sign on while working. Now there is a cease fire in Northern Ireland it seems that the next biggest threat are people who supplement their meagre dole money by taking a normally crap paid job. SchNEWS wonders if the benefits fraud squad will also be trained in that other S.A.S. speciality "shoot to kill". That'll teach the scrounging beggars.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers if you're gonna checkout Prague have a czech mate with you as you'll be treated like a pawn in a game. Honest.

Far, far away there exists another Earth in a parallel universe to ours...



**CAUTION
PIXIES AT WORK**

THE BUILDING OF THE YOGHURT 11



IT ALL STARTED WITH A HUMBLE ANNOUNCEMENT BY A SEMI-ARBITRARILLY NOMINATED SPOKESPERSON FROM THE LOCAL EARTH HEALING COLLECTIVE...

HI THERE EVERYBODY. JUST LETTING YOU ALL KNOW THAT SOON MORE EARTH HEALING IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN THE AREA. NOW WE HOPE THAT EVERYBODY WILL AGREE WITH THE VISION WE HAVE...



THE PLAN IS SIMPLE. RESTORE THE ANCIENT LEYLINE RUNNING BETWEEN THE COSMIC CENTRES OF GLASTONMINGE AND TWYBURY. WE FEEL THAT THESE TWO TOWNS HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY AND METAPHYSICALLY DIVIDED BY A SERIES OF OBSTACLES BUILT BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. WE FEEL THAT THESE HAVE BROUGHT NOTHING BUT HARM TO THE AREA. WE PROPOSE TO KNOCK DOWN ALL BUILDINGS ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE LEYLINE AND REPLACE IT ALL WITH A STRIP OF PIXIE WOODLAND.

But the trouble has been that since the revolution the citizens have struggled to keep up with the changes. And for many this latest announcement was a declaration of war!

Soon this leaflet appeared in letterboxes...

Stop this HIPPY NONSENSE NOW - Say NO to the YOGHURT 11 THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION

* TWYBURY AIRSTRIP

Runway 2 - once used during World War II

* EAST SODDING INDUSTRIAL PARK

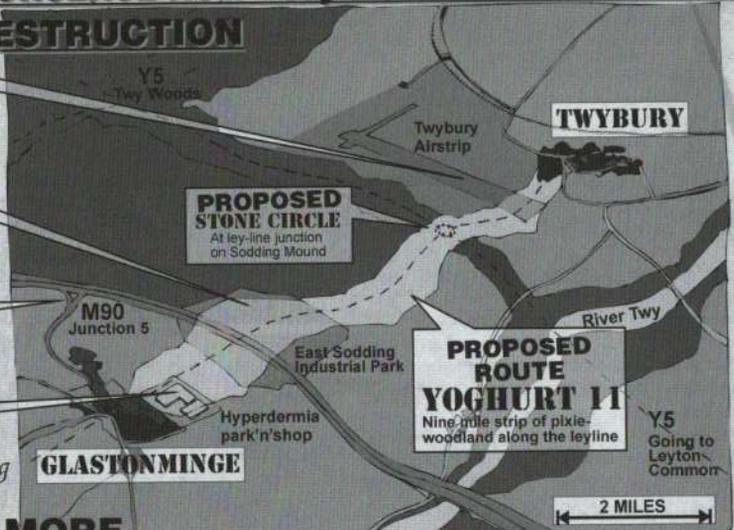
20 acres of prime industrial land lost

* M90 MOTORWAY

Eight miles of motorway lost south of junction 5

* HYPERDERMIA

Mega-hyperstore featuring the largest undercover parking facility in Western Europe



AND THERE'S MORE

* STONE CIRCLE

A stone circle is to be put up at the junction of the new Y11 and the existing Y4 on neolithic Soding Mound

* WILDLIFE THREAT

Dangerous wild animals may return to uncontrolled wooded lands.

* SHOPPING HORRORS

People will be forced to use second-rate high street shops in town centres.

* TRAFFIC JAMS

Appalling traffic jams will continue to blight the area

THIS LEY-LINE MUST NOT GO AHEAD

The people were saying 'enough is enough', and soon realised that they could only resist and protect their livelihoods - united...

A whole movement was born - overnight!



'Pollution Not Pixies' courted suburban xenophobes telling them that their very freedom depended on the right to continue having toxic industry in their back yards. It worked as thousands routinely came on marches to protect economically (and architecturally) important 1950's factory units.



'These Shops R Ours' brought a diverse group of people together - all under the same roof. From mums who didn't want to be finding parking spots on the high street to skateboard kids fighting to save their favourite bit of tarmac.

'Earth Last!' did what they said they'd do - put the welfare of the planet at the end of a list of priorities which were roughly in this order: keeping their shit jobs, money, liberties, cheap fags and fuel, and having football shown on the BBC and ITV. They only attempted protests camps if there was a chip shop and pub nearby.



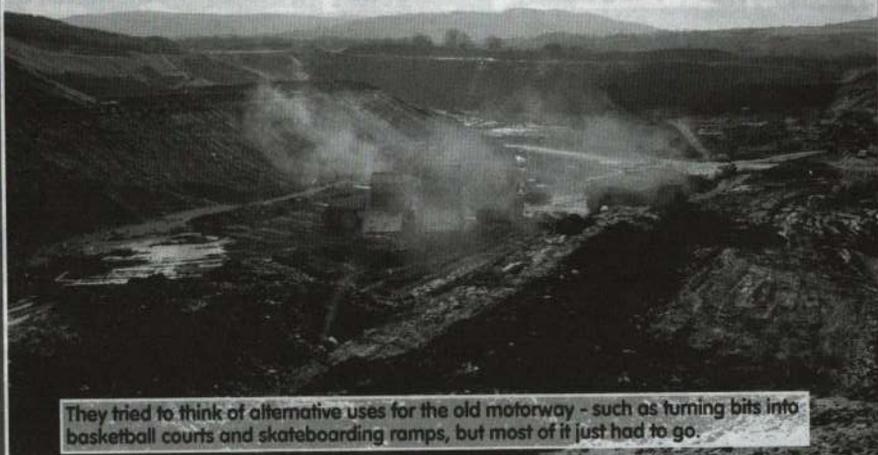
These groups - and other associated campaigns - worked together for a year to prevent the ley-line going through but despite having swathes of the general public sympathetic to the low common denominators the 'Earth Last!' movement was appealing to, nothing could stop the collectives who had inherited the Earth from pursuing this - and other - earth repair projects. Still - bonds were formed and later these groups were thanking the leyline for getting them away from the TV and bringing them together. They were realising that the job to halt the onslaught of sustainable earth projects and hippy nonsense was never going to end.

Finally they knew their battle was lost the day a small vigil gathered to watch the last cars drive down the motorway which had been the lifeline of the town for forty years, allowing people to commute to city jobs. The last car ever driven along it was a white Rover driven by Mrs B Corbett of Sodding (pictured). Said an activist as the last cars went by - 'My family have been commuters for five generations. Driving to work is a tradition handed down over generations - am I expected to stay in this town and slog away in a local business?' 'These hippys are telling us to grow our own potatoes but we can't grow our own video recorders can we?' whinged another.



The long rehabilitation process begins...

The hardest job in this process was clearing the land - and what a terrible mess it was - especially around the East Sodding Pollution Park where there were lots of concrete blocks, derelict machinery, and the land was hard and full of chemicals. Huge nasty earth moving machines had to be brought in. A spokesperson for Earth Last! described the scene as the worst destruction the area had seen since er... the road was put in in the first place!



They tried to think of alternative uses for the old motorway - such as turning bits into basketball courts and skateboarding ramps, but most of it just had to go.

Under the concrete... the earth!



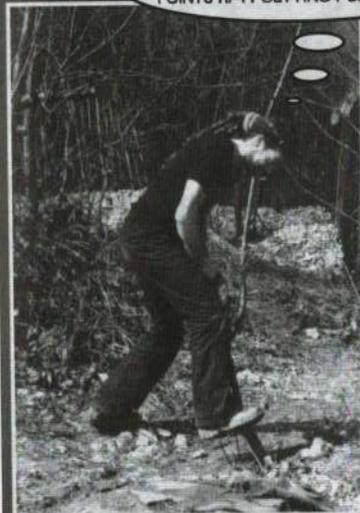
The earth revealed its secrets: the ruins of an ancient village were found while breaking up the concrete of the motorway. A 2000 year old Bastardian Empire town was found - and 5000 cars a day had been driving over it for the last 40!



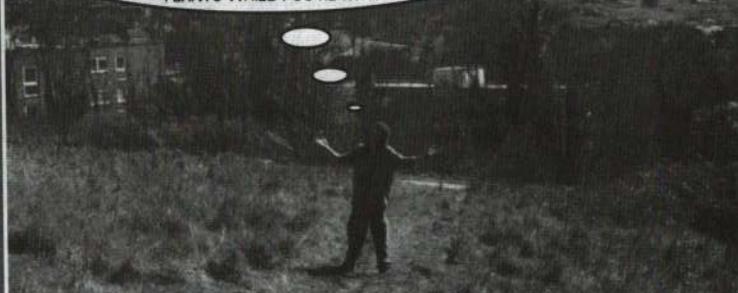
THIS SOIL IS SO HARD.
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE A LIFETIME
TO REHABILITATE THIS LAND.

HOW MANY LETS
POINTS AM I GETTING FOR THIS?

Trying to get anything to grow was a nightmare



I PRAY TO GAIA. FOR WHAT
MY SPECIES HAS DONE I APOLOGISE. PLEASE
BRING BACK ALL THE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS, BIRDS, INSECTS,
PLANTS AND TREES WHICH ONCE GRACED THIS LAND.
OH AND PLEASE THROW IN A COUPLE OF NICE GANJA
PLANTS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT



There was much despair at times - many felt that the earth was ruined forever - and people reminded themselves of all the other work that was needing to be done. Fortunately though every stage of the process was an excuse for a festival or at least a ceremony...

Eventually the leyline is cleared and there is great celebration



When the strip of land was finally cleared of Babylon, thousands stood along it holding hands to re-energise the leyline. But once the excitement of this wore off it was obvious that all the collectives dealing with the different sections were not quite sticking to the 'strip of uninterrupted pixie woodland' plan...

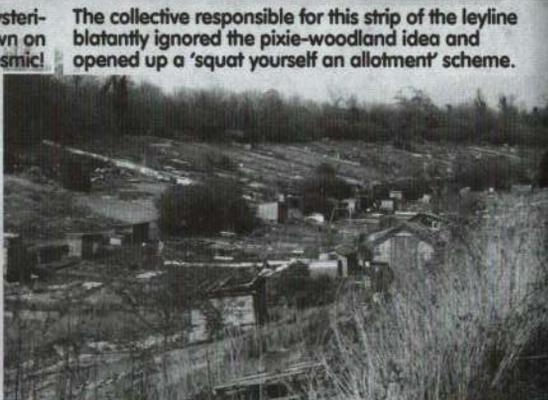
The initial idea to build the stone circle totally by hand was shelved when nobody showed up to the workshops - but they did all show up to the festival held to celebrate the opening. In fact - half of them never left.



The old runway was supposed to be the new travellers' site...

But vehicles kept mysteriously breaking down on the leyline! Cosmic!

The collective responsible for this strip of the leyline blatantly ignored the pixie-woodland idea and opened up a 'squat yourself an allotment' scheme.



Five years later...

Some of the original members of the Earth Last! movement dragged themselves away from cable TV for a reunion at the scene of the historic conflict. There were many emotions.



It's back to the dark ages

Since the road's gone it bloody-well takes me two minutes longer to get to work

This all used to be an enormous DIY centre. Now you've got to do everything for yourself. It's a Travesty.

It'd be a good place for a picnic - but where are the barbeque facilities and toilets?



Epilogue

A collective loosely calling itself Take The Piss (TTP) began a list of projects which really pushed it with the poor suburbanians struggling to adjust to the radical changes of recent times. The proposals to turn the Houses of Parliament into an asylum seekers' hostel and Trafalgar Square into a forest garden re-ignited the Earth Last! movement, forcing EL! activists to down remote controls once more.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER FUMING

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



"EET'S OK MEESTA CLEENTON- YOU NEVER INHALE ANYWAY"

Friday 1st September 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 273 Free/Donation

MARCHING ORDERS

"US aid has doubled every year recently, and coke production has doubled correspondingly. All they're doing is destroying the environment and making the campesinos more dependant than ever on coca for survival. This a counter insurgency war - a war against anyone who is against the multinationals, the environmentalists, human rights workers and trade unionists are considered enemies of the State because the state represents the multinationals." Liam Craig-Best (human rights worker)

On Tuesday 15th August, 60 school kids were on a trip in the countryside when, without warning, soldiers opened fire and threw grenades at them. Six were killed and others seriously injured. You didn't hear about this outrage on the news because it happens all the time in Columbia.

On Wednesday, President Clinton was in Cartagena, Columbia to promote the US Plan Columbia. \$1.3 billion in military aid to finance the 'war on drugs'. Human rights workers fear this will result in, "A war financed by the richest nation on Earth in which some of the poorest citizens on Earth will be the victims". Or as the Latin American Solidarity Collective (LASC) put it, "Plan Columbia is a plan for war."

Ruthless

Columbia is a ruthless place. There are 12 political murders a day. 35,000 people have died in the last decade. There's a civil war on. After 36 years of armed conflict, the 17,000 strong Marxist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC), control 40% of the country, and, it would seem, the hearts of the campesinos (Columbian peasants). The Guerilla territory is officially known as the "laboratory of peace", the Colombians call it Farclandia. Their banners read, "No more massacres", and "no more corruption". They believe there are two kinds of peace on offer in Columbia. FARC peace, a People's peace of social justice, democracy, dignity and land for peasants or government and US aided peace where the guerillas would be politically powerless, no strikes, no protests and the rich and powerful, the rulers and corporate bosses would thrive at their expense.

By law, US overseas military aid cannot be given to army units that have a known record of human rights violations. However, Congress agreed to a waiver which means there are no human rights conditions attached to the Plan Columbia. When you hear mas-

sacres such as that of the school children in Antioquia this week, they are usually blamed on right wing paramilitary groups who campesinos call 'The Death Squads'. There is well documented evidence of collaboration between the Columbian government-run army brigades and the Paramilitary death squads, including a 1999 report from a US State department of "credible allegations of cooperation with paramilitary groups". So funding for the Columbian Government becomes, in effect, funding for the death squads. Alberto Garcia of the LASC said, "We know that many Columbian officers were trained in the US, and over half of these are known human rights offenders. Now, thanks to Clinton, their units will get new equipment, training and intelligence information."

In 1999, paramilitaries were considered responsible for nearly 80% of Colombia's human rights abuses. The paramilitaries kill those suspected of supporting guerrillas, then deliver the corpses to the army. In a process known as "legalization," the army then claim the dead as guerrillas killed in combat while paramilitaries receive their pay in army weapons. All nice and above board.

Spray Planes

Clinton insists, "We have no military objective.", yet most of the money will be spent on military equipment with \$900 million going straight into the pockets of US corporations. So, two thirds of this financial aid will never even reach Columbia, and the poverty stricken campesinos will only feel the effects of this oh so generous offer of financial help when they get blown to bits by the weapons it has paid for. Another opportunity for Colombians to directly experience Plan Columbia, is through the fumigation project. America's brave attempt to save Columbia from the ravages of the drug trade. Spray-planes poison the coca crops from the air, spreading herbicide over the entire area, including legitimate crops and villagers. The results are truly devastating. The legitimate crops are killed, the land is ruined, often the campesinos suffer health problems and the women miscarry. They're forced to leave their ruined land, destitute, to start again by slashing and burning their way further into the rainforest. As coca is resilient, grows fastest and sells well, the farmer is forced to go back to growing the illicit crop. A new poison which the Yanks have lined up for Columbia is called Fusarium EN-4, a derivative of the chemicals that were used in Vietnam, where, even 30 years after the war ended, thousands of children are born

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being too young...
A woman was arrested by police in Prince Albert, Canada after they discovered that she had been barred from a birthday party for being underage. It turns out that the party was for those celebrating their 100th birthdays, and unfortunately the woman in question was only 98!

with genetic malformations. Way to go, Uncle Sam. Spraying in Columbia will not solve the problems of poverty and deforestation that force campesinos to grow coca but will contaminate the Amazon region for many years.

So why are the Yanks so keen to quash insurgency and intervene in Columbia's civil war? At \$300 million in 1999, US military aid to Columbia was already more than the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean put together. Most of the push behind this 'aid' package has come from defense contractors and oil companies, backed by other companies with stakes in Columbia. Columbia's oils reserves are a key strategic concern for the US. The 480-mile Limon Covenas pipeline was bombed by guerrillas 79 times in 1999. Columbia needs the money invested in oil exploration, the US badly needs Columbia, one of its largest suppliers of oil. Both of the main candidates in the forthcoming US presidential election have personal interests in oil multinationals that will profit from Plan Columbia. And Barry McCaffrey, the former US General in charge of the plan, is accused of criminal massacre in Iraq. As Andy Higginbottom of LASC said, "All the big players in US politics are effectively frontmen for the oil multi-nationals." And, just in case you're thinking it's all down to the yanks, our very own British Government has recently agreed to provide £150 million to finance the Plan.

This is the thin end of the wedge, if the US get away with it, then they will have paved the way to move in on the rest of Latin America. They want to control this area so rich in natural resources. This is not a war on drugs, it is a counter-insurgency war. As Alberto Garcia from LASC points out, "Clinton is using the drugs issue as a smokescreen for direct military intervention in Columbia."

For more information, a newsletter is available for £1 from PO Box 8446, London, N17 6NZ 07950 923 448 lasocollective@hotmail.com

FOR PEAT'S SAKE

It may seem obvious that ripping up a unique environment so that we can use peat in our gardens, whilst at the same time digging large holes in the ground to dump our organic 'waste' is an absurd waste of resources. But unfortunately peat has become an essential soil accessory for Britain's not so green 15 million amateur gardeners. The result of this is that whilst we are struggling to find ways to get rid of our waste there is now only 6 percent of our original peatlands left in a near natural state. Peatlands have been described as the UK's equivalent of tropical rainforests, because of the wide variety of species they support which include nightjars, and five thousand varieties of insects and rare plants.

A glimmer of hope was offered last week when the government proposed that the four main peatlands suffering from extraction (Thorne Moor, and Hatfield Moor in Yorkshire and Wedholme Flow, and Bolton Fell in Cumbria) will become Special Areas of Conservation Interest under the EC Habitats Directive. Changing their classification will give Local Authorities the power to review and possibly remove the extraction licences for these areas. The bad news however is that this process could take as long as a year, and in the meantime our peatlands could be mined to virtual extinction.

The Scotts Company, the US-based multinational who make Levington's branded compost, is the UK's biggest peat extractor. Although they claim that they take their responsibilities to the environment 'very seriously indeed', they know that peat makes them a lot of money, last year they made profits of nearly £500 million. A consortium of environmental and local groups are calling on Scotts to halt their extraction and help rejuvenate the peatlands because even if they pull out Scotts look set to receive compensation of up to £9 million. Unfortunately though there is evidence that they may be doing the opposite and increasing levels of extraction whilst they still can, and will still be entitled to compensation if they do so! Now is an urgent time to try and stop this as peat can only be extracted for a few more weeks before it gets too wet.

*More info from Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London, N1 7JQ 0207 7490 1555, www.foe.co.uk/

*For information on composting contact the Composting Association www.compost.org.uk
*To find out lots of interesting facts about Scotts Company take a look at their website, www.scottscountry.com

FOX OFF

A victory for free speech occurred in Tampa Bay, USA on 18th August as a jury awarded investigative journalist Jane Akre \$450,000 damages following her dismissal from Fox Television.

Akre claimed that she had been fired following their threat to complain to the Federal Communications Commission regarding Fox's attempt to get them to 'air' a slanted, biased report on GM giant Monsanto's bovine growth hormone. After a trial which lasted five weeks, the jury ruled in Akre's favour over her claim that her contract was terminated because of her intention to go the FCC and awarded her the damages relating to lost earnings.

For more on this story look at www.videonetwork.org/stuff/foxtv.html

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS in brief

Last Wednesday the UK's only test crop of genetically modified wheat at Sacrewell Lodge Farm in Cambridgeshire was completely destroyed ** Last Saturday the National Front managed to muster all of 25 people for a march in Nottingham. The "Nazi 25" were protected by no less than 300 cops, many in riot gear. There was a counter demo of anti fascists in town that day numbering 100. The cops let the fascists march for about 50 yards, then decided it was too dangerous for them and while keeping the counter demo back, dispersed the bigoted scum. ** Lots of events happening on Saturday 9th September: There's a Hardcore/punk benefit show for SAFE (Saving Animals From Exploitation) at the Three Horseshoes Barn at Scottow near Norwich. £5 ** A demo in Leicester town centre against HARLAN UK who are the biggest supplier of animals in Europe. Meet at the clock tower, 12 noon. www.lough-borough-animal-concern.org.uk Tel:0700 900 1853. ** Workshops on setting up your own business, housing co-ops, or credit union at the Hangleton Community Centre, Harnsworth Crescent, Hove. 10am - 4pm Free lunch - Free creche. 01273 556843 www.gn.apc.org/ss/upstart/c ** And two events for Mark Barnsley (see SchNEWS 252) who was fitted up and wrongly imprisoned after he was attacked by drunken students. On the morning there will be an info stall on Fargate, Sheffield opposite Virgin Megastore, and in the evening there will be a public meeting at Broomspring Community Centre, Broomspring Lane Sheffield. Mark has just been moved for the 5th time this year to HMP Dartmoor. This process, known as ghosting, is designed to isolate prisoners from their family and friends. 07944-522001 www.appleline.net/justiceuk/eddie/mark.html ** And during the whole weekend it's Nottingham Pride 0115 8419096 www.nottinghampride.org ** On the Monday (11) Trash Trident Trail, Manchester Crown Court. Come and support the two women charged with causing £25,000 damage to Britain's Trident nuclear submarine, HMS Vengeance. Tel 07808 553778 www.gn.apc.org/tp2000 ** On the 15 there's a Benefit for People's Global Action, with comedian Rob Newman, music from Earth Tribe, Nomadix Roots and Head Jam, films, stalls cheap beer and veggie food, at the West Indian Cultural Centre, 9 Clarendon Road, London N8. £5/£3.50 concessions ** Cornwall Convergence, 26 September - 1st October. A gathering for all those in Cornwall involved in direct action, environmental and social campaigning, education, permaculture, organics and anything else you can think of. They need help with arranging site crew, wood burners, performers, playworkers etc. Cornwall Convergence, c/o PO Box 19, Penzance, TR18 2XY. ** For more dates check out the SchNEWS website

Heavy Petting

Focus Do-It-All are one of Britain's largest DIY chains. A few years ago they had a dream of creating a 'leisure experience for all the family'. With this in mind they purchased Petworld, an American style chain of pet warehouses. An investigation by Animal Aid however has criticised the chain for keeping animals in poor conditions, giving misleading advice, encouraging impulse buying and supporting an export trade in exotic species that has been described as barbaric. There will be a weekend of action against Focus Do-It-All stores around the country on 8 & 9 September. Contact Animal Aid 01732 364546 www.animalaid.org.uk. You may also like to contact Focus Do-It-All on their customer helpline and let them know what you think, 0800 436436

Positive SchNEWS

Last year saw 22 million people dump their cars for the European Car Free Day. In Paris forty miles of road were closed and 44 percent of participants said they would like a car free day every week. This years event is supported by all but two of the European Union Governments. And guess what? One of those governments is the UK, who according a spokesperson "entirely support the underlying aims of the 'Car Free Day' campaign. However, we have some doubts about whether car-free days might be the best approach" - perhaps they're worried that we'll all realise how shit cars really are! Despite this there will be 10 councils celebrating the day, they are the London boroughs of Camden, Lambeth, Merton, Southwark, Sutton and the towns of Bath, Stoke-on-Trent, Winchester, and Swale and Deal in Kent. For more info on these events or information on how to get your council to organise an event next year contact the Environment Transport Association at 10 Church Street, Weybridge KT13 8RS, 0193 282 8882, www.eta.co.uk.

But why wait till next year? Activists around the world are organising their own imaginative actions for World Car Free Day on 21 September. So why don't you... Contact Carbusters at Kratka 26, 100 00 Praha 10, Czech Republic Tel: +(420) 2-781-08-49 www.carbusters.ecn.cz

* Freewheelers is a new free service on the internet that links drivers and passengers so they can share lifts. Although still not common in the UK, in Germany the network of car sharing organisations sorts out over 1.5 million shared lifts a year. www.freewheelers.co.uk

* If anybody has any experiences of formal car-sharing that they'd like to share then contact adrian@sweetbriar.demon.co.uk

* For a copy of the excellent A27 Action Group newsletter send an A2E to 10 Highdown Rd., Lewes.

...and finally...

The Naked Truth... Vincent Bethel and the Freedom to be Yourself campaign have been swinging into action as their campaign to uphold the rod of truth and justice continues. Vincent, as you may remember has been getting an all-over tan (and probably a few goosebumps) since August 13th when he vowed to remain in his birthday suit until non-sexual nakedness is legalised. Well, the powers that be are not playing fair, and won't tackle the very serious issues involved, in fact they just keep arresting Vincent. He appeared in court the first time au naturel, and was promptly nicked as he left. After being released Vincent continued his mission of nudity, was arrested again, appeared in court naked, left and was grabbed again! After a series of actions, doing his shopping that kind of thing, the total number of arrests has now reached ten. The offences have been lumped together and Vincent is up for a single charge of public nuisance. He is on remand in Brixton Prison and is not allowed visits as the lock-up crew reckon his ongoing nakedness will offend people. Even his brief has been unable to see Vincent (and perhaps perform a cover-up?), which is of course illegal. Vincent will appear in court on the 26th September. www.geocities.com/themanmimd

* Meanwhile, a tourist, Renate Schwankung-Ben-Hanza has been put on a plane back to Germany after spending four nights locked up in a North Carolina jail for nude hitch-hiking.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to get snoring mad even though stuff gets up yer nose-just take the right line. Honest.

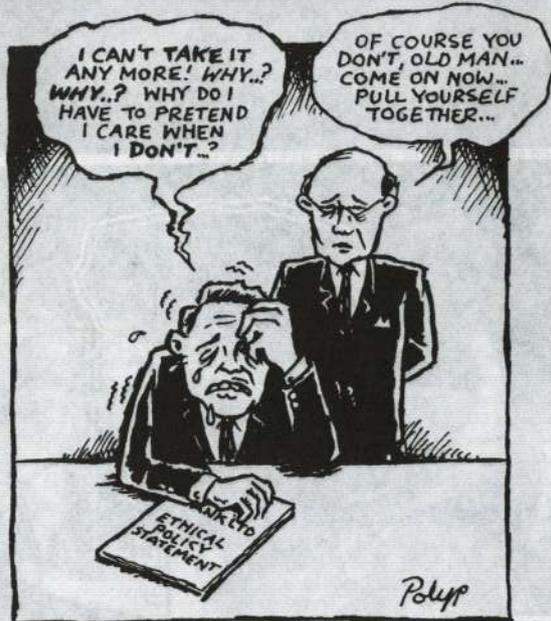
SIMON JONES' BIRTHDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: AN ANTI-CASUALISATION RALLY

After three years of direct action campaigning, protesters were still waiting for justice for Simon Jones, who was killed at Shoreham Docks on his first day at work. To celebrate his birthday, around 80 people gathered outside St Paul's Cathedral in London. Musicians and samba drummers led the revellers on a procession down the road to the offices of the Crown Prosecution Service. Despite the existing amount of evidence, the CPS had - at this point - not brought charges against those allegedly responsible for Simon's death. This didn't stop the police arresting one of the protesters for affray! The charge of 'manslaughter by gross negligence' has since been brought against the management of Euromin, the docks where Simon died. (See 'Christmas Bonus' SchNEWS 288)



All pics: Richie Andrew

Statue being made to commemorate the Greenham Women's Peace Camp www.wfloe.fsnet.co.uk



Who are these people?

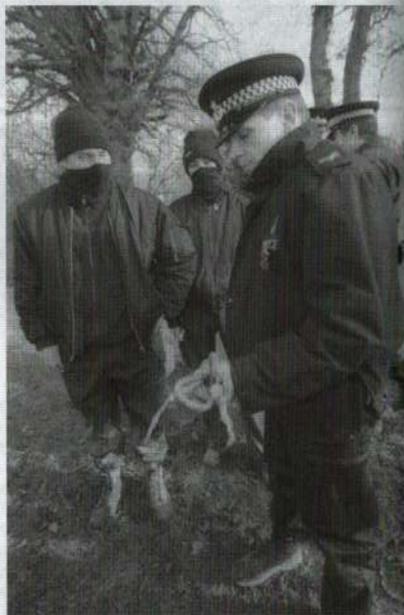
All we were doing was having a regular hunt and suddenly these absolutely ghastly youths appeared from nowhere trying to spoil the chase.



Pics: Nick Cobbing



We got them to send down some uniform boys, to get the hoodlums off my land, and there was much scuffling and abuse as they left. I told them in their own parlance to feck off!



Sadly for the poor old buggers, the day invariably ends with a fox or two getting a jolly harsh savaging by the hounds. Oh dear how dreadful.

Pic (left): Alec Smart





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER FOXED UP

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 8th September 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 274 Free/Donation

RIDING ROUGH SHOD

Croydon hunt saboteur Steve Christmas lies fighting for his life in intensive care this week after being run down last Friday by a thugs' Land Rover in what appears to be a premeditated attack at one of the first hunt meets of the season. Steve was one of four sabs disrupting the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent foxhunt near Horsted Keynes, where the hunt were 'cubbing'- the cuddly term for letting your dogs tear foxcubs to bits to get a taste for blood. Tired of killing small woodland creatures, the hunt apparently thought they'd turn their hand to something bigger. Steve was airlifted to Haywards Heath hospital with four broken ribs, a crushed pelvis, a damaged lung and severe internal bleeding. He's had to have two operations- one to remove a metre of his intestine and one to fit a metal plate to his pelvis- and is breathing through a ventilator. Tubes are inserted in his heart and doctors fear his lung may have collapsed. His condition remains critical.

This was the second assault sabs had suffered that day: twenty minutes earlier, three inbred thugs (from the same 4x4 which later ran over Steve), aided by huntsman Mark Bycroft, started attacking the protestors. One sab was knocked over by the vehicle as they tried to flee the field; luckily they got away uninjured and briefly carried on sabbings, until the scum in the 4x4 returned- with tragic results. After nearly killing Steve the driver came back to taunt Steve's mates as they tried to help him.

Dawn Preston, spokesperson for the Hunt Saboteurs Association, stated:

"This incident shows both the hunters and hunt supporters blatant disregard for life - whether it be human or animal. It must be a sick and twisted individual indeed who is so fearful of his favourite 'sport' being banned that he tries to kill those who seek to prevent him from torturing our wildlife. Do not forget that two hunt saboteurs have already been killed in the last ten years - and at one stage today I was terrified that another name could be added to that list. How many lives have to be lost before we see an end to this abhorrent sport and those that partake of it?"

Sabs congregated the following day outside the hunts' kennels in Felbridge, Surrey to 'discuss' the matter with hunt staff- and were met by country chaps wielding pick-axe handles. The cops were there, predictably- and equally predictably made no arrests. The kennels are home to

huntsman Mark 'One Ball' Bycroft, convicted in 1991 for assaulting a sab and notorious for his violent overreactions to the presence of 'antis': a man so unpopular his own mother wrote to sabs to inform them of her beloved son's genital inadequacy. A further demo happened on Wednesday evening, at the home of the hunt master, and passed without incident.

Sussex police have apparently arrested, interviewed and released a man on police bail in connection with the 4x4 incident. The hunt has claimed he is 'nothing to do with them'. Obviously random passers-by have developed the habit of driving into fields, exchanging matey greetings with complete strangers on horseback and then beating the crap out of anyone with non-leather footwear.

* Steve would love some get well cards and messages of support. Please send them- and any donations if you can afford it (cheques to Croydon H.S.A. or Steve Christmas)- to Croydon H.S.A., PO Box 1072, Coulsdon, Surrey CR52ZT

* Thankfully, incidents as serious as this are very few and far between. Sabs are needed out there in the field NOW- the full hunting season doesn't start until October, but the brutal spectacle of cubbing is now in full swing.

Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 2786, Brighton, BN2 2AX www.huntsabs.org.uk 01273 622827 for details of your local group and Howl mag.

HUNTSMANBALLS...

...to replace Mark Bycrofts' missing one perhaps? A few gems of foot-in-mouth from the hunting set:

"To many women, a Master of Foxhounds is an irresistible catch". 'The Field' hunt mag.

"Hunting people tend to be church-goers on a higher level than ordinary folk. One has a religious experience in the field". -Rev. Christopher Seal, Oakley Beagles supporter.

"The huge majority of hunt saboteurs are urban dwellers and several appear not to have washed for quite a while" -David Greenwood, ex-master, Ampleforth Beagles

GET STUFFED, BERNARD

Pissed-off villagers in Briston, Norfolk, fed up with the stink from the industrial Bernard Matthews turkey farm on their doorstep, have bought the rights to a website named Bernard-Matthews.com, where they have established it as a forum for spleen and grudges against the not-so-bootiful fowl tycoon.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For smoking! For having £10 worth of hash an Australian gentleman was nicked at Charing Cross and given seven days in gaol!

* The Countryside Alliance are planning a series of public talks in Brighton during the Labour conference. Keen to disguise the fact that they are an organisation formed with the sole purpose of making sure that rich people continue to be able to kill things for fun, they're making a show of debating rural post offices and the like. SchNEWS phoned the happenin' things at the CA offices for details; we were told that events would include "creative executions of one kind or another". When asked if this meant ritual fox disembowment on the beach, the spokeswoman seemed a little confused...

They get to the real issue on Tuesday 25th - the theme is 'Country Sports'. Anti-hunt counter demo: meet 10am, the Steine, Brighton.

* The regional organiser over the four-day bumpkin-fest is Tom Lewis. Please don't phone him on 01892 770388 or 0777 593-8790.

HORSE WHIPPED

Jack Straw, being his usual tolerant self, has banned a Gypsy horse fair that was due to take place in Horsmonden, Kent this weekend. This horse fair has been happening on the village green for more than 400 years, but unlike other traditional Gypsy fairs such as Stow-in-the-Wold and Appleby in Cumbria, this fair has never been given a Royal Charter. Traveller families have traditionally met on the common to mark the end of the hop picking season and have a chance to catch up with friends before winter time. Eli Frankham, president of the National Romany Rights Association (N.R.R.A) said "My Grandmother was born on the green in Horsmonden. In an age where nomadic life is all but outlawed, fairs such as these bind the Gypsy community together. The attack on this fair is therefore a direct attack on the Gypsy community of this country."

The name Horsmonden means "horse trading" and the village was mentioned in the Doomsday Book as a centre for horse trading but all this means nothing to Straw and his cronies, as he has used the Criminal Justice Act to put a 5 mile exclusion zone for assembly around the village to prevent people from gathering on the common. Undeterred the Gypsy Council and the N.R.R.A, who represent the 100,000 Romany community, have called for a demonstration through the village on the 9th (Sunday) led by traditional Gypsy wagons. Charlie Smith of the Gypsy Council says "Gypsies will be in Horsmonden this year and we'll be there every year until the fair is re-instated. We have the moral right to be there"

N.R.R.A. 01945 780326; Gypsy Council: 01708 869886

The Common Touch

There were emotional scenes this week at Greenham Common, Berkshire as the last caravan left the Women's Peace Camp after 19 years of continuous occupation. The camp was set up on September 5 1981 by 36 women, 4 babies and 6 men who had marched from Wales to protest about the American ground launched cruise missiles that were due to be deployed there. From 1983, 96 cruise missiles were stored on the Common. Although the missiles were removed from the site in 1992, the women stayed on to ensure that the land was handed back to the Commoners. The land was sold back to the Greenham Common Trust in 1997 and the women have now left in order to make way for a Commemorative and Historic Site which is due to be officially opened on the twentieth anniversary next year. The women's peace camps at Greenham Common were the site for literally thousands of nonviolent direct actions, by tens if not hundreds of thousands of women from around the world for almost two decades. With classic 80's actions such as "Embrace the Base" encouraging more than 30,000 women at a time to take action against the siting of US Cruise missiles in Britain.

Greenham has been the source and inspiration for many related campaigns and actions since 1981. Direct action, protest camp and non-hierarchical women-only methods of working have been developed with the spirit of Greenham ever since.

"We have enjoyed seeing the land being cared for by a team of dedicated environmentalists of high integrity and, above all, we have rejoiced as we watched the perimeter fence come down and the Common returned to the people of Newbury." Said Sarah Hip-Person of the Commemorative Fund Collective. Money is also being raised to build a commemorative sculpture donations are urgently needed send cheques to Women for Life on Earth, Glangors, Ynyslas, Borth, Ceredigion, SY2 45JU Tel: 01970 871360 www.wflife.fsnet.co.uk . Essential reading 'Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp: A History of Nonviolent Resistance, 1984 - 1995 by Beth Junor £8.95 (Plus 90p P&P) from AK Distribution; tel: 0131-555 5165 fax: 0131-555 5215 e-mail: ak@akedin.demon.co.uk

*Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp at the weapons establishment near Reading can always do with help. Contact them at wtt@hotmail.com or sian@aldercamp.freeserve.co.uk

Freedom Trail

15-17 September. The Civil Rights Caravan, set up by the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism and The National Civil Rights Movement will be touring the UK throughout September. It plans to highlight issues of racism and refugee rights and will be linking up with relevant demonstrations, conferences and events. Cities the caravan is set to visit include Coventry, Birmingham and Leicester.

Meanwhile, a similar caravan that is currently touring France has been met with a nasty response. Shortly after arrival in Marseilles 30 police, as well as riot police, arrived on the scene and began attacking the campaigners. Several people were arrested and kept in police detention. For more info on the UK caravan's tour contact CARE, 0307 8371450, BM Box 8784, London, WC1N 3XX, info@carf.demon.co.uk

*The caravan will be coming to Brighton in late September and events are planned. More details soon, watch this space.

*The next NoBorders meeting will take place on Sunday 10th September at the Royal Festival Hall in the ground floor bar 6pm.

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS in brief

Simon Jones is killed on his first day of work (see SchNEWS 271) and nothing is done. 80 odd people protest outside the Crown Prosecution Service last Friday and someone is arrested for affray. As someone pointed out "My mate had his head crushed two years ago by a bunch of profit hungry gangsters without anyone being charged for it. We come to London to protest about that and one of Simon's mates gets arrested after half an hour. Says it all really." www.simonjones.org.uk ** On Thursday 14th September there will be a book launch of "The Zapatistas: A Rough Guide" and "Women of Maize: Indigenous Women and the Zapatista Rebellion" at the Ritzy Cinema Café, Brixton Oval, Coldharbour Lane, London SW2 1JG between 6.30 - 8.30pm Tel 020 7278 2829 or info@lab.org.uk ** Nick Pyne who was an active protester at Stringers Common, Lyminge, and Newbury sadly passed away last month. If any of his friends would be interested in organising a celebration of his life contact Lucy on 01483 821784 ** On Sept. 11th, the World Economic Forum - 100 top bosses from the world's largest multinational companies - is meeting in Melbourne, Australia (see SchNEWS 271). Thousands of protesters are expected to turn up to shut it down. There's a solidarity demo in London, meet Monday 11th, 5pm at Shell-Mex House, the Strand, London. www.s11.org (Keep up-to-date with actions in Melbourne on September 11 at www.melbourne.indymedia.org) ** And if all the hype about the Olympics has put you off Oz, then check out a wizard book called 'Alternative Australia: celebrating cultural diversity' by Alan Dearling and Brendan Hanley. It is indeed "cramped full with tribal wisdom, feral attitude [no it doesn't bite] and hippy shit." ISBN 09523316 4 0 Enabler Publications, 3 Russell House, Lym Close, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3DE 01297 445024 They do other excellent books on travelers and more ** Benefit night for the London S26 Collective on Thursday 14th September featuring DJ Aki Nawaz (Fun-Da-Mental), Stone Valley, Fusing Naked and Blakelock. It's at the George IV (Brixton Hill) £4/3 B4 11, a bit more after ** There's a Radical Karaoke benefit for the Solidarity Federation on Saturday September 16, starting at 7pm Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Road, Finsbury Park tube. ** On the same night there's a Benefit gig for the Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh at the West Backpackers Hostel, 3 Queensferry St, Edinburgh, with two local bands, dj, visuals, and info Stalls www.autonomous.org.uk ** Also on the same day is the Norwich Street Carnival. Meet City Hall 1.30 p.m 07944 874393 ** On the Sunday (17) there's another Glasgow-Prague benefit night Sunday 17th at the 13th Note Club, Clyde St, Glasgow. Line up to be confirmed globalactionscotland@egroups.com (for details of transport Edinburgh-Prague call 07932413254) ** Also on the Sunday is the National Vegan Food and Drink Festival 10am - 5pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1 Contact CALF, BM 8889, London, WC1N 3XX email calf@alrob.freeserve.co.uk ** Again, on the Sunday there's a demonstration to Stop British Airways Deporting Asylum Seekers at Manchester Airport Terminal One (Arrivals), 2 pm. 0121 5546947 ** Throughout the country traditional woodland crafts are still alive and kicking. To find out about willow weaving, wood turning, basket making and much more get along to the Working Woodlands open day at Shotover Country Park, Oxfordshire on Saturday 17, noon - 5pm for more details contact 01865 774911. Or if you miss that check out the Weald Woodfair between 22-24 September at Bentley Wildfowl Museum £5/4 (free bus from Lewes Station) Tel: 01825 840870 www.eastsussex.gov.uk/env/events/woodfair

**For more dates and parties, check out party and protest on the Schnews website.

Inside SchNEWS

In 1978, David Blagden, experiencing the effects of a bereavement after his parents died, burnt down curtains at his local vicarage worth £1200. For this most dangerous crime, David has been imprisoned ever since, longer than many prisoners serving life sentences. A year after being locked up, the judge who presided over the case recommended that David be released, suggesting treatment as an alternative to prison. Since then he has refused to talk about David's case. The vicar whose curtains were burnt down has backed the campaign to get David out of prison.

Around 3 years ago, when David was in an open prison and not feeling too hopeful about legal channels ever getting him out, he took his chances and did a runner, going to Leeds where he sorted himself out with a job and flat. The arresting coppers told him "You shouldn't be in prison", so what did they do? They locked him up again in a category B prison.

While he's been locked up, David has done charity work, while at the same time trying to get his case highlighted in the media with the aim of being released. Both these facts were used against him at his most recent Parole Board, when a psychiatrist diagnosed David with Borderline Personality Disorder, saying he was craving media attention!

After 22 years it's time that David Blagden was released. There's a demo on Sat. 12th Sept. at 11 a.m outside Wellingborough Prison, near Leicester, where he is being held. If you can't make it, letters of support would be very much appreciated: F76927 Blagden, HMP Wellingborough, Miller's Park, Doddington Rd, N. Hants NN8 2NH

Sound Conspiracy

Sound Conspiracy, a major cog in the European teknival scene, suffered a tremendous blow within the last two weeks. After a summer of having it large all over the continent the collective brought their sound system back to Portugal to carry out repairs and to rest and recuperate. While they were there a very large forest fire took hold in that region of Portugal, and in the chaos, a cottage, in which Sound Conspiracy bods lived, the trucks which housed the 10k sounds (including the amp racks) and a few more living vehicles, all perished in the raging inferno. Luckily no one was seriously injured, but ten years of work and dedication has gone up in flames. They now need help to get another sound system together so they can carry on putting on large scale, free teknivals all over Europe, send donations to Miss D J Ward, Abbey National: sort code-09-01-26, account number:483 71 752. For more info visit www.soundconspiracy.freetekno.org. Watch this space for info on benefit nights coming up.

...and finally...

The US is obviously feeling that its position as the most violent country in the world is under threat, and its top pimps of death are busy working on new ways to keep their number one position. Now that their kids are bored of dolls that just wet their nappy and cry, this year's new 'toy' is Death Row Marv. Marv is a 6in doll that can be strapped to an electric chair and then realistically convulses as he is electrocuted to death. Cor blimley what ever will they think of next...

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers to get a foxing life and jump in at the jeep end. Honest



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER PUMP-ACTION

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 15th September 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 275 Free/Donation

CARMAGEDDON

"Anyone who, at the age of 29, still uses public transport should consider themselves a failure"- Margaret Thatcher

'Avin' it anti-capitalist protestors, environmentalists and trade unionists are this week blocking oil terminals over the government's failure to act over climate change. The police stand idly by saying there is nothing they can do. Tanker drivers refuse to work saying they cannot possibly cross a picket line and they have the full support of their oil company bosses; all the while the tabloid press congratulate the demonstrators for their courage and determination - and criticise the government for not listening to the 'silent majority'.

Yes, well... you could bet yer last pint of 4-star that the coppers would not be 'standing idly by' if the nation's gas-guzzlers were forced to go thirsty over anything as silly as the environment. The reported 85% national support for the actions against fuel price rises this week serves instead to paint a sorry picture of a society addicted to unlimited fossil fuel consumption. The we-have-the-right-to-drive-anywhere-we-like-for-as-little-cost-as-possible school of motoring looks with dewy eyes to America, where petrol costs less than Coca-Cola. But even there, in a country so car-dependent that a pedestrian in Dallas is automatically classed by cops as 'suspicious', public disquiet over 'extortionate pricing' is erupting.

Despite the high fuel prices, motorists still don't pay their true cost of driving. £23 bn is raised per year from road transport taxes, but the government's own figures show that the true annual cost in deaths, health, environment, and congestion is £42 bn. Other government figures show that in real terms the cost of private motoring hasn't changed in 25 years- while train fares have gone up by 53% and bus fares by a mental 87%! 40 years ago, half Britain's freight went by rail- now it's only 7% even though each tonne carried on the road gives out 80% more carbon dioxide (CO2) pollution. Road transport accounts for 24% of Britain's CO2 emissions- the main pollutant responsible for global climate change. By 2100, the boffins reckon, CO2 levels will match those of the Eocene era 50m years ago- when London was a steaming mangrove swamp. Better watch out for the crocs, cockneys...

And now OPEC (the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries) have agreed to increase the production of oil to try to ease

prices. So, motorists, you won't have to soil those precious feet just yet. Unfortunately, those extra barrels will just happen to add another 1/2 % to the total global output of CO2 at a time when the world is committed under the 1997 Kyoto Treaty to reducing emissions by 7%...

Now you may be wondering why a force as mighty as the oil industry seems to be meekly shrugging its shoulders and saying it can do nothing about a few pissed-off bods blocking the gateway. One of the oil barons crying crocodile tears over the fact that he cannot possibly force his workers to cross picket lines because of fear of intimidation is none other than Lord Sterling. A big admirer of Thatcher, his lordship merrily bussed strike breakers through picket lines more than a decade ago during a ferry dispute in Dover, so SchNews smells something fishy here. Could this be an oil industry taking the opportunity to quietly 'remind' the government just how important it is in the run-up to the next Climate Change Conference in the Hague in November?

There's also the little matter of the Climate Change Levy, too. Britain- keen to look green- proposed it as a result of the 1997 Kyoto Climate Change Summit. Companies using loads of fossil fuels would have to pay very high tax, which predictably ain't popular with the companies. The oil industry might not be too happy either, seeing as their customers would naturally try to use less oil...

GLOBAL SHEIKH UP...

The past few weeks have seen a flurry of frightening reports on the impact of climate change. An ice-breaker taking American tourists to the North Pole got there to find that for the first time in 50 million years, there was no ice to break.

Dr Malcolm McKenna, American Mu-

Usually, yer Car/Government/Babylon-bashin' SchNews would be doing gooey cartwheels about such paralysing direct action. So why not now? Shouldn't we support all strikes? Well, though it's cool when people discover how powerful they can be when they start to say 'No', we reckon there's more to the success of this action than meets the eye. After all, should we big up the Chilean truckers' strike of the early '70's- which turned out to be a CIA backed attempt to destabilise the lefty government, making way for General Pinochet?

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For using a wheel barrow ...somebody was arrested for wheel barrowing their tat away after the council, backed up by the cops, decided it was for the bin. This follows other council attacks on the estate in Manchester which include bulldozing a kids playground and closing an underground cinema.

seum of Natural History commented "I don't know if anybody in history has ever got to 90 degrees N to be greeted by water, not ice. Some people who pooh-pooh global warming might wake up if shown that even the pole is beginning to melt." The petrol crisis has also ironically overshadowed the government's current Flood Awareness Week. And the government's own transport White Paper reckons 24,000 UK deaths each year are due to air pollution - to which road traffic was the major contributor.

Luckily, we can all go back to not thinking about it soon: SchNEWS has heard of a new law which'll deal with the rabble blocking the oil refineries. After all, as the petrol protesters are using action which:

"is designed to influence the government", "is made for the purpose of advancing a...political cause", and "creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public"- (ie. the emergency services not having enough fuel), then under Section 1 of the new Terrorism Act (see SchNEWS 268) all those decent-working-bloke truckers, farmers and cabbies can look forward to a truncheon round the chops and a spell in the nick!!

* Read 'Autogeddon' by Heathcote Williams- the whole sordid story of the motor car in one big epic poem! Great stuff.
* Next Friday (22nd) is Car Free Day and preparations in Europe seem to be coming along nicely! Tel 0208 9460912 www.eta.co.uk

OIL GO FOR THE ALTERNATIVE

*Denmark is planning to generate 50% of its energy from wind by 2050
*Most municipal buses in France run on bio-diesel made from rape seed oil.
*The Scottish island of Islay has just set up the worlds' first commercial wave power generator: the UK could generate all its power by collecting only 0.1% of the energy available around the coast!
*Visit the Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Wales; learn sustainable solutions 01654 702400 www.cat.org.uk

Up The Doof

On the other side of the world... guess what happens when the demonstrations are anti-capitalist...

As Sydney prepares itself for protests around the Olympics, anti-corporate campaigners have been busy in Melbourne where the World Economic Forum (WEF) held its Asia Pacific Economic Summit earlier this week. The WEF is an annual corporate knees-up for political and business leaders, academics and media luvvies. (see SchNEWS 246). Their intentions are to strike up business deals, facilitate free trade and generally continue in the same vein as SchNEWS' other favourites the World Trade Organisation. In fact the idea of the WTO came out of a WEF get-together, so you get the idea of the kind of people they are.

Resistance to the conference was impressive, with umbrella group S11 organising early on and arranging counter-conferences and teach-ins. On Monday around 10,000 protestors successfully blockaded all entrances to the summit. According to a conference official, an estimated 200 of the 800 delegates never made it to the summit, whilst some of them had to be flown in by helicopter and others ferried down the river Yarra in small boats getting very wet in the process!

Police - inexperienced but supposedly wary of fanning the flames of Seattle-style unrest - attempted to force protestors apart with batons and brought in horses to storm the blockade lines. There were injuries on both sides - including two New Zealand Greens MPs - and some protestors were hospitalised. Despite all this the blockades were successfully maintained, mounting a serious obstacle to the conference. Everyone's favourite billionaire Bill Gates sadly had to cancel two of his speeches outside the conference including one to local schoolchildren. Later in the day bands and speakers took to the stage, and the day ended with a doof* when a sound system on the back of a truck rolled up.

For more reports of the WEF protests check out www.melbourne.indymedia.org For info and coverage of the Olympic Games protests look at www.sydney.indymedia.org or www.realgames.org

*SchNEWS Vocab-watch: doof - Aussie word for rave. (doof doof doof doof get it?)

SHACED UP

Four people from the Shut Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) are up in court later this month on serious charges relating to the campaign to shut down the torture laboratory.

The SHAC offices were raided in August, all computers were seized and all four held for ten days before being charged with conspiracy to cause GBH, conspiracy to cause incitement, conspiracy to cause harassment and conspiracy to endanger road users. (SchNEWS wonders if the police will be charging truckers and taxi-drivers who've been blocking roads across the UK with this same thing) All charges carry seven years in prison. Another woman who used a tripod to block the A1 is still seriously ill in hospital after a motorcyclist tied a rope to the tripod and drove off. Despite this the campaign to close Huntingdon is still really strong.

SHAC, PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 1UF, 0121 632 6460, www.welcome.to/shac

* There's a national demo outside Huntingdon this Saturday (16th), contact SHAC for info and transport details.

* Next Sunday (23) there's a National Protest and Rally against the New Labour's broken promises on animal rights. Meet 1pm Preston Park, Brighton.

Subscribe!

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

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

In The Spirit

Last weekend the SchNEWS mash-up massive went up the M1 to Luton-based Exodus Collective's annual Free the Spirit Festival. And had a great time. Here's a few reasons why:

1) The council saw fit to issue a cheap license. As the festival program put it, "the Free the Spirit Festival is designed to be an antidote to babylon clubs and money-motivated events". To cover the £20,000 it cost to pay for toilets, marquees, lighting at night, bin bags etc. people shook buckets and stall holders donated a percentage of their profits.

2) Community self-policing. Unbelievably, Bedfordshire police agreed to remain off site unless there was any major incidents. And no police on site makes a big difference to the feel-good freedom vibe - as well as saving a hefty wedge of policing costs. Once we realise it's down to us to make sure everyone has a good time, we're truly creating the culture we want to be a part of.

3) Discouraging drug dealing. Yes, people do get off their mash at festivals, but as the programme pointed out "one of the main causes of trouble of violence in all of our communities is money and the things people are prepared to do to acquire money. For this reason we ask those who take drugs to bring their own and not to either buy from dealers or be dealers. The aspiration which has born fruit in the Free the Spirit Festival is to provide an oasis from the money motivated society which surrounds us... If there are no buyers at the fez then there will be no dealers, lessening the chance of muggings and dodgy drugs."

4) Free community use of land. The land used for the festie belongs to the Marquess of Tavistock. Over the last couple of years Exodus have squatted the Marquess' land for their regular parties until they established a friendly dialogue with Lord Howland, the Marquess' son. Since these people own half of Bedfordshire they've got plenty of space for people to party on.

This isn't to say there it wasn't all sweetness and light. Free The Spirit has an 'inner-city' vibe that you just don't get at most 'alternative' events. But if we are ever gonna break out of our political ghettos then the Festival points the way. As Squall magazine put it "This year a new milestone has been reached which may have a significant affect on the rejuvenation of the free festival scene around the UK." And SchNEWS will party all night to that.

* There are plans next year for regional Free the Spirit festivals, based on the template that has worked such a treat in Luton. "In this way all regions of the UK will become empowered, no one festival will crack under the strain of popularity and the free festival scene will find good health once again" (from the program). Anyone wanting to be part of this should call 01582 508936 and leave a message.

For more on the Exodus crew check out www.squall.co.uk or send £7 to P.O. Box 8959, London N19 5HW for 6 issues of Squall download.

Inside SchNEWS

Mordechai Vanunu is now serving his 14th year of an 18 year prison sentence for spilling the beans on Israel's nuclear weapons. Recently Vanunu was sent to isolation for a week after a spot of misbehaviour. What did he do? Whilst out in the exercise yard he spotted a patch of sunshine, unfortunately in order to reach it he had to cross a red line which apparently was against the rules. Campaign to free Vanunu, 185 New Kent Road, London, SE1 4AG, 0207 378 9324, www.vanunu.freeserve.co.uk

There will be a 12 hour vigil for Vanunu on Sat 30 September to mark the day when he was captured. It will be at the Israeli embassy from 10am to 10pm. Please come and show your support.

SchNEWS in brief

Jose Bove, the French anti-globalisation campaigner, was sentenced to three months in prison on Wednesday for vandalising a half-built McDonald's last year. Bove said "The attack on McDonald's was justified and if I have to go to jail, that's not a problem for me". Three other protesters also in court received two month suspended sentences.** Get the appetite for Prague with an Anti-capitalist film night next Wednesday (20) showing MayDay, June 18th, Big Rattle in Seattle and Capitals III - protests at the World Bank in Washington. 8pm at Cinematique, 9-12 Middle St., Brighton £2/1.50 01273 384300 ** The benefit by the Mutiny Collective in Edinburgh, due take place on the 16th has been cancelled **The Civil Rights Caravan will be coming to Brighton on 23rd-24th. Call 01273 540717 for more info** On Monday 25th there's an Introductory meeting and social for home educated families and people interested in alternative methods of education. 1pm-5pm, Friends Meeting House, St Helen's Street, Derby. Tel 01332 200655 ** Some events happening on Saturday 30 September: Northern Anarchist Network Autumn festival and conference, 12:30pm, Bury Unemployed Centre, 12 Tithebarn Street ** Heaven on Earth: is utopia possible? A study of two utopian communities. A talk by Bryn Purdy at Scarthin Books Café, The Promenade, Cromford, Derbyshire 7:30pm, £2. Info 01629 823272 ** Demonstration and Rally in support and solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees Meet 11am, Wesley Square, Newcastle Quayside ** Sustainable Land use for Britain and Zimbabwe: An event for activists and researchers interested in land use campaigns including workshops and children's events, Easton Community Centre, Kilburn Street, Bristol £8/2** And don't forget the Carnival Against Capitalism in Chelmsford town centre, 7 October from 1pm. "Individuals and families come together for a no hassle celebration of the growing opposition to capitalism." Bring carnival gear, donations, help welcomed. 01245 420178 ** Get your hands on the new Activist Media Toolkit for info on writing press releases and creating alternative media, available for £2.50 from Oxyacetylene, 16B Cherwell St, Oxford OX4 1BA Tel: 07970 343486** Plus, Dumping the Pumps for Good Mass Cycle Rides, October 2, 7.30am from North London: Highbury Fields (near Highbury Corner); East London: London Fields, Hackney (by Hackney Town Hall); South East London: Peckham High Street, opposite northern end of Peckham Rye; South West London: Clapham Common (south side, next to Windmill Inn); West London: Shepherds Bush Green. Converging on Trafalgar Square 8.15-8.30am <http://come.to/londoncm/>

...and finally...

Scientists have been hearing this week of the chaos of Anarchic Hand Syndrome, one of neurology's most puzzling phenomena. Some cases of brain damage result in a hand doing the opposite of what its owner intended. One sufferer could only watch in dismay as her 'anarchist' hand picked up fish bones and stuffed them into her mouth; another couldn't watch telly cos no sooner had his right hand selected a station, the left hand would choose another. A third could only control her autonomous limb by yelling at it and hitting it. Unbelievable, aint it? Anarchists? Left hand not knowing what the right is doing? Surely not in the same paragraph...

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all those driven to take direct action to pump it up.

YOU'RE THE VOICE: S11



September 11-13th was the WEF Asian-Pacific Forum in Melbourne. If the delegates had achieved and built as much for the future as the resistance that arose to fight the forum, it would have been very successful. The fact was that two thirds of the delegates couldn't get in on the first day because 10,000 people were on the case, and that by the

third day 600 delegates had given up – so you'd have to say their shindig was a fizzer, and S11 a roaring success.

When the WEF decided to have a conference there, thinking it was a nice 'ol place to do it, little did they know that this was going to be the opportunity for the Aussies to demonstrate that 'resistance is as global as capital' down under as well. And what was set up to counter the forum – S11 – the web of connections, media and ethos, becomes infrastructure which can be used for further aims.

Amongst the myriad of autonomous groups, unions, campaigns and others that had a reason to be there, two groups featured strongly in the events of S11 – S11Alliance, and AWOL (Autonomous Web Of Liberation). It seems that the S11Alliance were dominated by two communist groups, the ISO and the DSP (International Socialist Organisation and Democratic Socialist Party) – and their big plans for the day were along the lines of talking into megaphones, getting a lot of unions involved, selling papers and attracting new members – and staging a big series of speeches outside the forum. Eventually a certain type of person stopped going to S11 Alliance meetings, having in mind consensus and autonomy rather than voting and hierarchies. This is how AWOL was formed and its mission became 'blockade and stop the forum' – but the first job was to hook up with the nebulus of groups all around the country ready to come together...

A huge number of people organised themselves into affinity groups and communicated through spoke councils. A S11 road show toured the east coast for two months, including dropping in on the Students and Sustainability Conference in Brisbane, and did heaps of workshops. This brought over 3000 people to Melbourne from all over the country including the twenty five cyclists – 'Cycle for Sustainability' – who rode over from Perth.

A lot of email lists, weekend forums, training sessions, watching Seattle and J18 videos by a wide range of groups ranging from unions to animal lib groups got people into gear. Publicity was generated with posters, graffiti, community media such as Access News, Ska-TV and radio 3CR, the forming of Melbourne Indymedia (which – along with Sydney Indymedia which was started for the Olympics is still alive and kicking!) and the www.s11.org webpage (somebody hacked the nike.com webpage and 900,000 people were automatically redirected to S11.org!)

On the 7th of September AWOL organised convergence centres and direct action, legal and medical training. On Sunday the 10th two alternative conferences were held with seminars from a variety of speakers including Indian eco-feminist Vandana Shiva.

MONDAY S11

The venue – the Crown Casino – had a cyclone fence around it with seven entrances. The police and government planned to keep Crown Casino open for gambling but protestors managed to block off several entrances very early in the morning. Many delegates just couldn't get through – protestors saw buses of delegates circling the casino for much of the morning, and helicopters were buzzing. Premier of Western Australia Richard Court (conservative) had attempted – against advice – to enter the conference by car: he found himself bailed up in his car for about an hour in the throng with an aboriginal dancing on the bonnet!

By afternoon the crowd swelled out to over 10,000 who enjoyed a street festival with puppet parades, street theatre, revolutionary valley girls, and a roving sound system. Food Not Bombs kept over 2,000 people fed. Hardly anyone in the crowd was into violence – and the age range was wide. A huge variety of groups were represented including the Falun Gong, Burmese, West Papua and East Timorese solidarity groups, Jubilee 2000, Snuff Puppets, and heaps more. Spray



painted slogans covered the complex. That evening protestors pissed themselves at Ska TV (similar to Undercurrents) footage of the two thirds empty conference centre.

TUESDAY S12

On the Monday night the WEF conference organisers told the chief of police 'get the delegates in or the conference is off' – so in the morning the cops began the day with gratuitous aggression trying to force delegates through: they attacked a group of seated protestors with batons, leaving 50 needing medical attention and 11 hospitalised.

During the day the S11 Alliance got to have their bit with the microphone, and at 11am 10,000 people came down for a union rally and speeches. But just as the union demo was breaking up the cops stupidly attacked one of the blockade points, and found themselves backing off when unionists to joined the ruck. About 3,000 or 4,000 people were back blockading the entrances – but the tension was much higher after the violence during the morning.

Vandana Shiva read a statement from inside the forum, while outside someone was nicked for spraying "We Love You Vandana".

After the majority of the crowd had dispersed an ugly scene occurred: Outnumbering the crowd 20 to 1 police baton charged the 30 people holding one of the gates, injuring 20. A police inquiry is being held about the incident. Legal observers estimate 90 per cent of officers had removed numbers.

WEDNESDAY S13

On the third day the conference was pretty much in tatters and apparently 600 delegates had decided to just give up and go to Sydney for the Olympics. The protest was fairly quiet because many people were injured, shocked or frightened of another police attack.

S13 highlighted the injustices on indigenous people and women by globalisation. Some incredible indigenous women spoke including Rebecca Bear Whigfield representing the Kupa Piti (Cooper Pedy) people who are fighting a nuclear waste dump on their land.

At midday protestors left the Casino and went off for a march into the city centre. A truck pumped out music with MCs rapping and speakers listing the corporate crimes of the companies in passing offices. Most cops remained at the Casino – but there was protection for McDonalds, Nike, and the Stock Exchange. 4000 Indymedia bulletins were handed out each day with stories of police violence, critiques of globalisation and the media coverage of s11. After the march about 5,000 encircled the casino and joined hands around it. With the pickets essentially abandoned, people were now just partying. It was during this phase when an unmarked cop car pushed into the crowd and ran over a woman – without stopping (she sustained serious injuries but survived).

AFTERMATH

It's predictable what the mainstream media said about the event, seeing as most of the media companies had delegates inside the forum. The S11 Alliance courted the media, who reported them as the 'leaders', and AWOL was rarely mentioned.

The clean-up bill for the graffiti was half a million bucks – so not a bad effort there. The legal team collected over 100 reports of illegal violence by the police during the forum.

After S11 there was a mixture of anger, shock, exhaustion, victory and 'what's next?' It may not be obvious for some time what the effects are but S11 bought a lot of people together – and reunited others – and the strength of the Aussie Mayday 2001 mass demos shows what they're building onto this.

www.melbourne.indymedia.org, www.dessertstorm.org,
www.antimedia.net/awol, www.s11.org, www.iratiwanti.org
thanks to Alex Kelly and James Hutchings

500,000

MAGNIFICENT CARIBOU

migrate every year to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as "America's Serengeti".



Well they can all fuck off somewhere else for their vacations now because we're gonna mine the refuge for oil.

They say that the Caribou go up to the far north part of the refuge each year to bear their young, away from predators like wolves and bears, which is kinda cute. But if they want the continuing privacy **TOUGH LUCK** - 'cos there's **OIL UP THERE** and they've just got themselves some new neighbors.

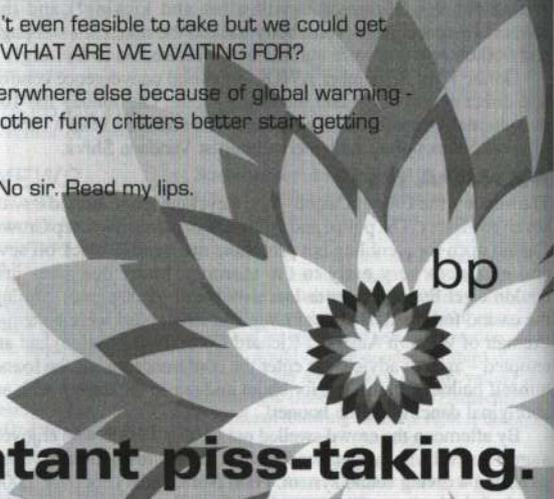
Now we know it's real cold up there and most of the oil isn't even feasible to take but we could get 2% of America's oil supply for a dozen years from there so **WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?**

Hell - with the Arctic hotting up three times faster than everywhere else because of global warming - those guys and their friends like the peregrine falcon, and other furry critters better start getting plan B into action! Try Siberia guys.

President George W Bush does not support the oil lobby. No sir. Read my lips. **HE IS THE OIL LOBBY.**



BP's Prudhoe Bay Oil Field - Alaska: Out on the frontier nobody knows what we're doing - except those damn caribou.



blatant piss-taking.

For centuries the Gwich'in people have co-existed with the caribou, but always forbid themselves from visiting and disturbing the sacred caribou calving grounds in the north of the refuge - until last summer - when a Gwich'in group finally visited the area to publicize the land threatened by oil exploration. Existing oil activity is already having a direct effect on caribou numbers, just as global warming is. www.cariboutrek.org



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER ANARCHIST FILTH

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 22nd September 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 276

Free/Donation

WASH 'N' DOUGH

Shock Energy Breakthrough: BP's recent corporate facelift - with the new floral emblem and the 'beyond petroleum' slogan - has helped them to find a great renewable source of energy: hot air!

An interesting by-product of the recent fuel blockage was that people got to see what towns and cities were like from the year dot up until recently- pleasantly car free. Companies like BP are taking these new challenges head on, or at least their PR department is. The company is leading the pack in the realisation that the dirty work can go on, but from behind a thick cloud of "we're-green" bullshit (also known as 'greenwash'). So to appease the public, and relieve the management of guilt, the trick is not to argue that black is white - it's to argue that both black and white are in fact different shades of green - the interests of business and conserving the environment are one and the same!

Oil and gas companies are trying to find any possible opportunity to differentiate their product and build up a 'brand'. And climate change (SchNEWS 263) provides just one such opportunity. Even as early as the late 1980s, BP pushed itself as THE environmental oil and gas company. At the same time as they were destroying large areas of rainforest in Brazil, BP responded to the rise in eco-consciousness with a £20 million re-imaging campaign, painting all its property green while advertising its annual report under the slogan 'Now We're Greener Than Ever'. As Corporate Watch magazine point out, "The image change is towards retailing, and renewables, but their production of oil is increasingly in areas of fragile eco-systems and indigenous peoples".

BP's latest move is to distance itself from the oil industry by withdrawing from this year's Global Climate Coalition, the US based pro-oil group rejecting cuts in emissions. The new image suggests they are moving into renewable energy and 'beyond petroleum' - into solar maybe? Well actually born-again BP merged with Amoco - who have huge gas deposits - to become BP-Amoco, moving together into natural gas, whereupon the name changed back to BP. SchNEWS hates to break more bad news, but the truth is that the money they're putting into petroleum far outstrips expenditure into green alternatives. BP plan to spend £200 million on renewable energy over the next 5 years, which is just a bit less than the £67 billion Amoco cost

'em two years ago or £6 billion that will go towards fossil fuel exploration worldwide. BP's main interests are in the North Sea, the Caspian Sea (an area of ongoing instability, and Alaska, while Columbia is just one place where they rub shoulders with military conflict.

In April of this year, BP chairman Sir John Browne showed how he'd arrived at enlightenment by joining with environmentalists to give one of the Reith lectures on how, er, green BP are going - the lecture must have lasted a cosy five minutes. And the virtual reality PR world has thrown up a whole new 'industry' - risk management. But the risks are not necessarily your company's toxic waste, but rather the public outcry it generates. There are media techniques used to minimise the fuss - like sympathising with the villagers next to your oil spill and treating them as victims of something which couldn't be prevented. A whole language of double-speak PR rhetoric has emerged, it's sometimes so sophisticated that it would appear that management in some corporations are now completely lost in their own lies. Next they'll be holding group tree-hugging sessions...

Slick Pitch

So what are the results of the oil companies' real exploits? Nowhere are the effects of global warming clearer than in the Arctic, where for the first time yer actual North pole is now without ice and the ice-pack on the Arctic Ocean is 40% thinner. Now we hope you won't be disappointed, but the key company in Arctic Alaska is... slippery BP.

Not content with this, BP have been contributing funds to US Senators and Congressmen who support the oil industry. They 'gave cash' to 34 of the 65 senators who voted to reject global warming restrictions and increases in funding for renewable energies. BP is a major funder of the pro-oil lobby group Arctic Power, which wants to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Two BP funded Alaskan senators are keen to open up the Refuge - America's Serengeti - to exploitation. One of them, Don Young, has said "If you think billions of oil will stay in the ground, you're smoking pot".

At immediate stake is the preservation of the Refuge, which is home to polar and grizzly bears, near extinct shaggy musk ox, moose, 150 species of migrating birds and the migrating caribou who trek 1000 miles to breed. Scientists are claiming that the

Arctic is warming up five times faster than the rest of the earth thanks to climate change. The region's indigenous people, the Gwich'in, fear for their ancestral land and the dwindling numbers of caribou whose breeding habits are affected by the oil activity. Last year two Gwich'in people, with the help of Greenpeace, successfully lobbied 13% of BP shareholders to vote against new oil production in the area and spend more on renewable energy sources. Despite this move in a (slightly) better direction, earlier this year BP had to pay a \$15 million fine for toxic waste dumping. BP Alaska's president Richard Campbell softsoaps in the company's environmental statement that their goal is 'quite simply no accidents, no harm to people, and no damage to the environment.' Sorry mate, you're in the wrong game.

* Read Sharon Beder's 'Global Spin: The Corporate Assault On Environmentalism' ISBN 1 870098 67 6.

* For the lowdown on BP get a copy of issue 11 of **Corporate Watch**, £3.50 from 16b Cherwell St, Oxford OX4 1BG or check out www.corporatewatch.org

* At the beginning of August, Greenpeace blockaded a barge to prevent it docking at BP's Northstar oil rig in Arctic Alaska. After two days of occupying the barge the Greenpeace ice ship MV Arctic Sunrise was used to block access to the platform. BP responded by taking out restraining orders on 25 people. This was after a camp was maintained in freezing conditions for two months trying to prevent the plant being built (SchNEWS 253). "It would cost nearly the same to build one large factory to mass-produce affordable solar panels as it would to build Northstar" said Melanie Duchin of Greenpeace Alaska. www.greenpeace.org

* Demonstrate against BP's investment in PetroChina (a subsidiary of a state owned Chinese business - China is a huge new market for the car industry) Friday 29th September, Britannic House, Finsbury Circus, London EC2 (nr Liverpool St) at 11 am. Contact Free Tibet Campaign 0207 833 9958.

* Dutch activists **Rising Tide** last week sunk an oil pipeline through the garden of a Dutch Shell executive and what happened, but an oily leak! Rising Tide is a new organisation set up to campaign at the forthcoming UN Climate Summit at the Hague in Holland 13-14 November. Contact Rising Tide c/o CRC, 16 Sholebroke Ave., Leeds, LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 www.squat.net/climate

Oil Say!

"While British motorists complain about the price of petrol, the exploitation of oil is a matter of life or death to many Khanty people" - Survival International

The 22,000 Khanty tribespeople of Siberia, reindeer herders and hunters, have a harsh existence which is further hampered by the Russian oil companies, predominantly Lukoil. The relentless pillage by the oil industry is responsible for the loss of their lands, livelihoods and ultimately their lives.

Since they hold no official documentation to prove ownership of their lands, the Khanty find themselves manipulated and deceived, bribed with promises of compensation which never arrive. Powerless to prevent the loss of their means of survival, many turn to alcoholism and suicide.

Survival International have just launched a campaign for the tribes of Siberia to have ownership and protection of their lands.

Survival International, 11-15 Emerald Street, London, WC1N 3QL, 0207 242 1441, www.survival-international.org

"In Colombia, wherever there has been oil development, violence and ecological disaster have followed," -Atossa Soltani, Amazon Watch

Columbia is one of the largest suppliers of oil to the US. Despite the fact that one oil pipeline in the country was bombed 99 times by guerrillas last year, the government is still pressing on with exploiting new reserves.

For 8 years the U'wa tribal people of northern Colombia have been fighting against the Colombian government and US oil giants Occidental, trying to stop them drilling on part of their sacred ancestral land (SchNEWS 244). Their protests are now receiving international support. In order to protect their image Occidental are claiming that the U'wa people weren't opposed to the exploration until their cause was adopted by environmental groups from Europe and America.

In March a Colombian judge ordered an injunction against the exploration because he felt the Indians had not been properly consulted about the project. But in May a new Interior Minister overturned this decision. Last week saw what could be one of the final episodes in the fight, when the Colombian government declared that if the U'wa people do not move off the disputed land they would be evicted within 7 days. Occidental has stated that they plan to sink the first exploratory well before the end of September. Keep up-to-date with this story at www.dunbar.org

Positive SchNEWS

Time banks are a new concept that trade in our most precious commodity - time. They store the time credits that people save by helping others or their community. So if one member spends an hour of their time helping another member they are then entitled to an hour of somebody else's time. There are now 15 time banks across the country. For more information on them visit www.timebank.org.uk, or contact the New Economics Foundation (NEF) at the address below.

A meeting about Time Banks is being held on Tuesday 17th October 7-9pm at the London School of Economics, Clement House, 99 Aldwych, London (nearest tube Holborn), £12.50 including a complimentary book 'No more throw away people'. Tickets available from NEF at Cinnamon House, 6-8 Cole St, London, SE1 4YH Tel: 020 7407 7447 www.neweconomics.org

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS in brief

Next week it's the big one with the IMF and World Bank meeting in Prague on the 26th, and so there will be no SchNEWS cos we're all...er, going on holiday. But we'll be back with a double issue telling you dear readers all about our travels. Travel Warning: some people are being turned away from the Czech borders; when crossing, don't carry flags, banners etc. If you have any problems call +420 604 556309 or +420 604 456 176. For the latest on the protests as they happen check out www.indymedia.org.uk ** As part of the Global day of action there are activities planned in Glasgow. Meet St Enoch Square at noon. Contact Global Action Scotland, PO Box 3811, Glasgow G42 8ZU 07932 543074

** Free Cannabis in the Park and Smokey Bears picnic, Saturday 30th High Noon Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park, London, nearest tube Marble Arch ** Schwoops! The National Animal Rights Protest Rally in Brighton against the New Labour conference is on Sat 23 meet 1pm Preston Park (A23) ** On Saturday 30th there's a Conference on the Private Finance Initiative. (see SchNEWS 210) organised by the Welsh Socialist Alliance 02920 830029 ** On the same day there's an Alternatives in Education Fair at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1 (nearest tube Holborn) organised by Human Scale Education 01275 332516 ** October 1st is International Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day. Come and photograph the scene of the crime at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment 12 noon onwards. Bring your favourite police/detective outfit, help create a 'scene of the crime' exhibition/workshop in the afternoon on the illegality of Trident. Meanwhile this week, two women were cleared of one charge of criminal damage to nuclear sub HMS Vengeance in Barrow in Feb of last year - they painted "Death machine" and "Illegal" on the side - but are still waiting to find out whether they'll be cleared of a charge of smashing the instrument panel. 01639 700680 camp phone 07808 553778 www.gn.apc.org/aldermastonwpc ** Meanwhile on the 7th there's a Global day of action against the Militarisation of Space outside Menwith Hill Spy Base. Contact Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, 8 Park Row, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1HQ 01943 466405 www.gn.apc.org/cndyorks/caab/ ** Nonviolence workshop and planning meeting for direct action against the economic sanctions on Iraq Oct 8th 11am - 5pm at Kingsley Hall Community Centre, Powis Road, London E3 (near Bromley-by-Bow tube station) Voices in the Wilderness 01865 243232 voices@vivuk.freereserve.co.uk ** There's a rally against the Terrorism Act on Wednesday 11th October. Meet midday outside the Welsh National Assembly, Cardiff. Contact Repeal The Terrorism Act, c/o Ty Gwydr, 1 Rhos Trevelyan, Bangor 01248 355821 email bangorwerdd@egroups.com ** From the 10-14 catch 'Crying in the Chapel' a play based on the Strangeways prison riots at the Contacts Theatre, Manchester, 0161 236 4924 ** And don't forget on the 14th the Anarchist Bookfair 10 am - 6pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London (nearest tube Holborn) <http://freereserve.virgin.net/anarchist.bookfair> ** On the same day there's a Reclaim The Streets Party in Bath meet 12 noon @ the Circus www.geocities.com/bathfin ** And on the same day in Birmingham a march and rally against McDonalds. Meet noon Bull Street. Email brumactionalliance@hotmail.com ** For more dates check out Party and Protest on the SchNEWS website.

Race Against Time

With an increase in fascist activity and consequent racist attacks in Leicester, anti-fascists there have organised an awareness raising benefit gig on the 29th Sept at the "Y", East Street, opposite the railway station. Four bands will be playing - F.B.I., The Splitters, Schkmpf, and the Duppy Conquerors, as well as DJs from Genghis Hi-Fi and the Easy Sound System.

Leicester has a history of standing up to the racists in recent years. This same militancy needs to be restored, as the fascists are once again making headway in the city. Crunch, who are organising the gig, are an example of this new mood of fight back, with all the artists doing it for free - even the club are not charging a fee. Gig starts at 8pm till 2am, tickets £4/£2.50 concs. All money raised will go to refugee charities. www.listen.to/crunch

* If you're in the area get along to the Leicester Radical Alliance on the 26th, a broad based alliance of socialists, greens and anarchists, at the Secular Hall, 7.30pm

* The 4th of October is the anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, when in 1936 3000 fascists, protected by 6000 cops, tried to march in the East End of London. 25,000 locals weren't having it, and blocked Cable Street to stop them marching. There's a really good booklet about this incident called "The Battle of Cable Street 1936: A People's History", which not only covers the battle but also Britain and the East End at the time, Jewish immigration and anti-semitism, the Spanish Civil War and the far right after 1936, available from Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London. E 1 7QX price £3.99.

* The Civil Rights Caravan is visiting towns and cities across the country, holding pickets, public meetings and concerts, in solidarity with asylum seekers and victims of racism. They'll be in Brighton this Saturday (24), Sheffield (29) Newcastle (30). For dates in October call 020-7837 1450/ 07957-240755 or check out www.ncrm.org.uk/caravan. They've also organised a national demonstration on the anniversary of the death of Ricky Reel (SchNEWS 232) on the 14th October. Meet 1pm at the Embankment, London.

...and finally...

"No barley in, No beer out" is the slogan of a new campaign group that has been set up with the intention to bring the country (or at least the SchNEWS office) to it's knees. Angry boozers around the country this week vowed to Dump the Pub if the government doesn't reduce alcohol tax. Unlike those whinging drivers you've got to admit they've got a point. At least petrol taxes get spent on roads, how much of alcohol tax gets spent on pubs? With at least one rural pub calling time every day the campaign are calling for some of the £10 billion revenue from alcohol tax robbed from us each year to be spent on building new pubs, or refurbishing old ones. A spokesman for the campaign stated that "we pay about 66 percent tax on the price of beer, so for every £10 you spend on a night out, you're giving the government nearly an extra £7 out of your own pocket!! For every three pints you buy for yourself, you buy two pints for Gordon Brown. Mr Brown - buy your own!!!"

Of course it would be impossible to dump the pub for good, so the campaign is running a weekly boycott on Mondays, which still sounds pretty drastic. Check it out at www.DumpThePubs.com

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all dirty lying scam corporations greenwash washes out with new improved SchUDSO powder. Honest

The Real Ambassadors

Protests competed with sports for headlines at the Sydney Olympics. Threats to disrupt the Games began before Sydney won the bid in 1993 over Australia's right to be hosts and the vast amount of public and private money to be poured into the event. Most prominent were indigenous Australian groups objecting to Australia's human rights record especially compared to Beijing who lost the bid by one vote. Although the actual protests were not as large or as unified as touted by the media, the very threat of them ensured that indigenous representation, was placed firmly on the Olympic agenda, although the longed-for long-term outcomes remain to be seen.

Into The Arena

Aboriginal Australians continue to suffer a disproportionate share of social injustice. They live, on average, 20 years less than other Australians, have an infant mortality rate five times higher, have a one in four chance of being under-nourished; an unemployment rate four times the national average, nearly half of those aged 20-24 are unemployed and juveniles are detained in juvenile justice centres at 20 times the national rate (Sydney Morning Herald, 22/2/2000). Added to these concerns is the lack of an official apology for 'The Stolen Generation' - a term given to the children removed from their families as part of government assimilation policies; sovereignty and indigenous land rights, environmental injustices such as mining operations, nuclear testing and waste dumping on Aboriginal reserves; Aboriginal deaths in custody and mandatory sentencing laws in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Protests were organised around the Olympic period to utilize the world media stage to draw attention to these injustices, to show the world that not everyone lives like Cathy Freeman, and to shame the current government into addressing these issues in an so-called era of 'reconciliation'.

Different Events

An offshoot from the Canberra Tent Embassy set up in Victoria Park on July 14 after an Aboriginal stand at a weekend multicultural festival failed to leave... until late October. Isabelle Coe and others teamed up with the Indigenous Student Network, with help from trade unions and ATSIC to make the embassy the focus of Olympic protest. Hundreds visited the embassy from across the state, nation and overseas. Many were Indigenous from different groups in Australia, as well as from New Zealand, Fiji, other Pacific Islands, Canada and the US. Uncle Kevin Buzzacott of the Arabunna people and his co-walkers finished a 1500 mile 'walk for peace and justice' from Lake Eyre and then decamped to Kurnell (Botany Bay) to 'cleanse' the land of the first landing. Students, activists, artists, S11 protesters, locals, international media, tourists, police officers - yes, even NSW Commissioner Peter Ryan visited the embassy to be smoked in a healing ceremony at the sacred fire. Police relations with the camp were reportedly good, with police interventions in court cases with South Sydney Council enabling the embassy to stay for the Olympic period. This came with certain conditions and of course meant that the police had protesters under surveillance and un-

der control. However, most people were happy that, for once, the police were working co-operatively with Aboriginal people, in a respectful manner, to support a peaceful camp located in a very visual and accessible place (which also of course demonstrated to the world media just how democratic and open Australia really is...).

With the switch from 'protest site' to 'site for peace and justice', few 'angry' protests were organized from the embassy. However, several 'peace and healing walks' in and around central Sydney, to Prime Minister Howard's Sydney abode and along the harbour drew hundreds of participants and onlookers. Meanwhile, Isobell's sister Jenny Munro and husband Lyall organized more protests. These were separate from the embassy, which as chair of the local Aboriginal Land Council, Jenny opposed on the grounds that Isobell had not sought permission from local Elders. The first action - an 'airport chain of protest' gained much publicity, but failed to attract any local protesters and was abandoned. The second more successful action was a march led by Lyall on the day of the opening ceremony which was boosted when a couple of hundred from the tent embassy joined up to march on the state parliament building.

Most successful was the controversial Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Olympic Park, coordinated by Jenny. Repeated threats by Olympic organizers to cancel the centre's contract if its content was 'political' rather than 'cultural', (presumably by this they mean dot paintings/didgeridoo's - good... alternative truths - bad) were foiled. A series of panels gave a pro-Aboriginal view (text by Henry Reynolds) of the invasion and continual colonization of the land now known as Australia. For example, 'Frontier Tactics' illustrated the practice of Anglo-Australians knowingly giving disease-infected blankets to Aboriginal people. The only cultural centre in Olympic Park, it drew large and interested crowds every day.

Image or Reality?

This, combined with imagery from the tent embassy, and 'the almost-but-not-quite-bulldozed Block' in Redfern, provided stark contrasts to the spectacle of the opening ceremony, with its glorification of 'Outback' pioneers and the development of Australia. It also contrasted with the media hype surrounding Aboriginal athlete Cathy Freeman - the beacon of hope for all Australians - that *anyone* can achieve their dream, even rise above racism (although it helps if they work hard and happen to have incredible talent).

However, the Olympics were a funny thing, with threats of protest, organizers were forced to address Indigenous demands of appropriate representation. We thus saw an Indigenous Advisory Committee to SOCOG set up (although the members claimed it was mainly tokenism), the prominent positioning of Indigenous flags alongside the Australian flag, photogenic Aboriginal ceremonies to open the Games Village and Cultural festival, the



Isabelle Coe at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, 23th August. Pic: Tess Penl

acknowledgement of traditional owners of the land by Samaranch at the opening and closing ceremonies, and various musicians in the closing ceremony wearing Aboriginal flags, singing land-rights songs and even, in the case of Midnight Oil wearing suits emblazoned with the word 'Sorry'. What does all this mean - is this cultural imagery a signifier of radical change in Australian-Indigenous relations - or is it just... imagery?

Onward Journey

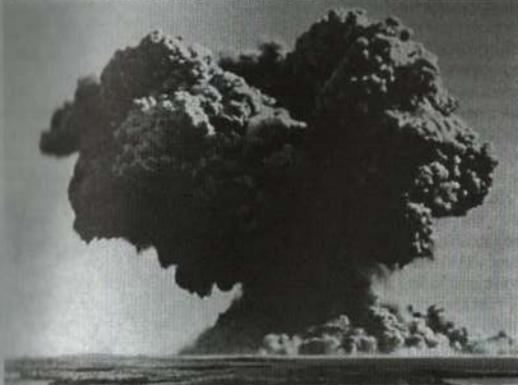
I don't know. It certainly provoked questions and discussion. The protesters views seemed mixed, some wished for more direct and in-her-face action, others were happy not to have lost credibility and support from the majority population. Most thought there would be little real change, especially in terms of issues of sovereignty. What people did take though was a little more knowledge and inner strength. From Victoria Park, many took ashes from the sacred fire to their home areas. A new consulate on Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour has been set up Isobell Coe to continue to remind people of the injustices that still continue. She can be contacted at: cockatooisland@hotmail.com

louise_everly@hotmail.com



Taking the sacred flame, water and earth to 'cleanse the land' on the Walk for Peace & Justice. Pic: Louise Everly

DREAMING LAND OR NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE LAND



With the legacy of post-war bomb testing in the desert, large deposits of uranium (30% of known world supply) and the threat of an escalating mining industry, a fight rages in the desert and cities of Australia against the nuclear threat: to prevent the horrors of radioactivity, against multinational exploitation, and to protect Aboriginals land rights in the face of mines on their land. So sit back, get comfortable, and endure a crash-course rundown on the main Aussie nuclear sagas...

It starts immediately after the war when the British decided that traditional peoples' land in the South Australian desert at Maralinga and Emu Junction would be a great spot for some n-bomb testing. The British soldiers apparently 'looked away' during the blasts as they handed the local Aboriginals blankets, but this caper was snuffed out by the 1963 partial test-ban treaty.

Just as the dust was settling on this, the 1960s and 70s saw giant uranium deposit discovered - mostly in the outback of Western Australia (WA), South Australia (SA) and Northern Territory (NT).

Up until 1996 only hard campaigning, some legislation and some bad publicity (Three Mile Island, Chernobyl etc) kept this potentially lucrative mining industry from taking off, but the recent conservative government has been keen to exploit this resource, and more recently the threat of global warming has seen a cynical re-appearance of the nuclear lobby...

(And before we go any further let's dispel that myth about nuclear power - it is not a solution to global warming because the refining process generates large amounts of CO2, the fact of the waste being dangerous for up to 500,000 years aside).

THREE MINE POLICY

In the early 1970s - at the rise of this new industry - a federal inquiry saw the need to limit it and only gave conditional approval for three mines to proceed: Ranger and Jabiluka in World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park, NT, and Nabalek within the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Reserve, NT and soon after Ranger and Nabalek began mining. When the Labour Party (ALP) came to power in 1983 with a pledge to limit and ultimately phase out uranium mining, they introduced the 'three mine policy' - keeping to the three mines already in place: Ranger, Nabalek, and Roxby Downs (Olympic Dam) in SA. Plans for all other proposed mines were immediately shelved (wot - a Labour Party keeping an electoral promise?) and the idea was to phase out the industry after the three were finished.

But when John Howard's coalition (conservative 'liberal') was elected in 1996, they immediately scrapped the 'three mines policy' and open the gate for the nuclear cowboys to return. Queuing up were the likes of Rio Tinto, Western Mining Corporation and others. Immediately Jabiluka, Beverley, Honeymoon and other mines were back on the agenda.

BEVERLEY MINE

On the land of the Adnyamathanha people, 520 kilometres north of Adelaide, South Australia, is the Beverley Mine - opened in 2000. Run by Heathgate Resources Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of American military giant, General Atomics, this mine is setting up a worrying precedent for other mines in Australia - using the technique called 'in situ leaching' (ISL): the uranium is dissolved out of underground water by pumping in a highly toxic acid (in this case sulphuric acid), and sucking the uranium out of the groundwater through giant bores. This allows poisonous and radioactive water to then irreversibly soak into surrounding land. Heathgate are not contractually obliged to clean up the water body or repair environ-

mental damage which of course would be impossible anyway. Using sulphuric acid in this way is banned in the rest of the OECD but that doesn't trouble Heathgate unduly.

In early May 2000 the international Earth Dream group reached the site and conducted a series of stop-work actions in conjunction with the Adnyamathanha people and the Flinders Range Environmental Action Collective (FREAC). The police were overly aggressive: "I was arrested wrongfully and forcefully. I was [pepper] sprayed at close range, directly at my face and locked in a paddy wagon [police van] with two other women, one of whom was asthmatic. The officer involved said 'I wonder what would happen if some of this accidentally got in here'. He then proceeded to fill the confined space with pepper spray, seal us inside, and leave us for close to one hour in the direct sun, without fresh air, water or assistance. I have never felt such pain or fear for my health before." -Sophia Hanson, protestor. Thirty one people were locked in an airtight shipping container after their

Police spraying mace - or is it insect repellent?
Beverley Mine actions, May 2000



JABILUKA

Located within the famous Kakadu National Park, on land which has a Native Title held by the Mirrar people, Jabiluka is the most infamous uranium mine proposal in Australia. The land has World Heritage listing for both its environment and indigenous culture. Over 600 people have been arrested at Jabiluka during actions, including a seven month mass blockade in 1998 which saw 1000's of protesters coming up to the remote location. Originally developed by Energy Resources Australia, no work has been done there since September 1999, and it has now been sold to Rio Tinto. In a recent breakthrough RT are trying to flog the mine onto to COGEMA, and have come out publicly saying that - due to public and legal opposition - the mine 'may not be viable'. Gundjehni Aboriginal Jaqui Katona is coming to London soon to protest against Jabiluka at the RT AGM.

PANGEA

Pangea Resources Pty Ltd - a corporation funded by the global nuclear industry to find solutions to the world's growing nuclear waste stockpiles - have a plan to store 20% of the world's nuclear waste over 40 years (76,000 metric tonnes) in an underground [deep geological disposal] structure somewhere in central Western Australia. After this time the responsibility for the dump would no longer be their's. Well who's then? Not only would the dump be an ongoing hazard, so would the transportation of the spent fuel via ship and rail to the remote site. The choice of location for the dump in central WA is apparently because of the considered geological stability of the spot, oh and the fact that it's a long way from the northern hemisphere. This plan only came to light when a secret promotional video was discovered by FOE UK and alarm bells were rung in Australia. The major backer giving \$A15 million a year to the project are these people called err... BNFL! [British Nuclear Fuels Ltd] After 50,000 people signed a petition, the WA State Government passed a law prohibiting international waste storage but this could be overturned by Federal legislation.

In the dump's defence, Charles McCombie, Technical and Strategic Adviser to Pangea Resources said: "This waste is actually a high quality product, not rubbish off the back of a lorry. In fact, it is often a quality assured value added product. Before you can put it in a hole, it is enclosed in a copper canister, which costs something like US\$200,000. So you can call the facility what you like, But it is not just a dump." Well that's alright then.

Don't touch this photograph - this is highly radioactive dirt - in the open air. Yeelirie WA



YEELIRIE

This is the largest body of uranium ore in WA - discovered and developed by Western Mining Corp (WMC) with partner Esso since 1972 - but currently the site of a disastrous nuclear mess. An open-cast pit was dug up and a plant built, but after the three mine policy WMC simply abandoned the site in 1984 - leaving 35,000 tonnes of radioactive rock stockpiled in the open air on a pastoral station in central WA! As you read this more nuclear dust blows in the wind. The radiation levels from the exposed rocks are fifty six times above normal, and the remaining open-cut pits - now filled with water - are all fifty times above normal radiation levels. Animals drink from this water, and these new 'ponds' have been used recreationally without being sign-posted as radioactive. In 1997 WMC were ordered to 'clean up', which amounted to putting up signs and fences around the most contaminated bits. There is no turning back for the radioactive material as it enters the food chain via plants and animals, soaks into the water table, and is wind-blown. "We been fighting for Yeelirie. The sacred ground is each side of Yeelirie. 'Yeelirie' is white man's way of saying. Right way is 'Youlirie'. Youlirie means 'death', Wongi [Aboriginal] way. Anything been shifted from there means death. People have been finished from there, early days, all dead, but white fella can't see it" - Wongi tribesperson.

LUCAS HEIGHTS

Since 1958 there has been a 'research' nuclear reactor only 27 km SW from the centre of Sydney - well within the metropolitan area of the city. This facility is soon to be closed down - and replaced by something much bigger, and expensive - in the name of curing cancer! Yes, this will produce medical isotopes - for radio-therapy. Evidently these isotopes can be produced without needing a reactor, and the Argentinian company awarded the job (Invap) have previously been dragged into the Federal Court of Justice in Patagonia for allegedly conducting illegal tests with a prototype nuclear reactor. All this is going on in a population centre. The waste for this project is set for a shallow burial dump in South Australia's far north. The Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta, senior Aboriginal women, represent the Antikarinya-Yunkunytjatjara and Kokatha peoples whose country and culture is threatened by the

dump. For over a decade they have been saying "We know the country. We know the stories of the land. We're worrying for our kids. We say NO radioactive waste dump in our ngura - in our country" These people are well qualified to speak of the dangers of nuclear waste, surviving the atomic tests in the 50's.

OLYMPIC DAM (A.K.A. ROXBY DOWNS)

Olympic Dam is the biggest uranium mine in the world. A 'deep shaft extraction' mine, featuring an enormous 75 hectare, 30 metre deep, radioactive, artificial 'pond'. The work of Western Mining Corporation (WMC) in central South Australia, they are running this diabolical operation on the land without the consent of its indigenous people, and using up precious water - WMC is licensed to extract 42 million litres a day from the Great Artesian Basin (G.A.B), free of charge. The sacred Mound Springs of Lake Eyre South rely on the G.A.B. for survival, and are subsequently drying up. In 1994 5 million cubic metres of radioactive liquid leaked from the dam, but WMC weren't made to clean it up.



KEEPERS OF LAKE EYRE

In March 1998 Kevin Buzzacott of the Arabunna people - a local of the area surrounding the site - issued an 'eviction notice' to WMC about Olympic Dam and begun the 'Keepers Of Lake Eyre' protest/peace camp within proximity of the dam. This camp has been trashed twice by WMC security guards; Uncle Kev and 'mob' have retaken the site each time but still suffer almost daily harassment by WMC security. Water is precious in the desert - and

WMC keep denying the camp water despite their numerous bore-holes. These bore-holes are the target of 'pixieing'. In June 2000 Uncle Kev led a group on a 3,000 km peace walk to Sydney - visiting other Aboriginal communities - arriving for the protests and ceremonies coinciding with the Aboriginal tent embassy in Sydney and the Olympics. www.come.to/lakeeyre

For more good nukes visit:

www.anawa.org.au - WA and national stories; www.iratiwanti.org - kupa piti kungka tjuta; www.mirror.org - mirror people; www.lakeeyre.greenet.au - lakeeyre/roxby; www.sea-us.org.au - sustainable energy and anti-uranium service.



Mirrar people protesting against Jabiruka mine - on their land. Kakadu, NT.

If the Romans used Nuclear Power



We'd still be minding their waste



"I'm looking for a bank that gives a dam."



The World Bank.

Our calling card is a drowning child.

PRAGA

S-26 2000



www.bristol.org.uk

Reclaim the street...signs! The Bristol posse point themselves in the right direction for Prague.

CLOSES CORPORATE LOCKS

LOCTOUT SUPER GLUE

HIGH PERFORMANCE INSTANT EMPOWERMENT

GUM UP THE POLLUTERS

IDEAL FOR:
 SHUT-OUTS ✓
 LOCK-ONS ✓
 OFFICE OCCUPATIONS ✓
 PREVENTING CORPORATE COLLAPSE ✓

LOCTOUT SUPER GLUE 5g e
 HIGH PERFORMANCE
 INSTANT EMPOWERMENT

5g

www.counterfeet.org.uk

UNITE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION S26

21-28 SEPT.

No TO THE IMF AND WORLD BANK

IN PRAGUE 2000

inpeg.ecn.cz



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER PRAGUEMATIC

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 6th October 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 277

Free/Donation

CZECH MATE!

"Don't worry, they won't get anywhere near us here, there's 11,000 police and only 5,000 protesters... I think we can safely ignore them today"- IMF delegate, Sept. 26- morning!

Another international day of carnival against capitalism. This time in Prague. Cameras rolled, the TV showed the usual tear-gas riot scenes and McDonalds got its customary kicking. But what didn't make the news was that across the globe 45 cities in 20 countries took part in solidarity actions against the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). What hardly got mentioned were the hundreds of people stopped from entering the Czech Republic or those beaten up and abused in police stations. And of course conveniently ignored was why thousands of people took to the streets of Prague last week. But don't worry yer SchNEWS crew were there to give you some nuggets of truth.

FAT CATS & CHUBBY CZECHERS

Maybe it was a bit of an ambitious demand: "We will lay siege to the World Bank and IMF until they dissolve themselves."

But with the Conference abandoned a day early and the previous day's meetings poorly attended, there's no doubt that last week's mass demonstrations in Prague were a success.

SchNEWS was lucky enough to talk with a 'mole' who spent the day inside the Conference Hall, chatting with delegates over champagne and canapes. One IMF employee told our insider, "I don't care about anything really... apart from how good the food is when I go out on missions to third world countries. You must be very bored if you are interested in the World Bank." Bored? Fifteen thousand people coming together from all over the planet to lay siege to institutions that have been blamed for "harming more people than any other non military organisations in human history", (David Korten, People Centred Development Forum). Boredom doesn't really come into it.

The protests were also a success because they drew attention to institutions that have thrived on anonymity. As the chairman of the World Bank inspection panel told our mole, "The only thing the World Bank is afraid of is publicity. These protesters are creating that." Another, a Deutsche Bank employee from New York, was even more frank: "The protesters are right of course. We are just interested in the money. The World Bank and IMF are just helping peo-

ple like us to cream it in. Isn't it great?"

The protests were also a success because they give the poorer countries more courage to stand up and complain about what the IMF/World Bank are doing to them. One told our mole, "It's great to see them here. These protests definitely help us in our fight." Another Southern delegate added, "These protests are the inevitable result of policies being imposed on the world like a religion. Thatcherism has led to this. G7 governments and especially the US are responsible. In G7 countries there are still some safety nets for the poor but in the South, which has almost no voice, there is less and less for the poor. That's why it's great to see the young Europeans doing this. It's the only way."

TEARIN' UP THE CZECHS!

Up to fifteen thousand people mobilised from every corner of the planet; Bologna's Michelin-man stylee Ya Basta! mingled with Czech Solidaritska, Catalonia's CNT and blocs from Poland, Germany, Greece and beyond. Latin Americans, Bangladeshis and Maoris traded resistance tips as the sound system kicked in. Groups divided into yellow, blue and pink-silver blocks and approached the Conference Centre from different directions. As the groups got near to the police lines all hell broke loose, with protestors trading cobblestones with stun grenades, tear gas and water cannons. The bankers couldn't get out, and we couldn't get in, and eventually delegates were taken out by underground - probably the first time a lot of them would have used public transport for a while.

As darkness ebbed in, the remaining pink and blue crew wove their way northwards through the valley to meet the Italians who had blockaded the Opera house - the southern European anarchists obviously crav-

ing some higher culture after a hard day's street fight. However, the opera got cancelled and the bankers instead headed to the city limits for a banquet. These people really are down with world's poor! Protesters drifted to Wenceslas Square, scene of the Velvet Revolution, where ten regular cops stood sheepishly in front of a beckoning McDonald's. Within a minute and a half it received its ritual trashing. KFC followed suit, and by the time the IPB Bank got its share of broken paving stones several dozen Prague locals had joined in to reclaim a little power from the bankers who had foreclosed their business or refused them loans to feed their families.

The riot police took their time getting there; just enough damage was done before the cops ran riot and the crowd melted away to pubs with decent prices...

The next day you couldn't move in Prague without being pounced on by police. The WB/IMF cancelled the last day's meetings saying it was nothing to do with the protests. Honest guv, it was just that they had nothing more to talk about...

"And as the delegates peer over the side of their ill-protected fortress at the crowds below, scanning signs that say "Capitalism Kills," they look terribly confused. Didn't these strange people get the memo? Don't they understand that we all already decided that free-market capitalism was the last, best system?"- Naomi Klein

CZECH IT OUT: IT'S NOT JUST US WHO THINK THEY STINK...

* In 1997 the World Bank's Jakarta office commissioned an internal study of corruption in its lending programmes to Indonesia, confirming complaints that shoddy accounting practices have allowed Indonesian officials to steal as much as 30 per cent of the Bank's loans over the past 30 years - over \$8 billion in total!

* Even according to the Bank's latest Annual Review of Development Effectiveness (1999), "poverty trends have worsened". Excluding China, there are 100 million more poor people in developing countries than a decade ago. And since 1990 life expectancy has declined in 33 countries.

*It's 55 years since the Bank and the IMF first sprang to life. How long do they want before they get it right?

SchNEWSnight: Prague S26

Featuring: *Suits and Savages*, a video of why the World Bank won't save the world

Hot off the press! *Undercurrents* footage of the action from Prague Frontline *eyewitness reports* Party Possible psychedelic trance DJs

Weds 11th Oct 9pm - 2am

@ The Enigma, Ship St

Donations on the door to Czech activists arrested

©ANTI-COPYRIGHT - INFORMATION FOR ACTION

To those who asked "But what would you put in the place of the IMF and World Bank?", veteran campaigner and author Susan George replied "And what would you put in the place of cancer?"

DON'T BELIEVE US? LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE WORLD BANK AND IMF DECISIONS

BULGARIA

Yer roving SchNEWS reporters mingled with dissidents from all over the world, finding out just what effects the World Bank and IMF have in different countries. A Bulgarian activist told us the IMF's flagship project in his country is a giant privatised copper plant - which just happens to be the most notorious example of ecologically damaging industry in the country. There are absolutely no official checks of the water or air quality surrounding the plant, but independent tests carried out by a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) revealed that all 10 local rivers in the area are now completely dead - the result of huge arsenic and acid pollution. Despite representing an NGO, the day before the conference opened the activist was still waiting for his 'accreditation' - the document supposedly giving dissenting voices access to the decision makers of global capitalism. What did he think of the much-heralded 'democratisation' of the IMF? "It's all 'good words' - but as far as I can see, nothing has changed" he said. "If it's impossible to sit down and discuss and change things, then there is this other way to go out and say 'guys, there's a lot of people who don't agree with these decisions and these projects'. Maybe this is why the street actions are good".

CAMEROON

Jeff Napoleon Barmangel is from Global Village Cameroon, a West African NGO concerned with environmental protection and sustainable development, with emphasis on renewable energy. "The World Bank invests only in fossil fuel projects" he says. "They should consider the alternatives". The Cameroon government has been trying to overhaul the country's electricity network; at present, only 5% of rural areas have electricity. Jeff himself missed his intended flight to Prague because he couldn't photocopy necessary documents due to a power shortage. He told us how the country has great potential for small, environmentally-friendly, micro-hydro electricity generation: There has been a pilot project, realised by local technicians with limited funds. "If there is enough investment, financial assistance and technical support, this can spread" says Jeff. "This is why we are saying that the Bank should differ from commercial banks and think about sustainable development. That was the original mission. That is why the Bank should invest in projects like rural electrification and other renewables, what with global warming and climate change." But does the World Bank

want to know? Their flagship project in Cameroon is the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline; 1070 km long, it will link the Chad oilfields with off-shore loading facilities on the Cameroon coast. The Bank hails this as a model for public and private sector partnership, which will, in theory, 'transform oil revenues into direct benefits for the poor'. Jeff says "This money...is supposed to help poor countries improve their situation. This project will benefit no-one but multi-national companies and the local elites...This pipeline will pass through rainforests full of indigenous people and rare species. Pipeline workers will hunt them to extinction." Jeff's scepticism is well founded. The poor are unlikely to see any money generated by the pipeline. The oil producing region of Chad is a political tinderbox which has seen government soldiers shoot dead hundreds of unarmed civilians in recent years and Cameroon has been listed for two years in a row as the most corrupt country in the world. In both countries, human rights are routinely abused and environmental destruction is rife. The pipeline

COLUMBIA

"Our movement is called Indigenous Authorities of Columbia" said a protester in traditional costume. "We're here primarily to protest against third world debt and also against the constant loss of resources, of precious metals and against deforestation which has cost indigenous villages throughout South America dearly. They have lost their thoughts, their identity, everything." Did he feel it had been worth the long journey to fight the World Bank? "Yes, I'm happy because we've found allies; we've made allegiances with people from around the world from Africa, Asia, India. Europeans too, all together, a mass of people fighting for the same cause. Looking around this crowd of people, I'm very happy that we need not feel alone. We all have the courage to fight for our rights."

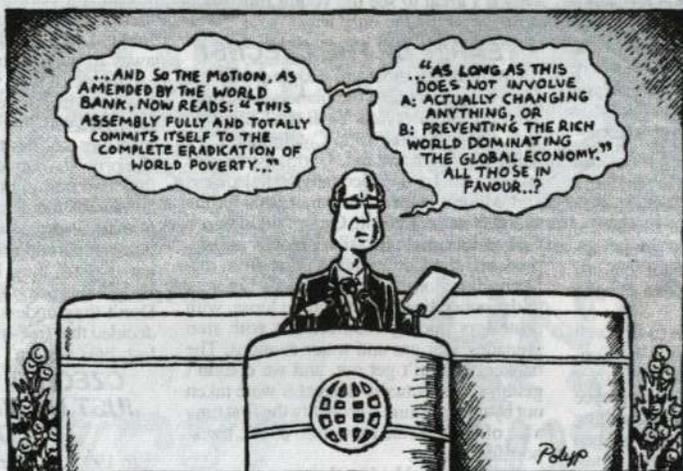
ECUADOR

"We say that the IMF, the World Bank, the international corporations are OUR debtors. They owe US because they are destroying life in our countries and have thus created an ecological debt." The woman from Ecological Action Ecuador (EAE), in Prague representing an alliance of Amazon villagers, was damning in her description of IMF involvement in her country.

"They demand repayment of debt and lay down conditions. One is 'liberalisation' - we have to relax our environmental laws to allow privatisation of state owned institutions. So, for example, the IMF is demanding that our government allow it to mine and develop in protected natural areas, like national parks and even in villages themselves. They want to privatise everything, even water. We don't want to be made prisoners. If we sell everything then our children and grandchildren will have nothing." Hence

EAE's claim that the global money men owe it to the poor to take responsibility for their actions and fulfil the demands of the powerless. "These are to allow us our natural heritage and acknowledge our right to live as we choose. My friend here, from the village of Copan, can no longer fish in the local river due to pollution caused by oil companies. The IMF and World Bank must stop the social, environmental and cultural destruction of our countries." Are you listening, James Wolfensohn? Nope, thought not.

* 'Suits and Savages - why the world bank won't save the world.' An educational video that uncovers the smokescreen of a global bureaucracy available for £30 institutions/£15 standard/£7 concessions from Conscious Cinema, 110 Elmore St., London N1 UK www.consciouscinema.co.uk



crosses 17 major rivers; the consequences of a leak would be catastrophic, not least because all communities on the route rely on surface water for all their needs. Yet the World Bank claims that all such concerns have been adequately addressed via a 19-volume environmental assessment study and a 'revenue management law' agreed with the Chad government - but dismissed by the Human Rights Center at Harvard Law School as 'camouflage' lacking in any real, enforceable substance. Did Jeff feel that the bank was as 'democratic' as it made out? "I think democratic is the wrong word to use. Maybe tomorrow, but today, no. The bank is not democratic." A day before the conference opened, though, Jeff remained optimistic. "I've just got my accreditation, and we're going to give them our ideas. I hope they'll respond positively."

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Around the world solidarity protests took place in 45 cities in over 20 countries. Unfortunately many police forces showed a high degree of solidarity with their Czech counterparts in administering excessive violence.

ASIA:

Israel, Tel Aviv over a thousand participants assembled for street theatre, art and other protest and then marched (very slowly) through the banking street. **Delhi, India**, around 60 people from various organisations successfully blockaded the entrance to World Bank offices for two hours. **Calcutta, India**, a rally of around 500 people was held under the banner 'Prague Solidarity 2000'. The lively event went on for seven hours and included speakers and discussions. A memorandum to the Indian Prime Minister was submitted urging the government to refuse to take on the destructive policies of the IMF and World Bank. **Mumbai, India**, activists staged a protest at the entrance to a new shopping centre calling for a halt to the increasing gentrification of the city and onslaught of multinational corporations. Members of the public gave the demonstration great support with some joining in.

AUSTRALASIA:

In **Wellington, New Zealand** over 200 people enjoyed free food and music before moving on to a protest outside Westpac Trust bank. The day was peaceful until the police moved in and made an arrest when scuffles broke out 12 more people were nicked. In **Melbourne, Australia** 2000 people marched in solidarity with the S26 protesters braving the grey, wet and cold Melbourne weather. In **Sydney** protesters attempted to blockade the Prime Minister's office and met with police!

SOUTH AMERICA:

Brazil: In **Belo Horizonte** over 200 assorted activists assembled at the Central plaza to begin a Carnival Against Capitalism. Armed with banners, leaflets, posters, puppets and music the lively procession made its way to the Citibank where a blockade was successfully maintained for an hour despite a heavy-handed police presence. In **San Paulo**, a group of Zapatista supporters held up a busy traffic intersection for an hour before moving off to join a rally of 500 at the Stock Exchange. Meanwhile in **Brasilia**, a determined group of 10 students held a demonstration at the Central Bank of Brazil, distributing leaflets and displaying banners. In **Fortaleza**, 200 marched along to McDonald's to protest at the takeover of local culture by multinationals and distribute free ethnic food.

NORTH AMERICA:

Berkeley, California: 500 people held a critical mass bike ride and Street Party. In **Burlington, Vermont** demonstrators held a march which ended at the new GAP store (known for their use of sweatshop labour) and through a variety of actions managed to halt business for a short while. In **Denver** a procession made it's way through the shopping centre targeting Starbucks, Gap, and Nike Town and then made its way to the office of Vice President Al Gore's office to protest against the plight of U'wa Indians in Columbia. In **Massachusetts** over 300 demonstrators descended on supermarket corporate giants WalMart. In **Hartford** 400 anti-globalization protesters blocked a downtown street for nearly 4 hours during rush hour, before 20 of them were arrested. In **Gainesville** a group of about 50 people held an energetic march through the town centre. In **Chicago** hundreds gathered in the corporate crime centre, 8 people were arrested

for wearing masks. In **Montreal, Canada** over 100 protesters carried out a march that ended at the Stock Exchange, riot police were at the ready but the march passed off peacefully.

EUROPE:

Bristol, UK: activists hung banners around the city informing people of alternative media links. In **London** No Borders protested at Waterloo Station highlighting the lack of free movement for refugees which is in sharp contrast to the increasing free movement of money. Under the slogan 'Money moves - why can't people?' demonstrators hung banners and distributed the Financial Crimes spoof newspaper. In **Geneva, Switzerland** about 50 activists helped to build a sculpture of flesh, bones and money outside the IMF offices. **Barcelona, Spain**: a demonstration was held on the 23rd, 4000 people marched to the sea past various banks and stock exchanges which got nicely decorated. At the end of the day 5 coaches set off for Prague. Despite the city authorities banning demonstrations on the eve of the 26th, about 40 protesters in **Moscow** went ahead and held a demonstration outside the World Bank offices anyway, six people were arrested so the demonstration moved to the police station where the arrestees were being held. In **Utrecht, Holland** 500 people marched through the town centre stopping at banks, demanding that employees take responsibility and think of the social and ecological consequences of the banks' investments. **Malmö, Sweden** protests were held outside several bank offices around the town square. In **Stockholm, Sweden** around 200 people marched through the town on the evening of the 26th the evening passed off peacefully until riot police stopped the demo.

As these reports show, resistance to destructive IMF/World Bank policies is not confined to middle-class European students as the mainstream media would often have us believe. All over the world, citizens of affected countries have been standing up and protesting about their situations. Here's your quick guide to just some of the global resistance mounted by developing countries in the past couple of years...

In **Argentina**, people angered at IMF dictated government reform of labour laws, staged a wave of general strikes in '99. In May this year cuts to social security were met with lively demonstrations resulting in public offices being set ablaze. In **Bolivia** the privatisation of water thanks to the IMF led to a 35% price hike. As a result of demos the country was placed under a state of martial law, the occupation of the streets by the army, radio stations being put under siege and human rights agencies invaded by government officials. In August this year, 15,000 **Colombians** staged a general strike in response to IMF imposed restructuring programmes. **Costa Rica** saw widespread anger to a bill outlining IMF policies. The resulting protests ended with police gunfire and beatings leading to the death of one protester. In **Ecuador**, the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples called a week of protests to highlight the devastating affects of IMF policy reforms. In January of this year, 3,000 occupied the Congress building. Protestors in **Honduras** staged a wave of strikes between May and July of this year because of significant cuts to their public services and a 48 hour general strike in August. In

Nigeria this January, 5,000 workers marched in opposition to deregulation of the oil industry suffering vicious attacks by armed police for doing so. June this year saw the country crippled by a general strike and two police stations were burnt to the ground. Protestors and police in **Paraguay** clashed this June during rallies over 'non-negotiable' IMF reforms. A 48 hour general strike was later called. In **Pakistan** local traders went on strike in protest at wage reductions and rising taxes. **South Africa** has seen a mass of actions at rising unemployment and labour market reforms whilst demonstrations were held at meetings of IMF and governments officials. And finally, residents of **Zambia** staged resistance to meetings of IMF delegates and government leaders. Since IMF imposed reforms were introduced, an estimated 60,000 have lost their jobs.

*Want to know more? The World Development Movement have just published a report called 'States of Unrest: Resistance to IMF policies in poor countries.' WDM, 25 Beehive Place, London, SW9 7QR, 0207 7376215, www.wdm.org.uk

YER SchNEWS QUICKIE GUIDE TO THE WORLD BANK ...

One of the World Bank's central roles is to ensure developing countries have the physical infrastructure necessary to join in the global economy, making it easier for the Western multinationals to exploit their resources and cheap labour. So they get loans for the construction of roads, ports, mines, hydroelectric dams, oil wells and pipelines, and coal-fired power stations, mostly built by...er Western multinationals. These companies received nearly \$5 billion in direct loans and guarantees for this purpose from the Bank's private sector last year alone. And the poor? They are often displaced from their homes, suffer loss or damage to their natural resources, and are placed in the front line of climate change that the Bank's support for fossil fuels is helping to create.

...AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

The IMF are basically international loan sharks who dish out cash to debt-ridden or near bankrupt developing countries in exchange for a bit of 'structural adjustment' (now called the 'Comprehensive Development Framework'). These 'adjustments' mean governments have to privatise, cut health and education budgets, deregulate labour markets... you get the picture. Or as Carlos Andres Perz, the former President of Venezuela pointed out, the IMF practises "an economic totalitarianism which kills not with bullets but with famine."

Both the World Bank and IMF claim to be democratic. But their democracy operates on the principle of 'one dollar one vote'; the more money you put in to the Bank, the more votes you have. Meaning that the US, Canada, Japan and the European Union control 57% of the vote. The other 250-odd countries fight for the rest...

For more info czech out:
www.whirledbank.org
www.globalexchange.org

Banged Up

"I was arrested and taken into custody. As they led me down the stairs to the cells I noticed blood on the walls and heard cries from other cells... The police searched me and the others, putting all our possessions in one pile on the table in the room. They told us not to move - anyone who did was hit with truncheons across the back. The police were more violent than intelligent; they didn't know where anyone had been arrested, or what for. I was terrified, they did not allow access to a lawyer or a phone to let my friends know where I was - I didn't know what would happen. The people I was in the cells with will be friends for life."

SchNEWS is no stranger to accounts of police brutality, arbitrary arrests, beatings and torture; we all know that this happens routinely, day-by-day, across the world. But it's not everyday you see it for yourself - what we witnessed in Prague made a date with the Met seem like a tea party and gave us a glimpse of how the other half live.

It started at the borders: At least 600 "undesirables" were refused entry, including an American, Lee Sustar, who has no criminal record, yet the Czech Police described him as "a threat to public order and health". The Czech authorities have a list of 300 activists not allowed into the country and have been helped by the FBI, Interpol and the British Police, who even sent a 'media specialist' to assist with presenting a nice friendly police face. A German woman travelling with British activists was refused permission to leave Germany under an anti-hooliganism law, the first time this law has been used against anyone except football fans. The Czech authorities mounted a massive operation in an attempt to ensure that the bankers' party went uninterrupted - 11,000 police were deployed in Prague, supported by armoured personnel carriers, troop trucks, fire engines, helicopters, tear gas, concussion grenades and water cannons.

On the day itself there were few arrests but as night fell and in the following days, police started to pick people up arbitrarily and soon nearly 900 people had been nicked. Many of the arrests were made by masked-up plain clothes cops who were one minute leading attacks on uniformed police and McDonalds and the next dragging activists away. Amongst the random arrests were two German schoolboys who had bunked off a school trip in order to savour the delights of Czech beer!

In custody arrestees were routinely not told why they were nicked, denied access to food, warmth and medical attention and denied a phonecall and a solicitor. Water often had to be paid for. In some cases up to 20 prisoners at a time were crammed into a cell measuring just nine feet by nine. Some protestors were handcuffed to walls and beaten, others forced to lie spread eagled on the floor and prevented from sleeping.

The treatment of some women was particularly degrading; they were strip-searched and humiliated by male prison guards. By far the worst case was Chris, an Austrian woman cartoonist, who was nicked and

beaten till she lost consciousness. In the nick she was so scared for her life she jumped from a second floor window. She now has a broken leg and hips, and a destabilised spine. Her foot will never recover - the bones are just too damaged. Her location was only revealed when a nurse in the hospital broke the information embargo imposed on her by police and telephoned her friends. She has now been deported to a Vienna hospital, charged with attacking 3 policemen. Her van, which is also her home and contains her life's creative work, has been impounded by the Czech police to ensure she comes to the trial.

None of this treatment is perhaps surprising given that 30% of Czech police voted for the far right party at the last election. But while most of us are safely away from Prague now, we should remember the people who live there. Over half of all the arrests were of Czech citizens, despite the fact that many Czech activists were too scared to turn out on the day for fear of police reprisals. It is likely that police harassment of Czech activists will continue, so it's important not to leave them to suffer; they really need our help and solidarity. Donations (cheques/PO's) can be made out to **Prague Prisoner Support Fund**, and sent c/o RTS, PO Box 9656, London N4. There are at least 20 international activists still in jail and another 70 are missing but presumed in jail. Up to 600 other Czechs are also suspected detained. They will almost certainly have to stay in prison until their trials, which could be something like three months.

Banging On

"A crowd of 200 protestors gathered around a circle of people playing drums in Wenceslas Square. The mood was defiant but non-violent as we danced and chanted surrounded by lines of riot police. The crowd grew as did the noise; a trumpet led the bass drums who parted the way for fire breathers then signalled for quiet as people from various groups reminded us of why we were here. The solidarity that people felt was obvious from the way they listened and cheered as words were translated and shared.

A minutes silence was held to remember political prisoners all over the world and not just those taken in the last few days in Prague. People sat and remembered their friends, hugged each other and gathered strength from those around them. The silence changed to low and quiet cheers that gradually grew louder and higher - then the drums kicked in and produced the most incredible atmosphere that many of us felt we had ever been part of."

Nuff said.

19th ANNUAL ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR

Sat 14th October 10am-6pm

@ Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, London
(nearest tube: Holborn)

Books, stalls, meetings, food, creche and a sea of black hooded tops...

Anti-McDonalds demo on the day, too!

[http://freespace.virgin.net/
anarchist.bookfair](http://freespace.virgin.net/anarchist.bookfair)

Jail Solidarity

Activists around the world have shown that the struggle does not end in Prague: Ya Basta! occupied the Czech pavilion at the international exhibition of architecture in Venice, Italy demanding freedom for political prisoners under the banner "Let's globalise the rights!" And in Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Austria, France, Germany and Britain activists have organised demos, occupied embassies and defied the cops in solidarity with the victims of Czech brutality.

Czech These Facts

*For lots of reports and pictures on what went on in Prague, and for an open letter to send to President Vaclav Havel about the police brutality go the Indymedia site, www.indymedia.org.uk

*For a good explanation of the IMF, World Bank and WTO, The Ecologist contains a special report called 'Globalising Poverty'. It costs £3.50, The Ecologist, Unit 18 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 0QL. 0207 3513578. www.theecologist.org

*An editorial collective in London are intending to produce a book called 'Reflections on Prague'. Contributions are needed, although keep them fairly short! The book also aims to look at the future of the anti-capitalist movement. Send contributions to prague_autumn@hotmail.com

NO F***ING COMMENT

Britain's most boring newspaper, the Financial Times, has taken offence at cheeky anarchists who spoofed the famous 'pink pages' to spread shock, horror-scurrilous anti-capitalist propaganda in the run-up to Prague. Internet provider Easyspace has been forced to close down the 'Financial Crimes' website after FT lawyers felt the subversive use of the FT logo, typeface and 'distinctive' pink background coupled with banker-baiting diatribes was, er, taking the piss a bit. Fearing damage to the 'considerable and global goodwill' of the greedy man's bible, the lawyers accuse the 'Financial Crimes' of "Committing the Tort of Passing Off". Which we presume is better than committing the part of tossing off...

Email: tellme@financialcrimes.com. For a copy of Financial Crimes, send us an A4 SAE with 33p postage. And if you're in Brighton feel free to grab a bundle from the Peace Centre on Gardner St and hand 'em out to yer mates or baffled passers-by.

...and finally...

Missed out on all the fun in the Czech Republic last week? Wished you could help close down the IMF too? Well now you can... virtually speaking. A new video game has been released where you, the protestor, are pitted against the Czech pigs, with the object of the game being to capture the IMF delegates, or as they are known, 'exploiters'. The activists are armed with rocks and petrol bombs while the cops have batons, shields and the odd tank, and while the riot goes on slogans like "Smash the World Bank" and "The IMF kills" come across the screen all accompanied by banging techno. Just like the real thing! Check it out at www.doupe.cz

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all leaders that this week's copy is a load of bank. Honest

Subscribe!

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

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



"Ship of fools ahoy!!" Protestors ready themselves to breach the police lines and enter the conference centre, as delegates watch from the balcony.



"Time to push the fuckers off the gang-plank."



(continued from the previous page)
style (not to mention the attention of the world's media).

Moles on the inside of the conference relayed information to the mob. Half the delegates hadn't made it and the other half were running round like headless chickens (nowt new there then). The meetings were bungled and we knew it - though the next day's Financial Times would paint another picture. IMF representatives from Bangladesh commended "the young people" for being so effective.

After realising their tacticless strategy of road clearance was doomed, the old bill shut the tube line to the public and took the delegates out by underground - the first time most of them would have used public transport.

As darkness ebbed in, a joyous and united pink and blue crew wove their way northwards through the valley to meet the Italians who had blockaded the Opera house where the IMF delegates were due to spend the evening. However the opera was cancelled and the bankers headed to the city limits for a banquet (these people really are down with world's poor).

Not wishing to waste the walk, the two thousand strong crowd, headed down to Wenceslas Square. Ten regular cops stood sheepishly in front of McDonald's - a semi-circle of activists stood looking at them tapping on the railings. Bang - one window went and they legged it. Within a minute and a half, the shop was an insurance right off. KFC followed suit, and by the time the IPB Bank got trashed several dozen Prague locals had joined in to reclaim a little power from the bankers who had foreclosed their business or refused them loans to feed their families.

The riot police took their time getting there and SQUALL's agent six won himself a two inch headwound filming what used to be a Mercedes garage - and had to retreat to the nearest "low quality hospital". Karlovo Central had already seen a good few broken limbs and smashed heads - though activist medic teams of doctors and nurses had been on the case all day treating casualties in the field. As

Pics: Nick Cobbing



A Group 4 employee admiring his own security work. Group 4 corporate capital security incumbents (CCSS). Pic: Simon Chapman

daylight dawns in Eastern Europe 460 well battered folk are waking up behind bars as police are stopping and arresting arbitrarily in the streets. As is always the case - a police operation that fails to protect corporate targets is followed by extreme over reaction. The army's coming out to play. We ain't out of the trees yet - but the woods.... the woods belong to the activists.

SQUALL Frontline Communiques are unedited dispatches from the frontline of an action, event or incident



practical aspect and is symptomatic of what we call bio-politics, the new form of opposition to power. This is what Judith Revel writes in the first issue of *Posse*, a new Italian journal edited by Toni Negri: Comrades dressed up in inner tubes. The papers are wrong to talk of that is, of a defensive armament. There were shields present, but what's striking is the attempt to interpose between bodies — the bodies of demonstrators, the bodies of police agents — an element that blocks

both visibility and contact. That is, one that affirms its own political space as something no longer disciplinary, but rather bio-political. The bio-political is a form of politics that, from within the post-disciplinary paradigm of control, reconstructs the possibility of a collective acting. The danger lies in mistaking the epoch, returning to the only collective acting that we believe we know: that of face-to-face, the facing off which is so clearly a part of the old conflict-form of discipline. The padding on the comrades bodies signifies instead the passage to another political grammar.

SW: How do you respond to those critics (e.g. <http://www.cpgb.org.uk/worker/353/pragues26.html>) who accuse Ya Basta of manipulating other demonstrators during the encounter with police in Prague?

Hobo: I don't believe that anyone was manipulated by anyone else. There were affinity groups, and everyone freely and consciously chose what to do and with whom. We don't think that anyone, including ourselves, has a monopoly on truth. Each does what they consider most useful and effective. Some sections of the demonstration, such as those involving these critics, were few in number, whereas, during the demonstration our numbers grew. Other comrades chose to join our section: not only tute bianche or Italians, but also anarchists and Trotskyists of various countries and nationalities. Clearly the vetero-communist vision of some, linked to a strictly Marxist-Leninist style of politics, has stopped them from seeing past their own noses. We have no grounds for reproaching other sections of the demonstration that engaged in direct action elsewhere in the city, just as most of them have nothing to reproach us for. On the contrary, we wish that there had been many more of them, so that we could have forced the police blockades. But probably even all together we wouldn't have succeeded. We did our bit, what we had upon in the joint assembly, committing a huge number of police in a face off on the bridge with continuous charges, resisting and advancing.

SW: Can S26 be considered a success?

Hobo: In terms of Europe, it was certainly a success. The forum ended a day early because of the curfew atmosphere created in Prague. The movements from across Europe finally found themselves together, visible and determine against an economic globalisation that threatens to create a dual society. For Europe, Prague was the beginning but in the minds of everyone were memories of Seattle, Washington, Melbourne . . . This begins to confirm the validity of a new way of finding ourselves side by side in the world's streets, confronting global problems.

SW: What are Ya Basta's connections to other radical circles in Europe and beyond?

Hobo: We have many contacts in several European countries: Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Finland, to name a few. Back in 1997 we held a European meeting in Venice, where we presented to others our program — borrowed from the Zapatista struggle — of fighting for a Social Europe, where people not money come first. In a sense, that was the first step in our current direction, trying to escape the isolation which many radical groups found themselves in, and to connect with vast parts of what Marcos [Zapatista Subcommandante] calls civil society.

SW: Relations between Ya Basta and some other circles in the Italian movement became increasingly strained in the late nineties, with strong disagreements about orientation and activity. What were the terms of this debate, and have relations improved in the meantime?

Hobo: We chose to abandon ideologies, others didn't. The split can be very simply defined in this sense. Our analysis of the current world has led us to consider some aspects of this society, like the profound modification of the production system, the dominant role of information, the importance of the environment and other themes until now considered more social than political; and to act accordingly, trying to cut the chains that tied us too tightly to Marxist orthodoxy. We've always been heretics anyway, believing that you must have the courage to change and to follow new paths when you suspect that they could lead to results. Other groups, more tied to traditional ways of understanding Marxism and politics, don't agree with us. Some of them accuse us of being reformist or media-fixated. Recently, though, we have seen a point of commonality in the struggles we are doing together, a sort of re-acquaintance with people who can appreciate the big results obtained by our struggles, . . . from forcing the closure of immigrant detention centres in Milan and Trieste, to the symbolic blocking of NATO bases in the Veneto which reopened debate about the Balkans' war, to the [direct action] ship in solidarity with Albanians and against the criminalisation of immigrants, to the recent Prague demo.

SW: Within the Veneto region, Ya Basta and Radio Sherwood are two aspects of a broader network. Can you tell us something about the other organisations they're connected with?

Hobo: Radio Sherwood has now evolved into something more complex: the Sherwood Communications Agency. This involves a massive use of the internet (Sherwood Tribune), along with the ability to intervene in the media, so as to give voice and visibility to the whole network, from Ya Basta and the social centres to ADL and Razzismo Stop. ADL (Workers Defence Association, is a bit like a union, although rather different from the traditional form of European unions. It has more than one thousands members in the region, organised in twenty workplace collectives, and is affiliated to the radical union confederation CUB. Its main activity is legal defence for workers, while its political activity is very similar to that of the tute bianche. Razzismo Stop is an association for the defence of immigrant rights; it works side by side with immigrants to spread a new culture. It offers legal advice and concrete aid, from Italian language courses to welcome camps for refugees from ex-Yugoslavia, as well as social and educational activities for detained immigrants. Over the years it's become a real reference point of anti-racism, even for some institutions. Razzismo Stop has been in the front line opposing expulsions and detention camps for immigrants, linking its daily social to a strong political activity.

For those who read Italian, check the Ya Basta website at <http://www.yabasta.it> or <http://www.ecn.org/yabasta.milano>. Radio Sherwood's website at <http://www.sherwood.it> ADL (worker's defence association) is at <http://www.adl-cobas.org> Razzismo Stop at <http://www.sherwood.it/r-stop> A UK site of activists inspired by Ya Basta can be found at <http://www.wombleaction.mrnice.net>

Dudley Hospital Workers Demonstration



"...so it's good night from me..."



"...and it's good night from him"

Pics & story: <http://www.labournet.net/>

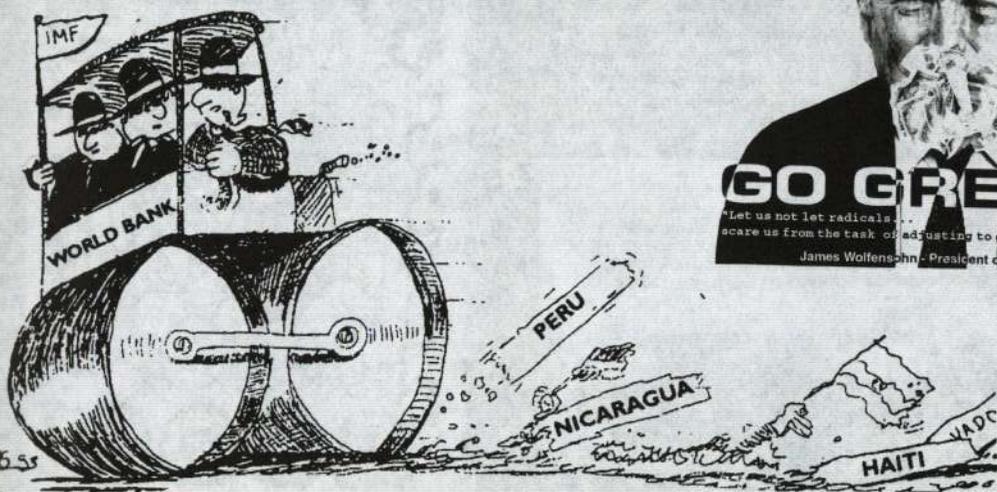
Over 1000 people marched through Birmingham on the 3rd of March 2001 to show solidarity with the fight of the striking Dudley hospital workers, and others fighting the privatisation of public services.

The march ended with a lobby of the constituency surgery of prominent Labour MP and Health Minister Gisela Stuart.

One sinister, yet (it has to be said) highly comical, feature of the march was the two police officers who clearly had nothing better to do than spend the day chasing and videoing the marchers. They repeatedly took a position along the route, videotaped us for a while, and then ran like crazy to a new vantage point in order to tape us all over again.

LabourNet asked them why they were video recording peaceful protesters. They replied that this was an illegal march and that the video tape would prove useful should prosecutions follow - although they admitted that prosecutions would probably not be in the public interest. They also told us that all demonstrations are now recorded by the police in case public order offences should take place, and then potentially kept on file for up to seven years. Aren't you glad we live in a democracy, eh?

A range of different union branches and anti-privatisation campaigners from across the country attended the demonstration, including London hospital workers, tube workers, and health workers from as far afield as Bristol and Newcastle.



Flagged Down

West Papua, the western half of the island of New Guinea is home to a rain forest and a huge range of different tribal people - accounting for 0.1 percent of the world's population, but speaking up to 25 percent of all known languages.

The tribal people of West Papua (officially known as Irian Jaya) have been fighting for independence from Indonesia since it was annexed by them in 1963. In 1969 after a referendum the region "officially" became a province of Indonesia. Tribal people claim that the ballot was unrepresentative as they were considered 'too primitive' to be consulted. For decades a determined low-level resistance has been fought against the Indonesian security forces by OPM (Organisasi Papua Merdeka), or Free Papua Movement. The response of the Indonesian government has been brutal, as it is eager to maintain control over the region, with its wealth of natural resources. 300,000 people (one-sixth of the 1963 population) are reported to have died since the occupation began, and there have been gross human rights violations.

Demands for independence have been rising in the past few years due to the Indonesian government's policy of "transmigration" which has seen farmers from other heavily populated islands of Indonesia being moved to the region. The tribal people are angry that their beautiful islands and their way of life is being destroyed. The aim of their fight is simply "Yi Wa O" - "Just leave Us, Please."

Last Friday saw the latest attempt by Indonesian Government's to crack down on the pro-independence movement, when the Chief Police Officer demanded that all pro-independence flags be pulled down within the month. Earlier in the year the Indonesian President, had given permission for the independence flag to be flown as long as it was lower than the national flag. However this was not endorsed by parliament who reversed the decision.

In the highland town of Wamena widespread protests broke out after police moved in to remove a flag. By the end of the day, two tribal people were dead and 21 injured. This provoked people of the Baliem Valley, the heart of the pro-independence movement, to start organising a fight back. Over the weekend the main bridges that connect the town of Wamena to surrounding regions were cut off by thousands of angry people from various nearby villages. On the Sunday police were reported to have been ordered to shot-to-kill protesters. By the end of the weekend there had been at least 30 deaths, including some migrants targeted by the protesters. The police have now given pro-independence groups a week to pull down their separatist flags or face stern measures. Military build up is intensifying in the region including the deployment of 6 British made Hawk jets. For the latest situation contact: TAPOL, the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign 020 8771-2904 www.gn.apc.org/tapol

Positive SchNEWS

21st October sees the tenth national Apple Day organised by Common Ground. In this country we have some of the best conditions for growing apples. Over the years we have bred over 6000 varieties, yet only a handful of these are in daily use. Apple day aims to celebrate this diversity and also to raise awareness about the value of traditional orchards. Over the past 30 years 60 percent of our orchards have been destroyed. Events will be being held all round the country around this date including an event at Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry on Sunday 15th. Common Ground 0207 267 2144 www.commonground.org.uk

Subscribe!

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

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

SchNEWS in brief

65 Greenpeace Activists invaded Britain's biggest rubbish incinerator plant in Edmonton (north London) - the Government plans to enlarge it by 50% as opposed to encouraging more sustainable resource use. www.greenpeace.org.uk** Hunt Sab benefit gig, Saturday 14th October. Music from Inner Terrestrials and Tragic Roundabout at the Freehub pub, Brighton. ** 31st October Rally Against the Ilisu Dam 12-2pm in Parliament Square, Westminster, London. Putting the spotlight on the UK Government and Balfour Beatty (see SchNEWS 266). ** Last week saw the biggest gathering of chemical giants ever at the IndiaChem 2000 conference in New Delhi, India - following Clinton's visit in May this year, the conference was a green light to the unaccountable western-based chemical corporations to step in, hand in hand with the World Bank, WTO and IMF - to further exploit the human and environmental resources India does not want to offer (as if Bhopal wasn't enough). Not sure how much destructive policy-making got done as a few protestors got into the conference centre early with the aim of structurally adjusting the delegates' air. With just a couple of bottles of colourless stinkbomb liquid they managed to severely flog the entire air-conditioning system with 'mineral water' so much so that the area surrounding the centre was still pretty ripe the next day. Shame.

PIE-EYED!!

The Biotic Baking Brigade are at it again. The Canadian wing has branched out into beverages, hurling chocolate milk over one Stockwell Day, leader of the Canadian Alliance. Dutch agents, meanwhile, remained loyal to patisserie when Filip DeWinter, leader of Belgian far-right party 'Flemish Block', turned up for a TV appearance in Amsterdam a couple of weeks back and received a chocolate pudding in the mush-the-brown-gateau being 'symbolic' of his shit policies. This cake-related assault came after DeWinter's limo was kicked in by Dutch AFA - with him inside it - and just before his live telly appearance was abandoned 'cos the barrage of fireworks let off by protesters outside drowned out the crap he was talking...And while we're in Amsterdam, it seems poor old World Bank president James Wolfensohn ('The Elvis of World Economics' - Bono) can't go anywhere without protesters turning up to piss in his pint. In town last week to open a conference on 'Poverty reduction and the role of private capital', our Jim turned up to find the conference centre ringed by riot cops, watercannons and a bulldozer. On his arrival activists stormed police lines, chucked a bike in front of the limos and let off smoke bombs. 'Wolfie' attempted to apologise to conference-goers for the racket outside, but members of the audience retorted that maybe the demonstrators had a point...Come noon, 100 activists invaded the local branch of Czech Airlines ('official airline of the IMF conference') and insisted they publicise their demands - namely, the release of all Prague demo prisoners and compensation for those beaten up in the nick. When staff refused, the activists seized control of the fax machine and did it themselves. The filth turned up in due course, threw everyone out and nicked 40, including a passing postie...A few hours later, the cops have all gone home and Jim and cohorts turn up for a 'Banquet for World Poverty' at posh art gallery Rijksmuseum - to be met again by loads of troublemakers! A bit of a ruck ensues, rioters pelting cops with plates of whipped cream (?) followed by sticks 'n' bricks; Wolfensohn was smuggled in round the back, leaving Dutch ex-PM Ruud Lubbers to receive a super special creamy pie-ing.

Inside SchNEWS

The people below are all inside for protesting at the June 18 or May Day demos. Please find a bit of time to put pen to paper, they wouldn't mind a few words from you on the outside...

Kuldip Bajwa BN7230 sentenced 7/2/00 - 21 months and **Darren Sole** DN9381 sentenced to 1 year, HMP Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9YG

Angel Makoly FB4689 sentenced 22/3/00 - 24 months HM(YO)Onley, Rugby CV23 8AP

Ashley Warder FR5464 sentenced 4/7/00 - 12 months, **Paul Revell** FR5599 sentenced 17/7/00 - 18 months, **Darryl Walker** FR5483 sentenced to 15 months and **Michael Collins** (Remand Prisoner) all at HMP Wandsworth, PO Box 757 Heathfield Road, London SW18 3HS

Matthew Macdonald EA4146 sentenced 24/8/00 - 6 months, **HMP(YO) Huntercombe**, Huntercombe Place, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 5SB

Simone Sabeddu FB2520 sentenced 18/8/00 - 14 months, **HMP(YO) Feltham**, Bedford Road, Feltham, Middx TW13 4ND. (If possible please write to Simone in Italian).

PRAGUE UPDATE: A new web site has been set up for those imprisoned by the Czech Police www.crosswinds.net/~jailsolidarity.

Four years ago **Samar Alami** and **Jawad Botmeh** were sentenced to 20 years after being fitted up for the Israeli Embassy bombing in London in '94. Evidence was withheld in the name of National Security, but now the case is going back to Court on appeal due to the testimony of David Shayler, the ex-MI5 agent. There are a lot of theories concerning this case, one of them being that Mossad (the Israeli secret service) bombed their own Embassy in order to bring a halt to the peace process. Samar and Jawad definitely didn't do it, so go and show your support on the 29th October, 10 am outside the Court of Appeal, The Strand, London. www.freesaj.org

ANIMAL CRACKERS

On Wednesday 18 sabs from Croydon and Brighton were nicked in dawn raids on their homes and later bailed on suspicion of violent disorder in connection with a demo last month outside the kennels of the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent foxhunt. The demo followed the near-killing of sab Steve Christmas by the hunt (see SchNEWS 274); Steve continues to make a slow recovery, while the nutter who ran him over has been charged with GBH with intent to endanger life.

*Movement Against the Monarchy (MA'M) have called a 'Smash the Beaufort Hunt' sabbaging action on Sat 4th Nov. Meet 9.30am Malmesbury, Wilts 'or thereabouts' - exact location 0771 5779843 on day or before. www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/1793/index

*Don't forget anti-McDonald's day - Sat 14th Oct. Latest McExpansion Plans: 5 new outlets per day. 650 in Asia, 550 in Europe, 350 in Latin America, 200 in US and 250 rest of world this year alone! www.mcsopotlight.org

...and finally...

This week's hypocrite of the week award goes to the Vice President of Nestle who reckons that people who campaign against genetic food are encouraging starvation in the third world. A bit rich coming from a company responsible for 4000 infant deaths a day thanks to their aggressive marketing of their powdered milk products. Baby Milk Action 01223 464420 www.babymilkaction.org

disclaimer SchNEWS promises all readers no more ill-thought out puns and sick jokes. We'll just keep taking the tablets. Honest!

basis of a spurious establishment 'credibility'." [Knightley, 'The War Correspondent as Hero and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Kosovo', Prion Books, 2000, p.xiii]

MARR IS SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE HE HAS MASTERED THE FINE ART OF APPEARING TO WRITE NEUTRAL, CHALLENGING, EVEN SUBVERSIVE, POLITICAL COMMENTARY WHILE ACTUALLY STEERING WELL CLEAR OF FACTS, ISSUES AND STATEMENTS LIABLE TO OFFEND POWERFUL INTERESTS.

Sometimes the BBC's pro-establishment bias is so subliminal that it becomes almost funny. Ben Brown once referred to Tariq Aziz, Iraq's foreign minister, as "Iraq's chief spin doctor". [BBC 6 O'Clock news, 14/11/97] Nothing odd in this, we might think, until we try to imagine Brown referring to Madeleine Albright as "The United States' chief spin doctor", or Robin Cook as "Britain's chief spin doctor". Technically, there is no reason why Brown could not refer to Albright and Cook in this way - the BBC is supposed to be independent - but we know that it could never happen: they are 'us', Aziz is very much 'them'.

Following the Serbian war, BBC's John Simpson defended journalists against accusations that they had not been sufficiently supportive of the war: "Why did British, American, German, and French public opinion stay rock-solid for the bombing, in spite of NATO's mistakes? Because they knew the war was right. Who gave them the information? The media." [Quoted Charles Glass, Znet Commentaries, 1/8/99]

Robert Fisk pointed out in the Independent (17/1/00) that when NATO bombed an Albanian refugee convoy, BBC defence correspondent Mark Laity stated: "They [NATO] are very confident that they attacked a military convoy". Fisk stressed that Laity did not say that NATO "say" they are confident, rather they "are" confident.

Marr will not be joining Laity, who, after the Kosovo war, admitted he, like the press generally, had once again fallen for the military's talk of 'smart bombs' zapping any number of enemy tanks and guns. During the war, NATO claimed to have destroyed more than a quarter of the Yugoslav army's 300 tanks and a third of its 500 guns. The Serbs admitted to 13 tanks destroyed. "I made the judgement that battle damage assessment was more accurate this time", said Laity. "I was wrong. I mean, I just got it wrong." [Quoted, Philip Knightley, *ibid*, p.514]

'Wrong' is a value judgement of course - Laity has since accepted the post of press secretary to the NATO Secretary General, George Robertson. It might therefore be deemed that he just got it 'right' by the cynics of media reporting, who surely abound.

Fre's arguments on the reluctance to deploy British troops in East Timor were virtually of a piece with those of British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook who initially claimed that Britain did not have sufficient troops to deal with both the Balkans and East Timor. Hugo Young also repeated the approved Government position in the Guardian: "too far away, not enough troops. The Blair doctrine of crusading humanitarianism has its practical limits". [Guardian, 9/9/99]

"THE RAGGED COALITION OF PROTESTERS AT SEATTLE USE THE LANGUAGE OF SOCIALISM BUT HAVE NO AGENDA OF THEIR OWN. IN THE END, THE WTO IS ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS."

Marr's faith in Blair apparently survived the latter's subsequent (and indeed earlier) cynical performance over East Timor. Having made endless speeches and written many articles on the need for a "moral crusade" to ensure "a world where dictators are no longer able to visit horrific

punishments on their own peoples in order to stay in power" [Quoted Noam Chomsky, *The New Military Humanism - Lessons from Kosovo*, Common Courage Press, 1999, p.3], Blair fell suddenly silent when Indonesian troops and their militias began slaughtering the East Timorese.

The slaughter, even before the August 30 referendum, far-exceeded the 2000 deaths on all sides in Kosovo in the twelve months prior to the bombing, but was ignored by Blair, and Marr, and just about everyone else. Historian John Taylor estimates a death toll of 5-6000 in East Timor from January to August 30 alone. By contrast, the Serb massacre of 45 people at Racak on January 15 1999, was reported to have been an isolated event by OSCE and NATO monitors. Apart from this atrocity, the UN Inter-Agency Update [December 24 1998] reported the "most serious incidents" prior to the bombing involved an attempt by armed Albanians to cross into Kosovo from Albania leaving 36 armed men dead, and the killing of six Serbian teenagers by masked men spraying gunfire into a cafe in a predominantly Serbian town. [Chomsky, 'In retrospect, A review of NATO's war over Kosovo, Part 1', Z Magazine, April 2000]. The last NATO report prior to the bombing (January 16-March 22) cited dozens of incidents, with about half initiated by KLA-UCK and half by Serb security forces. Casualties were mostly military and at similar levels to preceding months.

British politicians and media pundits described this as "genocidal" violence by the Serbs requiring the aerial bombardment of a sovereign nation for 78 days, killing and wounding 10,000 Serbs, destroying hospitals, schools, churches, embassies, TV stations, bridges, power stations, passenger trains, tractors, and irradiation with depleted uranium shells. Jonathan Freedland of the Guardian wrote of how "either the West could try to halt the greatest campaign of barbarism in Europe since 1945 - or it could do nothing". ['The Left needs to wake up to the real world. This war is a just one', Guardian, 26/3/99]. Or, alternatively, it could dwarf the existing horror with a far greater barbarism of its own, as happened.

Marr, like these other mainstream 'liberal' commentators, is successful because he has mastered the fine art - and it is an art - of appearing to write neutral, challenging, even subversive, political commentary while actually steering well clear of facts, issues and statements liable to offend powerful interests.

Lord Tebbit, the former Tory party chairman, said of Marr's appointment: "The BBC is run by the Labour Party and takes its orders from it. So this will make no difference. It is a thoroughly unreliable broadcasting organisation." [Kamal Ahmed, *Observer*, op., cit]

Marr might irritate some Tories but, like so many of his mainstream colleagues, his basic willingness to follow an establishment-friendly line means he remains acceptable to the powers that be, as suggested by his dismissive comments on the November 1999 anti-globalisation protests in Seattle: "The ragged coalition of protesters at Seattle use the language of socialism but have no agenda of their own. The 'n30' protesters accused the WTO of helping 'the exploitation of our planet and its people by the global capitalist system'. Instead, they demanded 'alternative social and economic structures based on co-operation, ecological sustainability and grassroots democracy', which sounds like the Communist Manifesto rewritten by Christopher Robin... In the end, the WTO is on the side of the angels. It is what the world's poor need most..." ['Friend or foe?', *Observer*, 5/12/99]

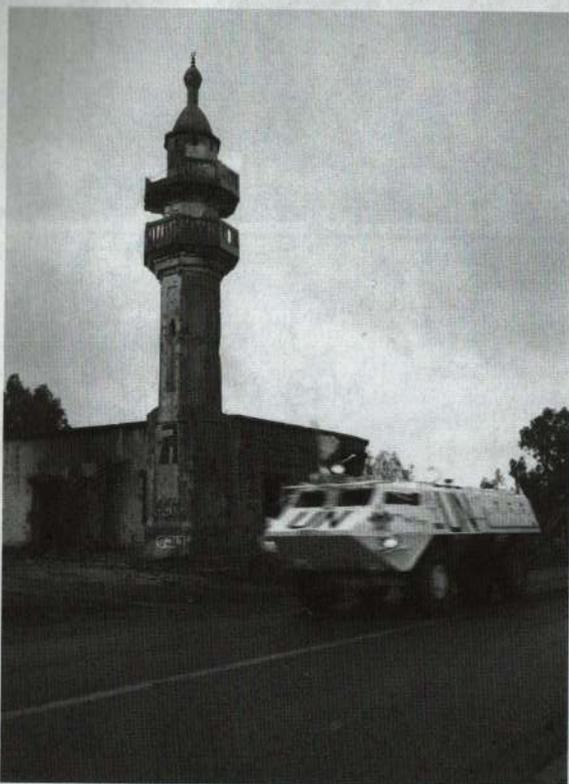
For those confident that it is possible to understand the thought processes of corporate journalists, there is a nice final addendum. Writing for a very different audience in the spiritual/environmental magazine *Resurgence*, Marr subsequently wrote of this same "ragged coalition of protesters with no agenda", as "a diffuse, electorally weak but intellectually vigorous movement of protest and reform". There will be "reverses to come", he reassures us, but "the trend is one way". [*Resurgence*, July/August 2000]

ASA
200
24 EXP

SNAPSHOTS

OF

PALESTINE



A United Nations' troop carrier drives past an abandoned Syrian mosque, Golan Heights, captured by the Israelis during the 6 Day War, June 1967.



Masked Palestinians gather at a funeral for a young boy who was shot dead by Israeli Soldiers for throwing stones.



Enraged mourners at the funeral of a young Palestinian boy, shot dead by Israeli soldiers, burn an Israeli flag in anger; Bethlehem, West Bank.



As Islamic worshippers pray on the streets of east Jerusalem, Israeli police, who have forbidden these Palestinians access to the al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City to pray, maintain a horse-back vigil.



An Israeli Defence Forces jeep patrols the border between South Lebanon and Israel, passing the deserted Lebanese town of Taibeh, captured by the Israeli Army in 1982.

Pics & Text: Alec Smart

MAKING A PIG'S EAR OF IT

Sheffield-based anti-viscivation group Uncaged were in the High Court this week attempting to overturn a gagging order preventing them publicising revelations about animal experiments carried out at Huntingdon Life Sciences near Cambridge. The hearing was adjourned, and so the revelations remain suppressed. The experiments - the most high profile in Britain - are being carried out by Imutran, and are part of ongoing research into xenotransplantation, which is the use of animal organs in human transplants.

Uncaged compiled a report, *Diaries of Despair*, based on the information provided by leaked documents, which reveal horrendous animal suffering and much 'falsification' of results. Imutran, who have used thousands of pigs, monkeys and baboons in their five years of research, claim to be on the verge of conquering the problem of 'organ rejection' - where the immune system sees the 'new' heart or liver as foreign, and attacks it. But the documents tell a different story. In one experiment, two baboons who suffered 'hyperacute' organ rejection and quickly died were left out of published results, which claimed success; in another, the animals were pumped full of immuno-suppressant drugs to make sure their bodies didn't reject the 'new' parts.

Animals are routinely 'sacrificed' - the jargon for being killed - both as a direct result of the experiments and due to sloppy lab practice. A baboon quickly got the chop when scientists discovered mid operation that the pig's heart it was supposed to receive was in the deep freeze. One monkey was documented in technicians' reports as spending the last days of its life clutching in pain the pus-oozing pigs' heart it had attached to the arteries in its neck.

Imutran got a temporary injunction as soon as the revelations first appeared in the Daily Express. Imutran, owned by genetics giant Novartis, reckons that the leaked info puts its staff in danger and compromises its commercial interests.

Inside SchNEWS

Satpal Ram has been in prison for thirteen years for defending himself against a violent racist attack. While in prison he has been attacked and harassed by the prison authorities, but there is a good chance that his release can be secured. Please write to the Parole Board before 27 October, asking for Satpal to be released and point out that his original recommended tariff was set at eleven years. (Parole Board, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LH). There will be a picket on 16th November, the anniversary of Satpal's attack, at 10 Downing Street from 12pm to 4pm. And on 18th November a Conscious Clubbing event at the Scala. Tel: 07947-595367, freesatpalcampaign@hotmail.com

* The Legal, Defence and Monitoring Group are desperately looking for reliable people to attend court proceedings of those nicked at this year's May Day demonstrations in London (see SchNEWS 258). Trials of those pleading not guilty are about to start and will go on until at least December. Contact them at LDMG, BM Haven, London, WC1N 3XX 020 8245 2930

SPAM, SPAM, WONDERFUL SPAM!

It's been fun, fun, fun at SchNEWS Towers this week with our e-mail system spamming people endless drive, and our database computer wiping away half our subscribers. Secret service interference? Incompetence? We're not sure, but we don't think it's all our fault. Still, big apologies all round.

* If anyone out there gets up early on a Friday, and has a couple of hours to spare and wants to print SchNEWS please call the office.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 18 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

Reptiles To Go

Following a long campaign against The Focus Do-it-All Chain, animal rights campaigners are celebrating this week after the company announced they will stop selling reptiles and exotic spiders. Reptiles bought in pet shops often die within the year. However, the store is continuing to sell other pets including exotic birds and fish and so protests continue. Contact Animal Aid on 01732 364546 www.animalaid.org.uk * Friday 27 October demo against pet supermarket trade in Brighton. Meet 12.30 pm outside Harvest Forestry (behind the London Rd Sainsburys)

Put Out The Rubbish

Four Greenpeace activists this week finally came down after four days - in pissing rain - up the 100 metre chimney at Edmonton incinerator. The Government plans to increase the size of the incinerator by 50% as well as the number of incinerators in London from two to six. Thus chucking more toxic gases into London's already polluted atmosphere rather than encouraging re-use and recycling. Greenpeace 020 7865 8257 www.greenpeace.org.uk

Meanwhile in Goole, East Riding, residents won a three year battle to prevent a waste incinerator being built at Glews Hollow. The local Communities Against Toxics (CAT) Group countered all the developer's arguments for an incinerator and even went to Italy to see a very successful composting facility there, giving them the ammunition they needed to show how short sighted the Council's plans for incineration were. When Douglas Marcham, an 87 year old campaigner, was asked what he was going to do with the rest of his life he answered: "Fight incinerators." The Government plans to build another 122 incinerators, if one is in your area contact CAT for advice. CAT, PO Box 29, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, L66 3TX; ralph@recycleit.org.uk; Tel/Fax 0151 339 5473.

Over in Ireland people have been getting angry 'cos local authorities have been charging an extra tax for rubbish collection on top of the taxes they already pay, making them pay twice for the service. Those who refuse to pay don't get it collected. Locals in Cork have started dumping their rubbish on the town hall steps to protest against this double taxation. Contact Rebel City at 58a Evergreen St., Cork, Eire.

Fascist Stop Press

The NF are poised to venture out in public in Margate this Saturday(21st) to display their rancour toward families of asylum seekers. They've boasted that their presence at the Nayland Rock Hotel will bring them "in close contact with asylum seekers" to whom they'd rather have said "no room at the inn". Instead, the hotel recently won a legal action against Thanet District Council, which was trying to stop it from putting up refugees. Fancy some seafront action? A counter demo is being held starting at 1pm (the NF are due from 3:00-4:00) Nayland Rock Hotel, 1 Royal Crescent (on the seafront by the railway station).

...and finally...

SchNEWS can reveal the government's latest crime deterrent, the highly intimidating 'finger a criminal' campaign. The campaign must have been a bit too vulgar to feature in most papers, but that smutty rag, the Hampstead and Highgate Express, covered it in what has to be the headline of the month "Crack crime: finger a criminal". Unfortunately, they don't go into details of the punishment, but getting fingered by upstanding, pillar-of-the-community, middle England types would surely be enough to put anybody off a life of villainy.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers to not make a monkey of yourself - or else you'll end up with your pig-headed snout in the trough. Honest.

But many scientists are becoming increasingly worried about the principles of xenotransplantation itself. There is great danger that putting bits from one species into another could easily trigger new and unheard of diseases. Scientists routinely screen transplant organs for viruses; however, they can only screen for those they know the existence of. There may be many viruses which lie harmless and undetected in pigs but which could kill humans. Also, all pigs are known to contain certain viruses closely related to human ones that cause blood leukemia. How will they mutate when introduced into humans? After all, a man in the US who received a baboon liver in an experimental transplant suddenly developed a disease only known in baboons! Does any of this worry the commercial interests? "The momentum towards clinical trials of xenotransplantation is seemingly unstoppable," says 'Nature' magazine, "Powered as it is by multi-million dollar investment by biotechnology companies."

There are alternatives to such transplants; stem-cell technology, for instance, enables scientists to use a persons' own cells to 'grow' a new organ, without involving animals at all. A decent diet and quality of life would do wonders for prevention. 'Opt Out' donor cards, as used in some European countries, would mean that only those who *didn't* want to donate their organs would have to make sure they carried a card. Meanwhile, Imutran have e-mailed all of Uncaged's contacts, threatening them with contempt of court if they reproduce any of the documents they may have been forwarded. Then they quietly announced they were ceasing activities in the UK, concentrating research instead in the US where the laws on such things are even more slack...

Uncaged, 14 Ridgeway Rd., Sheffield, S12 2SS 07990584158 or www.uncaged.co.uk

SchNEWS in brief

The representative of the World Bank who this week came to recruit students at Sussex University had a miserable time. He was barricaded out of the seminar room, hid in an office and then got chased around campus before being pied! Shame. **The new AK Press Catalogue is now out, to get your copy contact them on 0131 5555165, or check it out on-line at www.akuk.com **Veggies Catering Campaign have a new phone number: 0845 458 9595. They are also planning to move to new premises by the end of the year, in order to do this they need to raise cash urgently. Contact them at 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW. www.veggies.org.uk **Three Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a forest are being destroyed to make way for an airport development near Farnborough. Local people have organised a protest for next Saturday 28th at 10am, meet near Forester's pub, Aldershot road, Church Crookham, 01252 675231 **Close Down Campfield Detention Centre demo, Saturday 28th, meet noon at the main gates. Tel: 01865 558145/557282 **Time Up For Trident - Glasgow: 28th There will be a march and rally calling for the scrapping of Trident and the switching of Trident jobs to more productive work. Meet 10.30am Blytheswood Square. Contact SCND - 0141 423 1222 **The Dudley Hospital Workers on strike against their jobs being privatised (see last weeks SchNEWS) have moved their demonstration to the 4th Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall 12.30pm. **Casualisation Kills The Simon Jones case. Public meeting in Manchester, Tuesday 31st 7:30pm at The Brow House, 1 Mabfield Road, Fallowfield, Manchester. Contact SF PO Box 1681, London N8 7LE Tel: 0208 3745027 www.simonjones.org.uk

The Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act came into force in the UK on 2nd October 2000. It brings the European Convention for the Protection of Fundamental Freedoms into UK Law. The convention has been in place since 1951, but previously, any claim would have gone to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Although the Act establishes many rights, it also makes many exceptions to these rights, rendering them ineffectual.

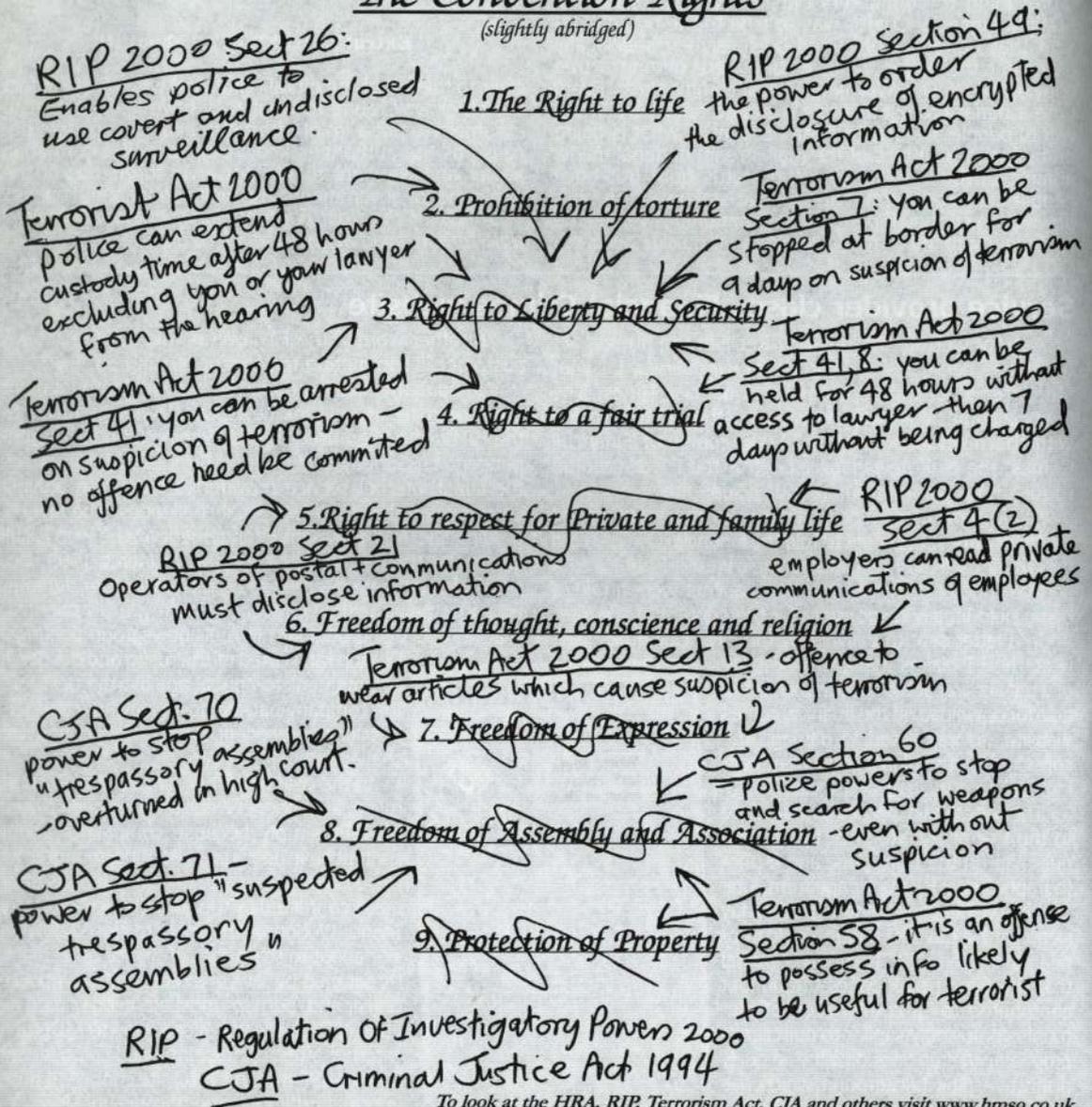
Now that the Act is in force

1. legislation will have to be interpreted subject to convention rights where possible.
2. Public Authorities (e.g. Police, Local Councils, Government Departments) have to respect convention rights – but can rely on exceptions in many cases.
3. If legislation is not compatible with the HRA then the courts can make a **Declaration Of Incompatibility** and it is up to Parliament to change the legislation.
4. It is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention Right - Section 6(1)
5. Companies are defined as individuals and are able to make claims under the HRA.

HOWEVER – The Act creates **Absolute** rights and **Conditional** rights
Conditional rights can be suspended if certain conditions are met. Most rights are Conditional.

The Convention Rights

(slightly abridged)



Hot Air Conference

Next month (13th-24th November) will see negotiators from 180 countries get together for the Climate Change Summit 2000. Supposedly, their aim is to thrash out a solution to climate change. But, in reality, it's very unlikely that they'll get to grips with the problem. For the wealthy countries, the summit will be an exercise in trying to avoid changing their oil guzzling ways. The small, low-lying islands, at risk of being flooded out of existence, will struggle to make their voices heard. Meanwhile, the oil, coal and gas corporations will be lobbying feverishly to prevent any action reducing their profits and our reliance on fossil fuels.

* Actions will be taking place throughout the conference, and there will be a Counter Summit. www.aseed.net/climate/climate.htm

* A group interested in **Direct Action** will be going from Britain between the 17th and 25th. Some people are cycling over. If you are interested in going with this group, go to the preparation day in **Oxford** on the 11th - accommodation available. 01865 791391 or e-mail: info@risingtide.org.uk

* On Monday 13th in London **Reclaim The Streets** are putting on a public action at City Airport, to coincide with the last day of the fuel protest deadline and the first day of the climate conference.

* Two **Critical Mass** bike rides have been organised in **Sheffield** to coincide with the beginning and the end of the Conference. Monday 13th Meet 7.45am at Devonshire Green, and Saturday 25th meet 12 noon Devonshire Green. criticalsheffield@yahoo.com

* **People & Planet** are travelling together from Harwich Port in Essex, leaving on Friday 17th and returning on Monday 20th. All your travel from Harwich Port to The Hague and back, plus 3 nights' accommodation will cost you just £25. phone 01865-245678 www.peopleandplanet.org/climatechange/summit.asp

* Tony Blair this week made his first speech about the environment after three and a half years in power (obviously a top priority!). He promised a meagre £50 million of lottery cash for renewable energy. But what he didn't mention was his Government's support for the nuclear industry's efforts to promote itself as clean energy! While Europe has stopped building nuclear reactors, the only lifeline left for the failing nuclear industry is to pass off itself as a (fluorescent) green option for the developing world. The nuclear industry pretends it produces hardly any carbon dioxide emissions and therefore contribute to a cleaner environment. But massive amounts of energy are used in mining, transporting and processing uranium, not to mention building and decommissioning of nuclear reactors and dealing with all the nuclear waste produced. Unless we take action, the Climate Summit will result in nuclear energy being officially recognised as an environmentally friendly source of energy. WISE will launch it's Don't Nuke The Climate campaign to expose this scary development. www.antenna.nl/wise

* For in depth information about climate change check out Issue 11 of Corporate Watch, 01865-791391 www.corporatewatch.org, or for a brief outline see SchNEWS 263.

Positive SchNEWS

This week is Energy Efficiency Week. As part of the week the Energy Saving Trust have been promoting their "Energy Efficiency Recommended" label that appears on electrical equipment which reaches an efficient standard. According to a survey by the Trust only 3 percent of people buying new electrical appliances actually consider the impact it will have on the environment. For more info on this and other energy saving tips phone 0800 512012 who will put you in contact with your nearest Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, or visit www.saveenergy.co.uk

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX. Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

Inside SchNEWS

Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera are the two founding members of the Organisation of Campesino Environmentalists in Mexico, who have been campaigning against excessive logging in Guerrero state. In May 1999 they were arrested and detained, and while in prison awaiting trial they were tortured in order to make them sign self-incriminating statements. Despite a statement in July by Mexico's National Committee on Human Rights (a government organisation), acknowledging they'd been illegally detained and tortured, they were found guilty in August, of drugs and firearms related crimes. Rodolfo was sentenced to 6 years and 10 months, and Teodoro to 10 years. Amnesty International recognises them as prisoners of conscience. Their treatment in prison has been appalling - both have had restrictions on visits, and there is now evidence that a prison director is hiring other inmates to beat them up. Rodolfo was a recipient of this year's Goldman Environmental Prize for his campaigning. For more info contact Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW Tel: 020 7413 5566 www.amnesty.org

* **Urgent appeal for witnesses:** If you were in the Strand between 7.50 and 8.05pm on Mayday, particularly if you have photos or video, contact Hugh Mullin at McCormacks solicitors 020 8372 1959

More dam lies

"I stand by my statement of last year, that if the height of the dam is raised an inch from its present height. I will sacrifice my life" Medha Patkar, leader of the NBA.

Last Wednesday saw the end of a six year long battle by the people of the Narmada Valley to halt further work on the Sardar Sarovar dam. This is one of the world's most controversial dam projects. It will forcibly displace more people than any other infrastructure project in the world except for China's notorious Three Gorges Dam. Work on the dam has been stalled since 1994 while opponents led by the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) battled in court to stop its height being raised. Last weeks decision gave the go ahead for the height of the dam to be raised by five meters immediately and for further increases at a later date. This will lead to the submergence of hundreds of more villages, displacing 200,000 people. A condition of the courts approval was that the authorities draw up a resettlement plan, but the government has already admitted there is no land available for resettlement. Anti-dam activists throughout the Narmada Valley have vowed to drown themselves if their villages are submerged. Send a free fax opposing the dam to the President of India at www.tpc.int/sendfax For more info on the dam visit www.narmada.org

* There will be a demonstration at the Indian High Commission, after the rally against the Ilisu dam in Parliament Square this Tuesday (31st October) which starts at 12pm 01865 200550 www.ilisu.org.uk

* The Chinese have developed a serious dam fetish and have built more dams than the rest of the world combined. Their latest plan is to use nuclear explosions to blast a tunnel through the Himalayas, through which they will divert the Yarlung Zangbo river, in order to supply water to what will be the world's largest hydroelectric dam. Not only will this contravene the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, it will also put China in control of water supplies to Tibet and parts of northern India. Chinese dam projects have already infuriated its neighbours. Earlier this year Vietnam took the unprecedented step of issuing a public statement criticising the construction of 14 dams along the Chinese stretch of the Mekong River. It remains to be seen whether the World Bank will provide any backing for the new scheme.

SchNEWS in brief

Some dates for November... On the 1st Fox **Hunt Sabbing season begins** For details of your local sab group ring Hunt Sab Association 01273-622827 ****Nuclear Trains Day of Action**, 3rd. Day to make people aware that trains carrying spent nuclear fuel travel through their areas. Contact: West Midlands CND 0121-6434617 **Benefit night for **Peoples' Global Action** on Fri 3rd at the Arsenal Tavern, 175 Blackstock Road, London N4. (tube & BR Finsbury Park) Featuring Maroon Town, One Style and Tarantism, DJ Megabitch. Stalls, info, Prague videos. £4/3 8.30pm-2am. www.agp.org ****National Demo against Huntingdon Life Sciences**. Sat 4th. Meet at main gates 12 noon Woolley Road, Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. SHAC 0121-6326460. www.welcome.to/shac **Also on the 4th **Hands Around the Home Office**. Defend asylum seekers. 11am Embankment, London. **15th **'Grants not Fees' Demo** 11.30am outside ULU Malet St., London. Students are calling for outside support with a more direct approach. Campaign for Free Education PO Box 22615, London. N4 1WT 07958-556756 email cfe@gn.apc.org ****Oscar Olivera**, leader of the uprising against World Bank prescribed water privatisation in Bolivia has received a Human Rights Award. After months of public protest the government was forced by public demand to stop US-based Bechtel buying a city's water system. ****Seoul, South Korea, Oct. 20th:** unarmed protesters were 'avin it at a demonstration against a summit of Asian and European leaders, which had to be protected by about 1000 police. ****Worthing's cheeky troublemaking, whistleblowin' monthly news-sheet, The Porkbolter** has released a compilation book of the past 30 issues. Copies of the Whole Hog can be bought for £2 (cheque or stamps) to The Porkbolter, PO Box 4144, Worthing, BN14 7NZ www.worthing.eco-action.org/porkbolter

Squat's in a name?

An assorted group of Newcastle's residents have occupied a derelict city centre building in protest at what they see as the increasing corporate take-over of their city. The property, formerly a recycling centre, is set to be demolished to make way for Electric City, a large leisure complex housing a cinema, shops, car park and bowling alley. With the squatting of the building - renamed Eclectic City - the group are aiming to highlight issues such as homelessness, lack of cultural spaces and alienation of the city's residents. "We are increasingly living in a corporate city which means a lot of expensive sameness with more and more people being excluded and feeling they don't belong," said a group member. Another told SchNEWS "This is really exciting. This is the first political squat in Newcastle for years." If you want to check out the free café, library and environmental centre or hear music powered by bicycle generators, get down to 109 Pilgrim St. They're in the High Court today to find out what happened call 04325 130529.

...and finally...

Those DNA juggling scientists who created Dolly the cloned sheep are now genetically messing with cows. These nutty professors are trying to genetically alter cows to produce 'humanised milk'. Apparently this milk is to be used for premature babies and has no commercial application. Yeah sure. Forgive us for being a bit cynical but this research was funded by none other than baby milk producers SMA, who of course have absolutely no vested interest in exploiting cows or women for profits. Maybe they'll start genetically modifying women to produce cows milk!

Disclaimer

Don't worry readers - it'll be all rights on the night. Honest.



water, electricity or gas, we provided heat, light and music from candles, camping stoves and batteries powered by renewable energy from bicycles. Reaction to the squat was a mixture of intrigue and support. The police only came once to check on health and safety and there was only one confrontation when one police constable accused a young mother of being an unfit parent for bringing her child to the squat. Certain police officers even expressed a preference for this type of venture in comparison to larger, corporate entertainment venues which put more demands on police resources. The local and regional media were generally supportive as it provided material for them to depict a David and Goliath battle between local people and non-local insensitive corporate developers (Henderson, 2000). As a result of the favourable media coverage, a number of local businesses and members of the public brought gifts of various kinds including food, candles

Mushy Peace Kitchen, Eclectic City.



and cooking equipment. A number of homeless people turned up after a week and were given room to stay. However, many members of the group initially felt uneasy about their presence and felt that they were not experienced enough to shelter homeless people. Yet, the new residents slowly began to help with the day to day running of the squat and became part of the group.

Two weeks after opening, a summons to the High Court in London was served from the owners of the building to 'Persons Unknown' which gave three days to prepare a defence. While most people agreed that there wasn't a realistic chance of putting forward a successful defence, the group thought that there may be an opportunity to negotiate a temporary use of the building with the owners through the granting of a temporary license or an 'order by consent'. This was especially the case since the proposals for Electric City had only just been referred to the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions for approval and there was little prospect of the developers moving on site for several months. At the High Court, efforts to negotiate a temporary use of the building and highlight a number of technical faults with the owner's witness statement were unsuccessful. The eviction took place the following week. To the media's delight, by the day of the eviction some of the group had made their way into an adjacent derelict building which was also earmarked for demolition to make way for Electric City. Banners were unfurled reading 'homeless need or big business greed?' and 'squat or rot?... squat the lot!' (McAteer, 2000). While we were also eventually evicted from this building, the experience had inspired a wide group that the dozens of empty and decaying buildings in the city should be put back into use to provide space and resources for a host of groups who currently have little say in the regeneration of Newcastle.

SQUATTING IS STILL LEGAL, NECESSARY AND FREE...

Every city has its derelict areas and wastelands. However, negative terms such as these overlook that squatting these forgotten spaces can transform them into places of living, creation and performance. In the three weeks in which Eclectic City was open, a disused building was transformed into a bustling place offering a free café, resource centre, performance space for musicians, poets, artists and photographers, shelter for several homeless people and space for local skaters. Several hundred people passed through Eclectic City in this brief time, highlighting the demand for places of play, work, meeting, or just being, outside the corporate entertainment infrastructure.

Many areas and buildings in our cities are in a state of suspension waiting for the latest banal hotch potch plan for a multiplex, casino, fun-pub, restaurant, edu-tainment centre to emerge from a developer and fed to an eager, cash strapped local authority. George Monbiot (1998, 182) has pointed out the limitations of the current development process and its lack of accountability: "If ordinary people don't like a local authority decision to approve a development, there's nothing whatsoever they can do about it... The results of this democratic deficit are visible all over our cities".

In this climate of lack of accountability from the local state and the banality of schemes being imposed upon cities, squatting and reclaiming parts of the city are eminently sensible and increasingly widespread options. When most developments in the contemporary city point towards sterility and sameness, squatting values diversity and disruption and represents a desire for serendipity, unpredictability and openness. Squatting celebrates the power of the local, the immediate and the act or deed. It refuses to be caught by the bureaucracy of the urban planning system and the rules which currently stifle and regulate play, leisure and entertainment in cities. Squatting may be one of the few remaining resources which allow cities to retain their soul, history and connection with people rather than profit. It illuminates a collective and creative use of urban space which sketches out possibilities for radical social change.

References

- McAteer, O. (2000) One step ahead. *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 1/1/2000. pp11.
 - Advisory Service for Squatters (1996) *Squatter's Handbook* 10th Edition. ASA: London.
 - Doron, G. M. (2000) The dead zone and their architectural transgression. *City*, vol. 4, no. 2. 247-263.
 - Henderson, T. (2000) Squatters take over doomed building. *The Journal*, 17/10/2000, pp. 6.
 - Monbiot, G. (1998) Reclaim the fields and the country lanes! The land is ours campaign. In G. McKay (ed.) *DIY Culture, party and protest in nineties Britain*. London: Verso, pp. 174-186.
- Further information can be found at:
<http://alt.venus.co.uk/weed/squatting/welcome.htm#links>
<http://www.squat.net/>



Pics: Jenny Pickerill

the tenth item the other nine were of no use. Those nine then go ahead - they're ordered, they arrive - and are stored in warehouses; so naturally the warehouses have stores that cannot in fact be used because they're waiting for other components that are blocked by the Sanctions Committee.

EDWARDS: *What was the motive behind blocking the one item out of ten?*

HALLIDAY: Because Washington, and to a lesser extent London, have deliberately played games through the Sanctions Committee with this programme for years - it's a deliberate ploy. For the British Government to say that the quantities involved for vaccinating kids are going to produce weapons of mass destruction, this is just nonsense. That's why I've been using the word 'genocide', because this is a deliberate policy to destroy the people of Iraq. I'm afraid I have no other view at this late stage.

EDWARDS: *The British government claims that Saddam is using the money from the 'oil for food' programme for anything other than food. Peter Hain, for example, recently stated, "Over \$8 billion a year should be available to Iraq for the humanitarian programme - not only for foods and medicines, but also clean water, electricity and educational material. No one should starve."*

HALLIDAY: Of the \$20 billion that has been provided through the 'oil for food' programme, about a third, or \$7 billion, has been spent on UN 'expenses', reparations to Kuwait and assorted compensation claims. That leaves \$13 billion available to the Iraqi government. If you divide that figure by the population of Iraq, which is 22 million, it leaves some \$190 per head of population per year over 3 years - that is pitifully inadequate.

EDWARDS: *Does the West want to hold on to Saddam? If so, why?*

HALLIDAY: Bush or somebody in the United States made a decision not to overthrow Saddam Hussein. What is the motive? Traditionally the motive was that they needed him to provide stability in Iraq, to keep Iraq together, to avoid the Kurds going their way and the Shia perhaps going their way in the South, and so on; and the Shia of course would threaten Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, being Shia as opposed to Suni - so he's a good enemy this man, he's great! Said Abunish in his new book has said that the CIA has worked with him for 30 years. So there is a ploy to keep him in power, but of course to destroy him at the same time, to enable him to survive without having any capacity to threaten his neighbours. If you look at the sales of US military hardware, Saddam is the best salesman in town. I think over \$100 billion has been sold to the Saudis, Kuwaitis, the Gulf states, Turkey, Israel, and so on. It's thanks to Saddam. Just last week they sold \$6.2 billion of military aircraft to the United Arab Emirates. What on earth does a little country need hardware like that for? Saddam provides that - he should be getting a cut.

EDWARDS: *How many people share your views in the UN? Is it a widespread feeling?*

HALLIDAY: Well I'll tell you, when I walk into the UN today, it's so amusing; people come up to me from nowhere, delegates and staff, and sort of look both ways and whisper in my ear, 'You're doing a great job, keep it up!' and then they run away. There's a sort of a fear, I think, that to be associated with Halliday now is dangerous if you want a career in the UN; that's a sort of perception. In fact I find a lot of people, particularly from the Arab Islamic world, and 'the South', are so pleased that somebody from the North has had the - whatever it is - to stand up and take on this issue. Coming from them it has no credibility; coming from me it has a certain amount of credibility. Of course Peter Hain is trying to destroy that as quickly as he can. But I think I've hung onto some credibility in most quarters and I think the resignation of Hans von Sponeck has underlined it. So I think between the two of us, representing almost 65 years of experience, two and a half years of manag-

ing the damn thing in Iraq, we both have exactly the same view, and I think that says something. A BBC producer recently said to me, 'That's an indictment'.

EDWARDS: *The Guardian today reported Iraq's rejection of UN Resolution 1284 on the grounds that it indicated no end to sanctions and arms inspections. What's your view of 1284?*

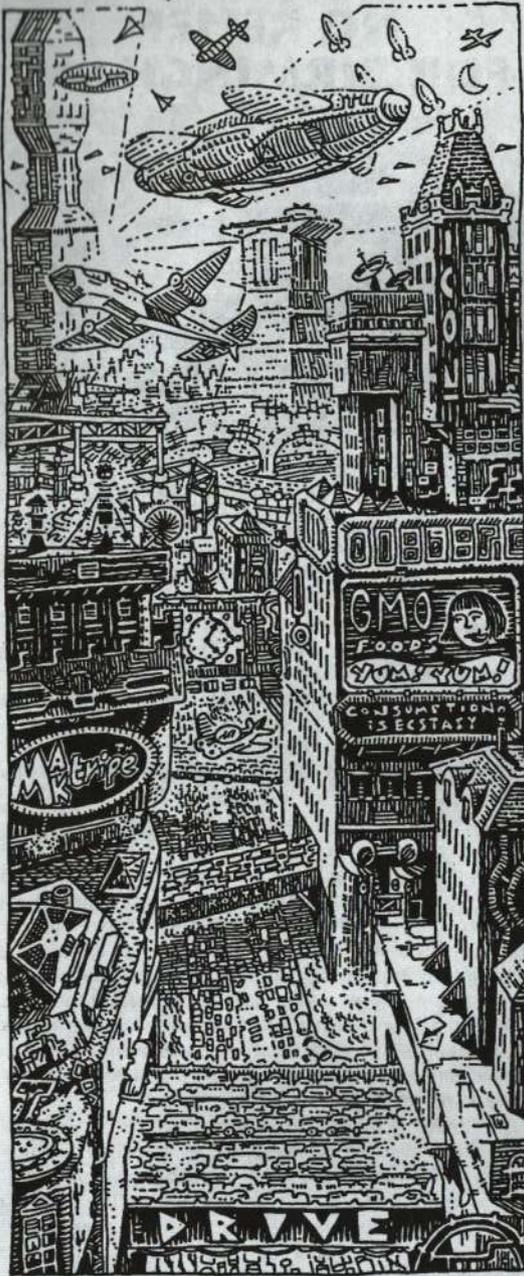
HALLIDAY: Von Sponeck and I have exactly the same view: it's designed to fail, this programme. First of all it took a year to assemble that resolution, if you can believe that. Secondly, it gives the Iraqis no specifics: it doesn't tell them exactly what is required, and when, in terms of disarming. Thirdly, if you listen to Scott Ritter, they have no nuclear, chemical or biological capacity left, but of course they have the mental capacity, and they have the scientists - some of them - and they're always going to be there and there's nothing you can do about that. And Dr. Hans Blix, former Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, very honestly, has said, 'Look, I can go in there 24 hours a day for ten years and I will never be able to say that there isn't a half a pound of chemical left behind, or whatever; it's just impossible'. And that's why this whole programme is futile. We've got to reopen a dialogue with Iraq, like we've done with North Korea. We need to find out what the concerns of the Iraq government are now, what can be done for the future.

EDWARDS: *Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, says there won't be any significant developments until after the US presidential elections. What do you make of that?*

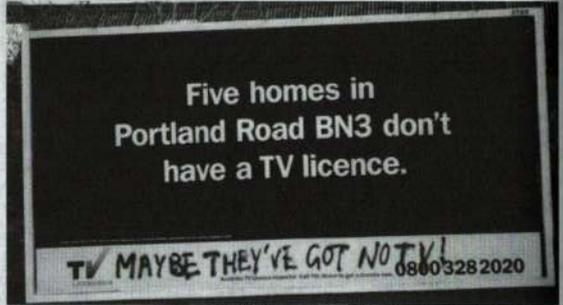
HALLIDAY: I saw Tariq Aziz in October and that's what he said to me also. The outgoing lame duck US President normally never changes basic policy during the election year, and I think that if Clinton tried he'd be shot down by the Congress - which is controlled by the Republicans after all. He just couldn't get away with it. He hasn't got the stature of a Nixon going to China, for example. And Gore and Bush, both, are repeating the same old nonsense: 'Blame Saddam Hussein, retain economic sanctions,' without, I think, understanding the humanitarian consequences.

EDWARDS: *Is there a prospect of real change over, say, the next one or two years?*

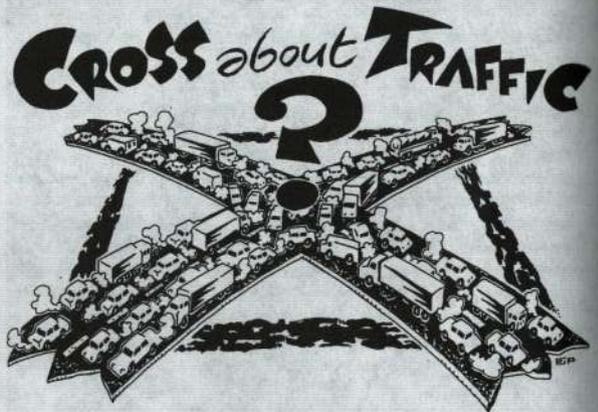
HALLIDAY: Oh Christ I hope it doesn't take that long, but you may well be right. No, I think John's film ['Paying the Price - Killing the Children of Iraq' by John Pilger] has made a huge difference, certainly in Britain and Ireland, but maybe in parts of Europe, hopefully later in Australia and Canada, maybe someday in this country. I think von Sponeck's resignation has helped and we've had some new statements in Congress and in Westminster about the humanitarian infanticide: something is changing here, but it's just changing very very slowly. Hans von Sponeck and I will be in Washington on the 3rd of May to testify in Congress or to speak to a Congressional meeting. On the 6th of May, von Sponeck and I will be in London to do a briefing. We're hoping to go to Brussels, to Paris, to Rome, Berlin. I think it's getting upstream into the area of parliamentarians. In France, members of parliament have been very active against economic sanctions. I just saw the Irish foreign minister last week and he's also come out and is deeply concerned about economic sanctions. There is a movement, a recognition, that economic sanctions, in the case of Iraq in particular, are a disastrous failure and are totally unacceptable as a UN tool. In the meantime, the Secretary General, I'm afraid, is not saying this; he's talking about "hurting" the children of Iraq, which is just outrageous: we're killing the children of Iraq. I'm extremely disappointed with the Secretary-General; he just doesn't have the courage to say what really has got to be said. I wonder what Dag Hammarskjöld [former UN Secretary-General] would have made of this policy by now. I think Hammarskjöld would have spoken up a long time ago against a programme like this - so it's very sad to see this happening.



Peter Foole



Brighton, 2001



"And don't think a bit of rain will put us off!"

31st October:
Ilisu Dam demo in
London

Glastonburied

Every year Mendip Council refuse the Glastonbury Festival's license, yet it always goes ahead. But this time, they are refusing to renew the license unless "the Festival Organisers and Police co-operate in resolving the issue of intrusion by the New Age Travellers convoys each year to the Festival site." Intrusion? What a bloody cheek.

Glastonbury today would not exist without the "intrusion" of the free-festival community. Even the greenest of young festival goers could not fail to perceive a marked difference between the chaotic 24-hour non stop carnival that is Glastonbury and the sanitised, lights out and bugged off at 11.30pm glorified pop-concert-in-a-field that is Reading/V2000 etc. Almost every article on Glastonbury this year raved about the casino Lost Vagueness, with photos showing the travellers who invented and ran it. Other site venues and bubbles of pure old-style festival spirit are run by people who were doing their thing on the travellers site 10 years ago but have gradually become an intrinsic part of the whole event.

According to the council report, 58 complaints were received concerning the site at Piplers field. "Some members of the public could put up with their presence during the Festival only if they were quiet." So that's several thousand travellers' annual party threatened by 58 people who object to the inconvenience of a couple of days of basslines. What seems beyond the comprehension of opponents is that, for people who live on the road, Glastonbury is a traditional family gathering. Because their contribution to the festival over the years has not been cash based, the travellers have become increasingly marginalised.

Michael Eavis has attempted to accommodate them whilst conforming to license requirements, but this latest report signals a new onslaught of intolerance. Free festival veteran Tash told SchNEWS, "I have 30 years of experience in festivals. With outfits like Festival Welfare Services and Travellers Aid Trust, we have helped run the medical and welfare services at lots of events and did so as volunteers. Many will be excluded from Glastonbury under the new criteria although we have contributed to the festival for years. As far as those policing the event are concerned, we are 'travellers'. This is how they terrorised and fragmented the movement before in 1985 at the beanfields. If we have no annual gathering, we are less united."

* Extract from the Avon and Somerset police report: "The levels of crime.....within the vicinity of the perimeter fence are significantly and unacceptably higher than normal crime levels in that locality." No really? Is that cos 99% of the time it's farmland? What do they expect - bovine gangstas?

* Check out Tash's two fine sites about festivals, parties, and travellers at www.gn.apc.org/tash (website) and <http://wappy.to/tash> (WAPsite).

* Travellers' Times is sorting out a photo project called "Picture This". If you've got any photos contact Rural Media Company, 01432 344039, info@ruralmedia.co.uk.

* Tragic Roundabout, Brighton's very own festival minstrels, have just launched their funky new web site: www.tragicroundabout.freeserve.co.uk/

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 10 for next 9 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX. Tell/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

SchNEWS in brief

As part of a whole week of actions there is a protest at the US Embassy against the economic sanctions on Iraq. Saturday 25th November 1pm Grosvenor Square, London W1. Workshop and legal briefing on the day before 7.30-9.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Voices in the Wilderness, 01865-243232, <http://welcome.to/voicesuk> ** 16 November: premiere of the film 'Big Ben to Baghdad'. Epic story of a 15,000 mile journey made by an antique bus from London to Baghdad. Brunei Theatre, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 6.30pm The event is free but donations are welcome. Afterwards there will be a debate on the current situation in Iraq.** A new webpage featuring best recent union campaigns on health and safety issues has been set up. They want input and links for the page www.hazards.org/campaigns/ ** Issue 5 of *Bread and Roses* is out now - magazine of the Industrial Workers of the World, PO Box 4414, Poole, Dorset BH15 3YL** While you're at it, relieve the stress of work by visiting www.mybossocks.com ** 13-16 November: British Crop Protection Council Annual Conference, Hilton Metropole, Brighton. This is a pro-biotech conference with speakers from Aventis, Zeneca and Monsanto and Huntingdon Life Sciences exhibiting. There is a meeting about actions against this at 8pm, 7th November at Branch Tavern, London Road, Brighton** After running scared from Seattle, the World Trade Organisation went running to the Arabian monarchy of Qatar, but rumour has it that they can't now meet here. Apparently there isn't enough hotel space for all the delegates and hangers on. The meeting usually held in November would also clash with the Muslim festival of Ramadan** Check out our website for the latest Party and Protest dates.

Nursery Crimes

The spirit of youthful resistance is alive and kicking in the London Borough of Hackney, where parents and toddlers have occupied two council-run nursery schools in opposition to closure plans. The troublemaking tots have been there for two weeks, with massive support from nearby residents, trade unions, and even the local branch of Tesco's donating food to the pre-school squatters. As a result the council have backed off from closing the nurseries - but only for the time being.

Plans to shut the nurseries are part of a huge cuts package proposed by Hackney Council, currently £40 million in debt. The council's Labour - Conservative coalition (says it all really, doesn't it?) want to introduce a "new era of political stability" for the borough by, er, cutting services, sacking staff, and slashing wages to reduce the debt. Sounds familiar? Also on the agenda is privatisation of council services (see SchNEWS 226) - even though contracting out Hackney's benefits section to the private company ITNet resulted in three years of chaos, with late payments causing 20,000 people to run up rent arrears and hundreds more being threatened with eviction.

Hackney's debt is no worse than that of several other local authorities, but it is one of the poorest local authority areas in the country. Residents and council employees believe they have been targeted for the axe by Central Government because of the borough's history of militancy during the 1980s and early 1990s. The council will meet on Monday 6th November to discuss a cuts package - but the same day will see all out action to shut down the borough in protest. Meet at 1pm at Hackney Town Hall to join the fun. More details: 07979 823597. For the thespians among you, there will also be a forum theatre performance about Hackney's debt on the 6th - contact Nick on 07946 048602.

Inside SchNEWS

Saturday 4th there is a rally in London celebrating the Prague events and showing solidarity with those still in jail. Meet 2pm, Spinkers Corner, Hyde Park.

Five protesters still remain in Czech jails in relation to the S26 events. The Civic Legal Observers are going to file complaints about alleged abuse against protesters to the Czech authorities within the next few weeks, and Czech Police have promised to take any complaints seriously (yeah sure).

On November 17 there will be a protest in Prague to denounce the fact that after the Velvet Revolution not much has changed for the majority of Czech people, and that there remains an extraordinarily level of active repression. This date marks the date that students protests sparked the Velvet Revolution. A call has gone out for solidarity actions around the world.

Michael Collins a May Day prisoner on remand would really appreciate letters. He has been forced to accept a plea bargain, accepting Arson and Violent Disorder. He's up for sentence on 3rd November, and expects to get 4-5 years. FR6303, HMP Wandsworth, PO Box 757, Heathfield Road, London, SW18 3HS

* For the latest list of prisoners check out all the new Brighton Anarchist Black Cross/SchNEWS www.schnews.org.uk/prisoners

Positive SchNEWS

Fed up with looking at an empty open space outside their tower blocks in Salford near Manchester, a group of tenants decided to set up their own community garden. Now three years later the garden is thriving with a traditional fruit and nut orchard, a wildflower meadow and a native woodland as well as allotments growing organic vegetables. Not only has the garden produced cheap fruit and vegetables for local residents, it has also provides a social space. It has proved so successful that loads of projects have been inspired by it, including a school tree growing project. Last month saw the opening of the Urban Oasis Centre within the gardens to provide training for those interested in transforming their own derelict spaces. For more info contact The Arid Lands Initiative, Machpelah Works, Burnley Road, Hebdon Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8AU Tel: 01422 843807. Also available free from the local council is the 'Grass roots guide to good practice for open spaces.' For your copy phone 0161 7933762.

...and finally...

*Folks at Nineladies Anti-Quarry protest camp in Derbyshire are breaking new ground by getting their kit off for the cause. 'The Naked Nineladies 2001 calendar' will feature twelve months' worth of treetop titillation from the dishy dissenters. SchNEWS eagerly awaits shots that will see 'em turned on while locked-on, giving fresh meaning to the phrase 'harness tart' - and, we trust, not a public louse in sight. They are seeking commercial sponsorship. Interested parties and dirty old men should call the site mobile on 07799 528871. *Not to be outdone, "Anarch-ho pro-ducktons" are looking for erotic writers, camera people and budding porn stars who are willing to bare all (balacavas okay) to further the goals of anarchism in an anarcho-porn movie(!) The production - *Black Bloc of Smouldering Desire* - will come out next year, and give an insight into what really happens in an affinity group. *The SchNEWS Crew regrets to announce that we have no plans to go starkers for the cameras this Christmas (...though predictably, if you get the beers in, it's a safe enough bet that a few of us would oblige on an individual basis).

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all drivers they're living in a fuel's paradise if they're fuelhardy enough to ignore a flood of protests in the pipeline. Honest (fuel stop)

This general disaffection has already been harnessed to such significant effect by the right wing pro-hunting lobby group, the Countryside Alliance, which has gone to often farcical lengths - including their so called People's March through London in 1998 - to spread their message that New Labour are urbanites with no sense of countryside issues.

Organisations like the Road Hauliers' Association (RHA) and Freight Transport Association (FTA) on the other hand are obviously directly affected by fuel taxes and have campaigned on the issue for a number of years. As director general of the RHA from 1997 to 1999, Tory MP and failed candidate for London mayor, Steven Norris, regularly used his position to have a go at Labour. However, there was relatively little to pin a party political issue on, given that it was a Conservative government that had facilitated steep rises in petrol prices by introducing the petrol tax escalator. In fact it was Gordon Brown who got rid of the escalator in 1999, slowing rises on petrol excise immediately and earning a Country Landowner Association (CLA) press release headline which sighed: "Fuel Tax Declaration a welcome respite". Within a year however, the CLA were keen to be one of the right wing vested business interests jumping on the diesel bandwagon and thrusting its finger at the New Labour government.

It is not SQUALL's position to let this government off the hook totally by pointing up the role of the oil companies in this charade. The excuse that tax on fuel is an environmentally friendly disincentive to car use is highly fallacious. No significant number of people stop using their cars because of petrol prices. Indeed any use of tax as a disincentive - like that levied on cigarette sales - merely places a heavier burden on those who can least afford to continue doing what they will inevitably continue doing. Persuasions not to use cars require other incentives such as improvements in public transport, and using environmental excuses to keep petrol taxes high is devious.

In orchestrating the recent so called 'direct action', a cabal of interlocking profit-interests succeeded in precipitating panic buying, inducing a petrol drought and fooling the rest of the population into blaming the government for the whole lot. In so doing they were carrying on a recent trend for reactionary organisations to play out their politics under the guise of public dissent; attempting to steal a march on the kind of direct action normally associated with human rights and environmental activists. Indeed when the so called committee of fuel protestors - tellingly misnamed the People's Fuel Lobby - met in Cheshire in late October, the car-park was full of Mercedes, BMW's and new Volvo's. The committee asserted that the 'people' were going to organise a mass vehicle go-slow from Jarrow to London in a larger scale re-enactment of the Jarrow March of 1936. The now legendary Jarrow March was conducted entirely by destitute people living below the poverty line.

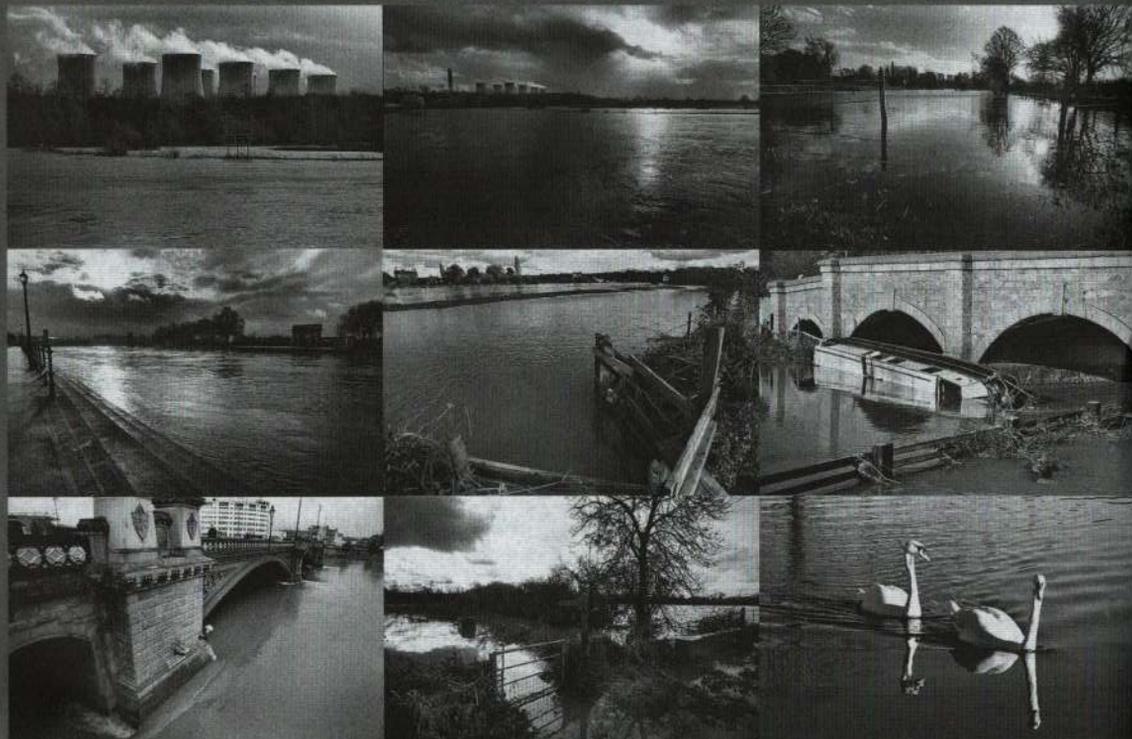
Among the richly endowed leaders of the so called People's Fuel Lobby are Road Haulage Unite spokesperson, Nigel Kime, the owner of a £2 million haulage firm and Derek Mead, owner of a massive 1,600 acre dairy farm.

The appropriation of the Jarrow March imagery was audacious in the extreme.

With weird weather, global warming and petrochemical emissions all around us, it is a matter of some farce that we are expending so much debating time on the issue of petrol prices. But it is in the interest of the oil industry and other big business to keep us occupied with such trivialities.

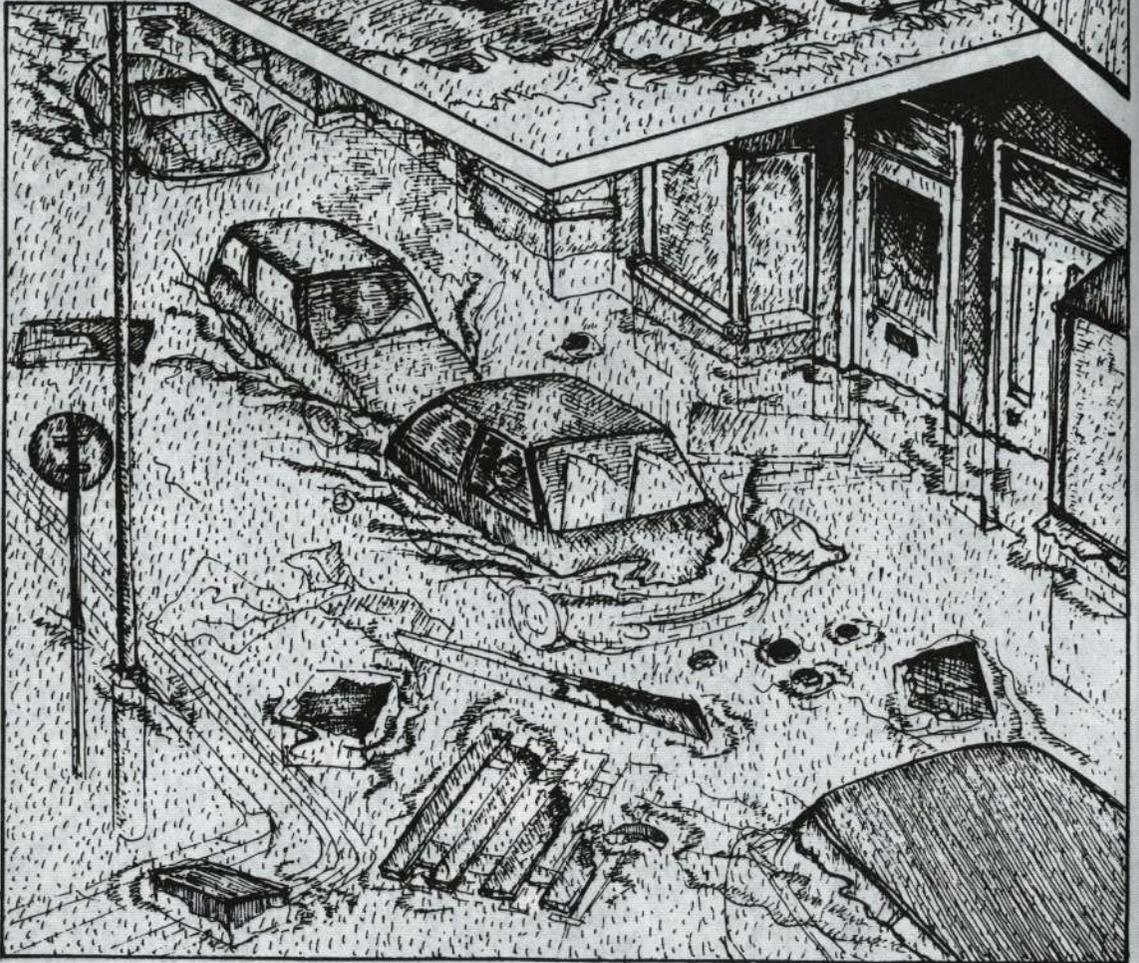
One of the favourite videos doing the SQUALL editorial rounds at present depicts black and white footage of post-revolutionary Cuban citizens kicking down neon logos from the roofs of oil corporation headquarters. How sweet the sight of just comeuppance.

global warming = floods



England, winter 2000

montage by Tash



WHERE DO GREENHOUSE GASES COME FROM?

CO₂ COMES FROM BURNING FOSSIL FUELS AND DEFORESTATION

METHANE COMES FROM FLOODING LAND FOR RICE PRODUCTION AND COW FARTS. ALSO FROM LEAKS OF NATURAL GAS

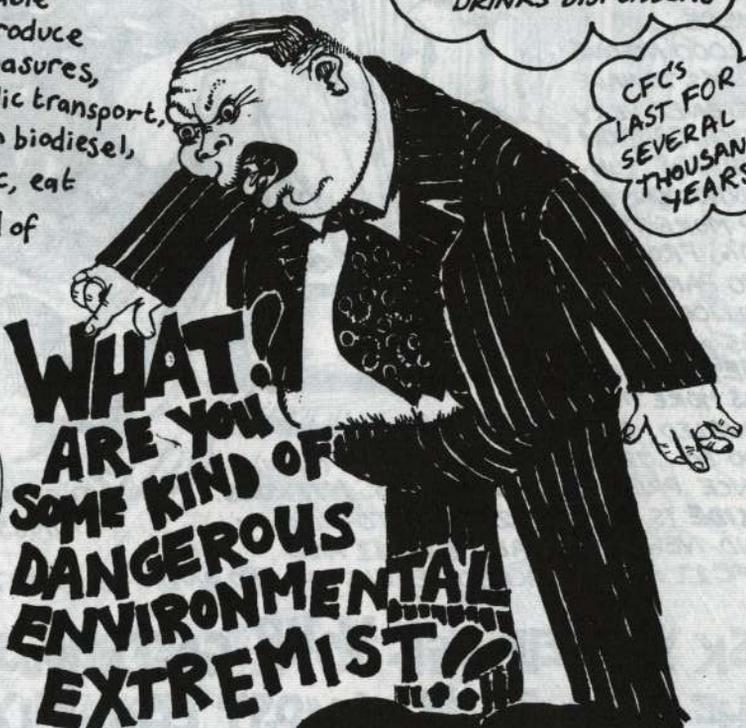
METHANE LASTS FOR 12 YRS IN THE ATMOSPHERE, NITROUS OXIDE LASTS 120 YEARS AND CO₂ FOR 200 YEARS.

NITROUS OXIDE COMES FROM NITROGEN BASED COMMERCIAL FERTILISERS, AND BURNING FOSSIL FUELS

AND CFC'S ARE EMITTED BY VITAL, SOCIALLY NECESSARY, LIFE ENRICHING SOFT DRINKS DISPENSERS

CFC'S LAST FOR SEVERAL THOUSAND YEARS

Hey, we can sort that. We could switch to renewable electricity production, introduce energy conservation measures, fund cheap, efficient public transport, start running vehicles on biodiesel, plant trees, go organic, eat curry and chips instead of rice and drink warm lemonade.



WHAT! ARE YOU SOME KIND OF DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMIST!

PROOF?

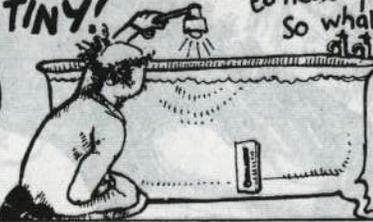
...IN 1988, THE UNITED NATIONS SET UP THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC); AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF 2000 TOP SCIENTISTS AND CLIMATE MODELLERS WHO TRACK AND PREDICT TRENDS IN CLIMATE CHANGE.



THEIR THIRD ASSESSMENT REPORT (DUE OUT 2001) STATES THAT: ...there has been a discernable human influence on global climate.

THE WORLD IS NOW 0.6°C WARMER THAN IT WAS IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES. FOR THE LAST 20 YRS, GLOBAL TEMPERATURE HAS BEEN RISING 0.2°C PER DECADE.

0.6°C? THAT'S NOTHING!
TINY! TINY!
TINY!



Well, it isn't much, but since most of the planet is covered in deep water it takes a long time to heat up. At least 40 years. So what we're seeing now is the effect of CO₂ emissions in the 1950s.



THE IPCC PREDICTS THAT BY 2080, CO₂ LEVELS WILL DOUBLE AND GLOBAL TEMPERATURE WILL RISE BY 2.5°C or maybe 1°C, or maybe 4°C. THEN, EVEN IF EMISSIONS HALT, THE TEMPERATURE WILL RISE A BIT MORE.

TINY! TINY!
NOT VERY MUCH AT ALL!



No, you see raising the temperature of the world by just 1°C means pumping an incredible extra amount of energy into the weather system. A 5°C rise could be on the cards... and during the last Ice Age the planet was only 5°C colder than today.



Oh - what are you reading?
That's not on my National Curriculum.



and **LESS icy**

END OF 20th CENTURY SALE
GLACIERS SLASHED
 Mount Kenya - 92% OFF
 Mount Kilimanjaro - DOWN 73%
 Russian Caucasus - ONLY HALF LEFT
 The Alps - 50% OFF



THE THING IS, THE MORE ICE MELTS, THE MORE ICE MELTS.

SNOW AND ICE, BEING WHITE, REFLECT THE SUN'S HEAT. (THIS IS KNOWN AS HAVING A HIGH ALBEDO EFFECT).

EARTH AND PINE NEEDLEY THINGS ARE DARK (LOW ALBEDO) SO SOAK UP THE SUN'S HEAT, WARM THE EARTH AND MELT MORE ICE

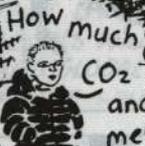
SIMPLE HUH? BUT THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY POSITIVE FEEDBACK EFFECTS; WAYS IN WHICH A SMALL SHIFT IN TEMPERATURE CAN CAUSE THE EARTH TO WARM MORE RAPIDLY THAN YOU'D THINK: ALASKA IS PREDICTED TO WARM BY 10°C IN WINTER. THAT'S A LOT.



THEN OTHER SCARY FEEDBACKS COULD KICK IN.

PERMAFROST AREAS ARE COVERED BY BIG ACIDIC SPHAGNUM MOSS BOGS WHICH ACCUMULATE PEAT, LOCKING CARBON INTO THE SOIL.

THE PERMAFROST MELTS, FORESTS START TO GROW, THE SOIL BECOMES LESS ACIDIC, THE PEAT DECOMPOSES AND CO₂ AND METHANE ARE RELEASED.



How much CO₂ and methane?

Er about 450 billion tonnes?

HERE'S ANOTHER ONE:

★ METHANE CLATHRATE IS THIS WEIRD ICE-LIKE STUFF WHICH FORMS IN THE OCEAN IN THE SEDIMENT BY THE EDGES OF CONTINENTAL SHELVES

★ THE WATER IN THE ARCTIC IS RELATIVELY SHALLOW. IT HEATS UP FAST WITH ALL THE EXTRA WARMING.

★ THE METHANE MOLECULES BECOME UNSTABLE AND ARE RELEASED AS GAS

★ THIS COULD HAPPEN REALLY VERY QUICKLY, AND THE AMOUNT OF METHANE GIVEN OFF WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SEND THE WHOLE CLIMATE OFF THE RAILS.

Hm, yes. I must say this is a speculative model, er, I mean, ah, we can't actually prove it will happen.

Until it has. — er, yes.



SEA ICE MELTING IS OK: WHEN ICE CUBES MELT IN A DRINK, THE DRINK DOESN'T OVERFLOW. IT'S WHEN ICE ON THE LAND MELTS INTO SEA WATER THAT THE VOLUME OF WATER INCREASES.

WELL THE ARCTIC IS MAINLY SEA ICE SO THAT'S OK

BUT ANTARCTICA AND GREENLAND ARE COVERED WITH HUGE LAND BASED ICE SHEETS



REMEMBER HOW WARMING IS HAPPENING FASTEST AT THE POLES...

THE IPCC CURRENTLY RECKON THAT SEA LEVELS WILL RISE ABOUT 50cm, OR MAYBE 1m, IN THE NEXT 100 YRS.

BUT THAT'S ASSUMING THAT THE WEST ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET DOESN'T BREAK OFF THE SERIES OF SIX LITTLE ISLANDS IT'S SITTING ON AND FLOAT AWAY.

SPLOSH



What happens then?

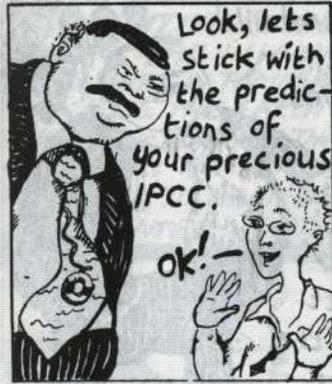
A six metre sea level rise.

But, hmm, that's statistically unlikely to happen in the next 100 years

When will it happen then?

Well, er, some time after that.

So that's alright then



Look, lets stick with the predictions of your precious IPCC.

OK!

A 1 METRE SEA LEVEL RISE...

- ★ WILL FLOOD 5 MILLION km² OF LAND.
- ★ THATS 3% OF ALL LAND ON THE PLANET,
- ★ INCLUDING MANY MAJOR CITIES SUCH AS NEW YORK, LONDON AND BANGKOK,
- ★ AND 30% OF PRODUCTIVE CROP LAND.

AND WHEN THE FLOODED VEGETATION DECOMPOSES, IT GIVES OFF METHANE + CO₂!



Shame

THE FLOODS, COMBINED WITH WATER SHORTAGES + DROUGHT WILL DISRUPT ENTIRE COUNTRIES. WARS WILL BE FOUGHT FOR WATER AND LAND.



IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES.



Don't worry your pretty little head about it. These things only affect people in HOT countries. And those people tend to die a lot anyway.



Oh - more interest payments on those loans. Marvellous.

Here in England it will be balmy...
...Mediterranean...



Um, no.

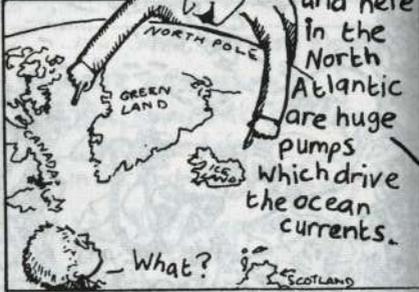
STRANGELY ENOUGH, GLOBAL WARMING MAY WELL MAKE NORTHERN EUROPE MUCH COLDER

OUR MILD CLIMATE IS DUE TO THE GULF STREAM BRINGING WARM, TROPICAL WATER OVER FROM JAMAICA.



It doesn't feel very tropical to me

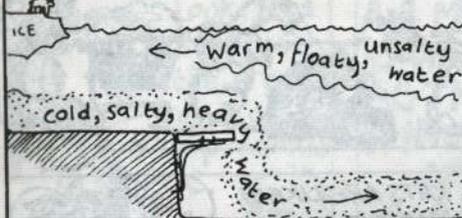
THE GULF STREAM MIGHT SWITCH OFF.



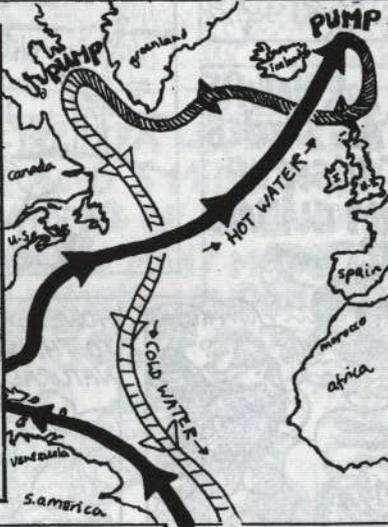
Look, here and here in the North Atlantic are huge pumps which drive the ocean currents.

What?

WHAT HAPPENS IS, AS ICE FORMS IT LEAVES BEHIND SALTIER, DENSER SEA WATER...



THIS FLOWS OUT OVER AN ENORMOUS SHELF IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, PULLING WARMER WATER FROM THE TROPICS BACK IN ITS PLACE. (THAT'S THE "PUMP").



BUT, AS GLACIERS MELT IN CANADA AND GREENLAND, MORE FRESH WATER WILL DILUTE THE SALTY DENSE SEA WATER. IT WON'T SINK, JUST MINGLE AND THE CURRENTS WILL STOP. SOME SCIENTISTS RECKON JUST 0.25% MORE FRESH MELT WATER WILL MAKE THIS HAPPEN.



So England ends up 10°C colder in winter. Look, we're way further North than Montreal.

Gosh. In that case I'll have to consider relocating abroad.



But that'll make you a refugee.

Oh no no no no no. It makes me an expatriate.

THEN THERE'S ONE GREAT BIG **WHOPPER** OF A POSITIVE FEEDBACK: THE OCEANS AND FORESTS SOAK UP CO₂ EMISSIONS, BUT THEY CAN'T DO IT IF THEY GET TOO HOT.

PHYTOPLANKTON SWIM AROUND IN THE SEA CHOMPING UP CARBON BASED NUTRIENTS. WHEN THEY DIE, SOME OF THEM SINK DOWN INTO THE SEDIMENT AT THE BOTTOM LOCKING AWAY 5 BILLION TONS OF CARBON A YEAR.

Without us, pre-industrial CO₂ levels would have been 450ppmv, not 280ppmv.

we're important we are!

THINGS PLANKTON LIKE

Yum!

cold, stormy water with lots of nutrients stirred up all through it!

Nice strong currents - like the GULF STREAM!

Whee!

THINGS PLANKTON DON'T LIKE

Heated up water which forms a layer at the top of the sea and stops the nutrients mixing in.

UV radiation ~ like what comes through the hole in the ozone layer.

WITH PREDICTED LEVELS OF WARMING, PLANKTON POPULATIONS WILL CRASH. THE OCEANS WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO 'FIX' HALF THE AMOUNT OF CO₂

THEN, IF CO₂ LEVELS QUADRUPLE, THE SEAS WILL GET SO MUCH HOTTER THAT THE CO₂ DISSOLVED IN THEM WILL START TO BUBBLE OUT.

But plants love CO₂. They'll grow extra fast and soak up the emissions.

I think you're wrong.

And why is that?

Well, you've been wrong about everything else so far in this cartoon.

NOW LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT

- ★ MOST PLANTS DON'T AFFECT CO₂ LEVELS BECAUSE THEY DECOMPOSE QUICKLY + THE CARBON GOES BACK IN THE AIR.
- ★ TREES DO 'STORE' CARBON IN THEIR TRUNKS, BUT ONLY UNTIL THEY ROT OR BURN.
- ★ AND, YES, HIGHER CO₂ CONCENTRATIONS WILL MAKE TREES GROW FASTER, BUT...

Now listen.

Listen to me very carefully.

BUT... (SINCE SEAS ABSORB HEAT + LAND REFLECTS IT) THE GREATEST WARMING WILL HAPPEN OVER LARGE LAND MASSES. THE I.P.C.C. FORECASTS SAY AN 8°C RISE. TREES CAN'T COPE WITH THAT AMOUNT OF HEAT + DROUGHT, AND BY 2050, THE TROPICAL FORESTS ALL DIE OFF. THE CO₂ RELEASED INCREASES ATMOSPHERIC LEVELS BY 1/3.

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS

Now listen.

Listen to me very carefully.

DON'T LET THEM HOOK THE NOOK

Can a local community gain rights over a piece of land because they have used it without permission for twenty years or more? Yes it can, and when it does, the piece of land is registered as a Town (or Village) Green. Sounds great, but if the landowner is opposed to the registration, a lengthy period of legal acrobatics will ensue while the strict legal tests are argued out. That's exactly what a local group of people in Liverpool is doing right now over a piece of land in their neighbourhood, Princes Park in Toxteth.

For a good thirty years a corner of Princes Park known as Park Nook had not received the same attention from council maintenance workers as the rest of this historic public space, one of the first landscaped municipal parks in the country. However, it had not escaped the attention of local residents. The mature tree around the perimeter and the sapling trees in the middle gave it the appearance of developing woodland, a rarity in Toxteth. As well as the trees, the derelict basement of an old house in the centre afforded great play opportunities for the kids. Extensive patches of brambles made it a convenient blackberrying spot. The fact that it was a small piece of wilderness on the edge of a green desert right here in the inner city was an attraction in itself. The network of paths crisscrossing Park Nook show that a significant number of people regularly visit this place and enjoy it.

Anyhow, the story starts in May 1999, long before anybody living around Princes Park had heard of anything called a Town Green. One day a fence was erected around the land and site notices went up. Planning permission had been granted to build two blocks of flats. This was a shock to local people: could this mean the Nook was not really part of the park? Unthinkable. Well yes, actually. A property developer had owned it since the sixties and had finally decided to develop it. On the Bank Holiday over a hundred and fifty people gathered for a picnic and pondered what to do. After some deliberation, but quicker than you can say Cyril Webb & Co, the fence was down. The redundant wood came in very handy for tree houses mind you. Also, amidst the frenetic activity, Friends of Princes Park was formed.

With each day that passed, a growing number of people became involved in some way, building defences, providing food, publicity, entertaining the kids. The camp became a fulcrum for energy and debate in the area; Toxteth had its very own tree top protest! The arguments focussed on the fact that hardly anyone had been aware that the Nook was not part of the park, even less that a planning application had gone in. Even those who had been aware of, and objected to, the proposed development did not receive correspondence from the council as promised. Many questioned why an area designated as green space was being

developed with so many vacant properties nearby.

As the novelty of the protest wore off and the kids wore us down, it became clear that the council were not going to revoke the planning permission under any circumstances. Wildlife concerns were not cutting much ice either. Without cause for hope, the campaign would inevitably run out of steam. If only there was a law that recognised usage of a piece of land, a bit like Rights of Way legislation. Amazingly there is, and a local legal head found it just in time.

The piece of legislation that was discovered was the Commons Registration Act of 1965. Within this act there is a provision to register a piece of land as a Town Green (see below: 'Proving a Green'). Okay, so Park Nook didn't look like your traditional green but there is nothing in the law to say what it should look like. On 7th July 1999 Friends of Princes Park handed the application to register Park Nook as a Town Green... and waited.

It took over a year for the council to decide how to proceed. Like most councils, they had never had to deal with anything like this before. Also, as both the registering body and the granter of the planning position in question they were in an awkward position, although its worth pointing out at this point that a successful Town Green application overrides any previous planning permission. Apparently, the developers recognised this dilemma and the threat of building was temporarily over. Obviously, a continued occupation was seen as a waste of resources while this stay of execution existed. Since September last year we have had to gather a lot more evidence and exchange documents containing arguments and counter arguments. In March we were on the brink of a hearing when the council decided they needed to hire an external barrister to hold an inquiry; more delays. To be honest, we were surprised they had not done this in the first place and we think the case is as strong as ever.

In conclusion, although the legal process is far from over, it is the only long-term hope of conserving Park Nook. However, we would be nowhere if it hadn't been for the time bought by the initial direct action. A few recommendations as far as registering a Town Green is concerned: grasp the legal technicalities, gather as much of the right sort of evidence as possible...and be patient!

Proving a Green

The Commons Registration Act (1965) says that anyone can register a piece of land as a Town Green if, has been used by people:

1. 'As of right' (i.e. users must not have had permission but they must not have been told they did not have permission either);
2. More or less continuously for at least twenty years;
3. For 'lawful sports and pastimes' including organised community activities right through to dog-walking and blackberrying;
4. Who are from a well defined locality or neighbourhood within a locality.

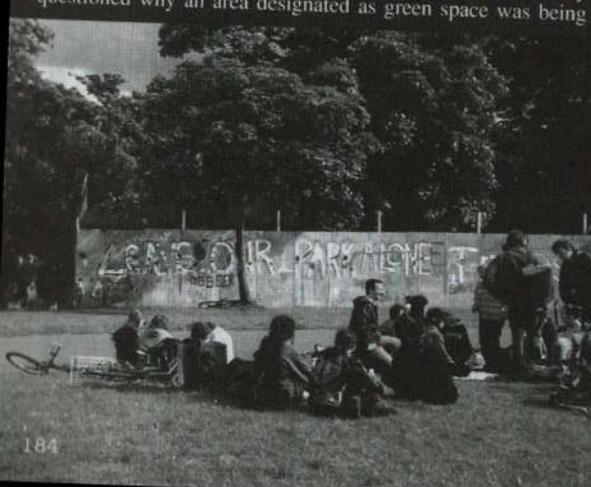
The Open Spaces Society is a charity that specialises in helping people get Town Greens registered. Their advice is generally helpful albeit sometimes slightly over-optimistic. They encourage people to have a go at registering a green, but delays and difficulties can arise in two main areas:

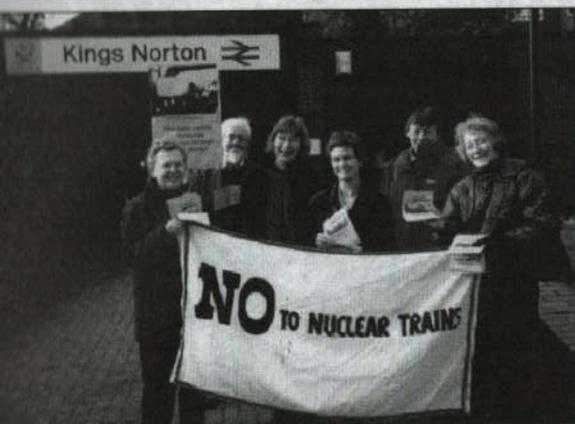
The local council is the registering body but they have probably never dealt with such an application before. Therefore they have to form a process that is agreeable to all parties and meets the requirements of the European Human Rights Act (2000). This can take time!

The legal tests outlined above need to be approached carefully because they are at once strict yet ambiguous, especially what constitutes a 'neighbourhood' or a 'locality'. Most failed Town Green applications have fell on this issue.

For more information and help on Town Greens, join the Open Spaces Society or check out their web site: www.oss.org.uk. Or contact us at saveparknookcampaign@hotmail.com

Chris Lovell, Friends of Princes Park





"Can we use our nuclear family railcard?"
 November 3rd: No Nuclear Trains Action at King Norton Train Station, West Midlands

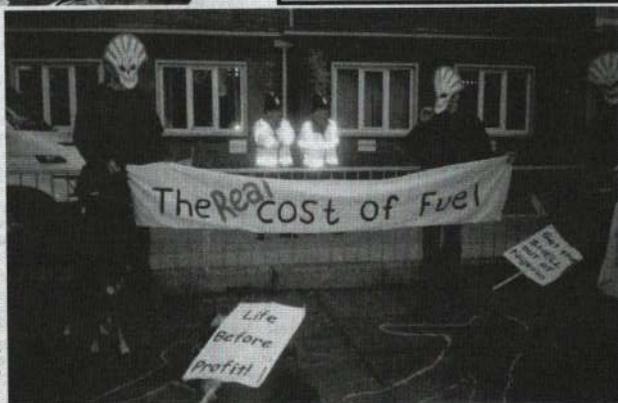
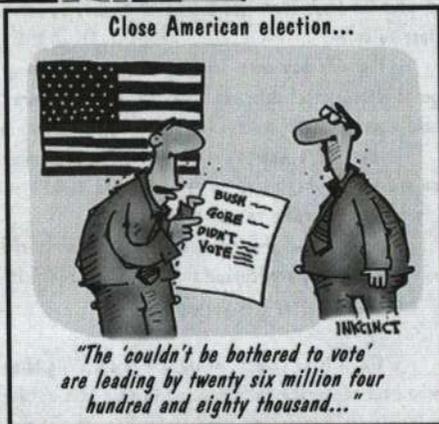


16th November: Satpal Ram demo outside Downing St. He has been in prison for 13 years for defending himself against a violent racist attack. (See SchNEWS 279)

Pic: Richie Andrew



Hackney Empire - 6th November.
 Pic: Ian Hunter



10 Nov Demo at Shell Depot, Jarrow, on the anniversary of the death of Ken Siro Wiwa. Also, the same day that the fuel protest left the north-east heading towards London.

Don't Fuel Climate Change

Monday 13th Meet 7 am Brighton Train Station - bring a bike if you can, or if that's too early 12 noon at Churchill Square for mass leafleting 01273 298192 (help needed with costumes to take to The Hague 07719 530784)

13th Rising Tide of Resistance action against climate criminals. Meet 11.30 am at Liverpool Street station, London

13th Critical Mass bike ride Meet 7.45 am Devonshire Green, Sheffield criticalsheffield@yahoo.com
18th Meet 12 noon Barbican, York 07946 264655 advertiser@yahoo.com

* To keep in touch with what's happening at the Climate Change Conference in The Hague keep your eyes peeled on www.climateconference.org
Keep up to date with demonstrations against our truckers Jarro to London march at www.realfuelcrisis.co.uk

* Also on the Monday at the ICA there will be a public meeting all about the fuel protests. Speakers include Observer journal Nick Cohen, and the people's hero David Handley, chair of the People's Fuel Lobby and leader of Farmers for Action. 7.30pm. 0207 930 3647

Country Pursuits

Veterans of the protest camp opposing the construction of a housing development in Ashington, Kent are due to appear at Southend Magistrates Court this coming Monday (17th). 10 campaigners will face charges under Section 10 of the Criminal Law Act 1977, relating to obstructing an officer or sheriff in their duty. Turn up and give them some support 0207 4503599 email teo@saltire.org ** The public hearings to decide whether Aventis' GM Maize will be put on the National seed list, allowing it to be sold commercially, begins in Manchester from November 13th for 4 weeks. This will be taking place in UMIST, meet outside at 10.30am on the first day. Contact Manchester FoE on 0161 834 8221 ** Also on the 13th, the trial of 5 Manchester anti-GM activists begins. Charged with causing £200 worth of damage, this is the first time in a GM trial that the defence will be allowed expert witnesses ** On Tuesday ten genetiX activists shut down Exeter's BOCM Pauls animal feed mill. Some locked-on to lorries at the main gate with D-locks round their necks, others locked on to a stationary lorry in a loading bay and got onto the roof forcing the manager to close the mill for the rest of the day. genetiXupdate@togg.org.uk ** The Harris superquarry was last week rejected by the Scottish Office. www.foe-scotland.org.uk/nation/superquarry.htm ** For a baseball cap that reads "You Fly You Die" and other pleasures of countryside living, SchNEWS readers should checkout www.countrymansweekly.co.uk ** If low impact dwellings get you all excited get along to a meeting and slide show at the Phoenix Community Centre (near the Free Butt Pub), Brighton next Thursday (16) at 7.30pm Suggested contribution £3 01273 501304 - but make sure you come to our birthday party later!

Puffed Out

Mendocino County voters approved a measure to decriminalise personal use of marijuana, allowing up to 25 pot plants for personal use, a first in the United States. Supporters were jubilant but coppers have warned they will enforce state and federal marijuana laws which still make possession illegal!

Radio 4A Brighton's premier pirate radio station, returns to the airwaves this weekend. Tune into 106.6FM on Saturday 4PM-1AM for music of all sorts then a techno party all night long. Sunday 12-7PM topical chat followed by local/experimental music 7-12PM.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 10 for next 9 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX.

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

SchNEWS in brief

Last week illegal clearance work began on the route of the Tunstall North Bypass near Stoke. This took campaigners by surprise as there is an injunction against the road waiting to be heard in the High Court. More info on 07977 765465 ** The second national march in London, for the recognition of British Sign Language as an official language attracted more than 9,000 protesters. For more info contact Federation of Deaf People, FDP, PO Box 11, Darwen, Lancs BB3 3GH www.fdp.org.uk

** National day of action to scrap the voucher scheme, Saturday 11th November, to find out what you can do contact National Coalition of Deportation Campaigns 0121 554 6947 www.ncade.org.uk ** Young Free and Cuban? A series of talks with a young woman from Havana kicks off in Bristol on Sunday 12th November, 3pm, Art Room, 6th Floor, Students Union, Queens Road, Clifton.info: ra7270@bristol.ac.uk. Then London on Saturday 18th November, 6pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1 Holborn tube. Info: 020 7837 1688. And finally, Brighton on Sunday 19th November, 7.30pm, The Branch Tavern, London Road. 01273 685913 ** In protest at the formation of the World's largest Agrochemical company, through the merger of Novartis and AstraZeneca, the People's Caravan will be touring India, Bangladesh and S.E Asia from 13-30 November. Follow their progress at www.poptel.org.uk/panap/caravan.htm ** Meanwhile in Brighton this Monday there's a Pro-GM Crop Conference at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton. All yer favourites are there such as Novartis, Monsanto, Huntingdon Life Sciences... you get the picture. Demo outside 12.30pm ** Satpal Ram Campaign National Picket, 16th November, 12-4pm, Downing Street, London. Followed by a benefit gig on Saturday 18th at the Scala Club (near Kings Cross Tube), 9pm-5am. Contact the Campaign on 07947 595367 * Two Brazilian Indians are visiting London this month to help launch a new report of Brazil's tribal people. There will be a public meeting, 7pm on 21st November, Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London SW1P. For tickets call 020 7733 7900 free but book early ** Tripods, Trees and Trident a weekend of actions, parties and fun at Kinning Park Complex, Glasgow 11-13 November, for details contact Faslane Peace Camp, 01436 820901 ** Global Problems, Green Solutions a conference organised by Leicester Radical Alliance, on 18-19th Nov, £20 for the weekend, tickets from 07718 629651 ** Cities for a Small Country lecture, 'Sustainable solutions for the urban environment: are they possible?', 22nd Nov, 6pm. Free. Old Theatre, Old Building, London School of Economics 0207 955 7417.

Positive SchNEWS

Terre de Semences have produced the gardening seed catalogue equivalent of the *Tatler*. A whopping 170 pages long, nearly 50 of them are coloured photographs where you can go all gooey at the pictures of the unusual looking vegetable varieties. Where else would you find tomatoes called Banana Legs, Brandywine or Gold Dust? Pink Banana Jumbo courgettes, Purple Beauty Peppers or Lemon Moon Sunflowers? As well as lots of plant information and cultivation tips, there's also articles such as who really controls the international seed trade and the history of maize. Its quite expensive at £5 (inc.postage) but well worth it and a top prezzie for all those wannabe Charlie Dimmocks out there.

Cheques payable to Terre de Semences, Ripple Farm, Crundale, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7EB 01227 731815 www.terredesemences.com

Inside SchNEWS

Vincent Bethell from the Freedom-To-Be-Yourself Campaign (famous for their naked protests) has now been in the segregation unit of Brixton prison for two months after continually refusing to cover himself up. Prison officials believe that his nakedness will cause offence to other prisoners and so he is not allowed to the visitors centre or canteen. Letters of support would be appreciated. DN9542, HMP Brixton, London, SW2 5XF * Vincent is in court this coming Thursday 16th to set a date for his trial. There will be a naked protest at 2PM outside Southwark Crown Court.

Mark Barnsley has been moved again. Write to him: WA289, 7-HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD.

Michael Collins a May Day prisoners mentioned in last week's SchNEWS has been sentenced to two years, which was less than he expected, but still a long time! Write to him FR6303, HMP Wandsworth Prison, PO Box 757, Heathfield Rd, London, SW18 3HS.

Hacked Off In Hackney

Angry workers and residents of the London Borough of Hackney took to the streets on Monday, to disrupt a council meeting where massive 'book-balancing' cutbacks were being plotted (See SchNews 281). In the morning 40 council trucks and vans blocked the road, causing massive disruption. At lunchtime workers walked out to join a 700-strong protest outside the Town Hall. Councillors, however, were protected by 300 riot cops and so still managed to make moves towards axing 500 jobs and privatising loads of services, aimed at saving £18 million. One small victory on the day was the re-opening of two nurseries that have been occupied by parents and toddlers for over two weeks. Later in the day about 1000 people attended an evening rally. More demonstrations are planned and council workers will soon be voting on strike action. To keep up-to-date contact: 07979 823597.

Buy Nothing Day

As the annual Buy Nothing Day looms once again this November 25, we at SchNEWS are planning to launch our own brand new, rival anti-shopping event, called *Try Not to Purchase Anything Day*, in the interests of consumer choice. At the centre of the campaign is the long-awaited launch of the 'Credibility Card' - useless in-store - but said to up one's street cred exponentially. Buy Nothing Day has adopted the slogan 'Participate by not participating'. Just trying to move in on the clever paradox market, we say. Contact Enough! 0161 226 6668 www.buynothingday.co.uk

...and finally...

Students! What would you like to do after you leave university? Leafing through job adverts for banks and multi-nationals in the *Oxford and Cambridge Careers Handbook*, we found some alternative (un)employment advice: "Involvement in the radical ecological movement is a truly refreshing alternative to other 'careers'". Sure, this guide has been produced by students themselves, so it adopts a more enlightened perspective than those of the official careers services of either institution. Regarding salary, the book admits there is "none, but..." it counsels, "most people, once out of the rat-race of endless consumption, find they can live okay on bits and pieces of work/dole/busking/donations." SchNEWS scribes can but concur that the financial rewards are meagre - but that every globally warmed cloud has a silver lining!

Stop Press

UN election observers are to be flown into Florida to monitor voting to make sure 'democracy' is maintained in these 'developing' countries.

CHAPTER 7 - HELPING PEOPLE GET BACK TO THE LAND

An important part of building a viable alternative to the global economy is allowing people to create their own versions of a living, working countryside. People are starting to want to take control of where and how they live their lives. For increasingly more people in Britain, this means moving onto the land and building their own low impact dwellings. Some want to live in and manage woodlands, some want to start smallholdings, some want to live in communities, others just want to be free to live without the constraints of mains electricity and rent.

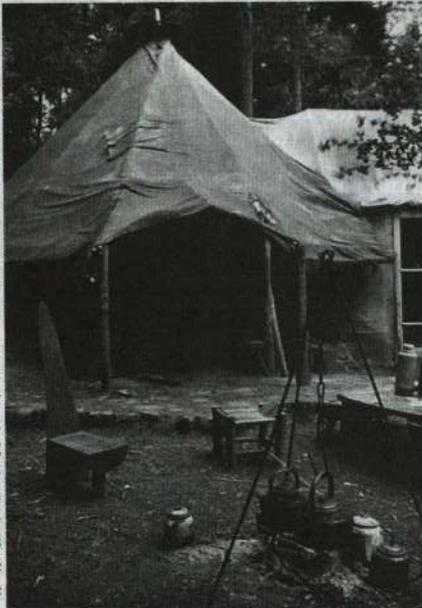
Unfortunately the government makes this choice an extremely difficult one. The Land is Ours - a landrights campaign for Britain - has an office, called Chapter 7, which helps people try to gain planning permission for building their own homes on the land. Chapter 7 gets its name from part of Agenda 21 which says that countries should support the shelter efforts of the urban and rural poor to build more environmentally friendly and affordable homes. We have been trying to work with the planning system to help planners understand how these seemingly fringe experiments in grassroots sustainability are important and valuable contributions to a thriving rural economy. So many people that would like to do the work to protect the environment of the countryside (like hedgelaying), embark upon labour intensive systems (like organic growing), provide seasonal labour, or manage woodland in a traditional manner, simply could not afford to live in the countryside if they had to pay rent on overpriced houses. Some creative folk turn to building their own homes as a way of gaining access to the land. We help people negotiate with the system to find appropriate planning guidance and negotiate agreements that can allow them to gain permission tied to the types of structures built and the use of the land.

Some important victories have been won in the past year:

- * Kings Hill bender community in Somerset was given permanent planning permission for 16 low-impact benders on a field. The decision was partially based on the fact that if the bender dwellers were evicted it would violate the Human Rights Act, an important new act which incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. Article 8 of the ECHR states that people have a right to respect for private and family life. Kings Hill illustrates how the new act might provide a new way for gypsies and people who move onto their land before seeking permission to fight eviction.

- * Plants for the Future is a permaculture group who research growing perennial edible plants using vegan organic methods. They bought a large plot of land in Devon on which to develop an ecovillage and demonstration centre. The council continuously turned down their plans until they submitted a modest application for a residential mobile home and camping pitches. At appeal they gained planning permission with these words from the inspector. "Although on strict agricultural grounds there is no justification for a dwelling on a holding, this is not a simple agricultural scheme. The appeals proposals are a combination of activities which fit in with the Government's commitment on sustainable development and diversification of the rural economy... Allowing this appeal would only grant permission for uses appropriate to the countryside..." We hope that this decision is an indication of broader vision on the part of the government and will prove useful to others proposing similar projects.

- * A number on local councils, such as Torrridge and Carmarthen, have started to mention permaculture and low impact develop-



Tinkers Bubble dwelling. Pic: Dave Mirzoeff

ment in their emerging local plans. Milton Keynes has a new policy which allows "Low Impact Dwellings in the Open Countryside" if they follow 10 criteria defining the types of buildings that can be built and regulates their ecological impact.

- * Simon Sagers has gotten permission to build a clay block cottage on his traditional mixed smallholding. He got the planners to finally accept that the project was a groundbreaking approach to sustainable rural development, which would bring their Agenda 21 rhetoric into action. He entered into a Section 106 agreement that incorporated management practices for the land into the legal agreement for his permission to live on the land.

BUT despite these glimmers of hope there are still hoards of people wrangling with the planners, filling out mountains of paperwork and still being turned down. Here are two examples typical of the many:

- * The "hidden" community in Wales called Brithdir Mawr started a long battle with the planners after a helicopter discovered one of their dwellings. Most of their buildings have received permission,

but Tony Wrench's turf roofed roundhouse (below) has been condemned after an 18-month temporary permission runs out.



- * The Affinity Woodland Workers Cooperative is a bravely moved onto their land to start a working woodland and conservation project while, living in low-impact structures. They have done loads of work and public outreach, but at the last council meeting they were turned down for planning permission after a site visit. However, a supportive committee member summed up their case by saying "These people don't just live in the woods, they live with the woods. Expecting them to commute to live here would be like expecting a husband to commute to his wife".

The depressing list of rejections from the year shows a basic lack of understanding by the government of what true grassroots sustainability actually entails. The Urban and Rural White papers have included some rhetoric about sustainability, but very little about concrete ways to help poor people staking out their own home or livelihood in the local economy. We hope that all those dedicated to getting back to the land won't let the bureaucracy get in their way. Chapter 7 is here to help any of you willing to take on changing the planning system get a start on filling in all the paperwork and finding the right legal documents for appeals. Contact us for DIY planning broadsheets, criteria for Defining Rural Sustainability, or to receive our newsletter.

We also give planning advice over the phone.

Chapter 7, The Potato Store, Flax Drayton Farm, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13

Tel: 01460 249204 Email: chapter7@tlio.demon.co.uk Web: www.oneworld.org/tlio/chapter7/

DAMNING REPORT

The World Commission on Dams (WCD) yesterday released a major report on the pros and cons of large dams, built in the name of 'development' by governments of poor countries under the firm guidance of rich countries and their cronies in the World Bank and IMF. Funny enough, the WCD, a supposedly independent bunch of experts, funded by the World Bank. Nevertheless, the report shows that dam building has been a spectacular failure as far as development is concerned.

The report shows that large dams have failed to provide as much electricity, irrigation or flood control as promoters claim, and "in many cases dams have led to the irreversible loss of species populations and eco-systems" "Impacts of dam-building on people and livelihoods—both above and below dams—have been...devastating". It's difficult to feel enthusiasm for 'development' when you're left landless and destitute, if your home is covered by tons of water.

The WCD report makes it clear that big dams do nothing for the poor, just the Western construction companies who build them. What began as a trickle of criticism heard in the villages of doomed river valleys, has now become a flood.

SchNEWS wonders what Tony Blair thinks of the WCD Report. He's a keen supporter of the hated Ilisu Dam in Turkey (SchNEWS 259/266) which will displace 78,000 Kurdish people.

Blair is set to give the nod for Britain to underwrite the Ilisu project to the tune of £200 million. Development has undoubtedly been taking place in certain corporate bank balances—first to profit from the Ilisu dam is British construction firm Balfour Beatty, though they stand to make only \$200,000 over five years—relatively small beer. More interesting is the host of defence contracts that Britain stands to win by cosying up to the Turkish establishment. Turkey was the fifth biggest purchaser of British bombs n' guns in 1999, with licences worth at least £188 million.

Vested interests are struggling to convince anyone that its anything other than a very crap idea. The south-east branch of the UK construction workers union have issued a 'green ban' asking workers to refuse to work on the Dam. Even the World Bank won't touch it—it's on the Tigris River, which flows into Syria and Iraq, the dam could affect water supplies in these nations and inflame tensions in an area not known for its peaceful atmosphere. The dam also threatens an ancient town and archaeological treasures.

For an edited WCD report, visit www.irm.org/wcd, Ilisu Dam Campaign: www.ilisu.org.uk

* Medha Patkar, one of the WCD commissioners and leader of the Save the Narmada Movement, was part of a thousand strong crowd that recently stormed police barricades in New Delhi, marching up to the offices of the World Bank, and demanding to meet Bank president James Wolfensohn. The Supreme Court recently gave India's Sardar Sarovar dam the green light, and it will displace nearly half a million mainly tribal people. www.narmada.org/

* Next Tuesday (21), Dr. Ravi Kuchimanchi from the Save the Narmada Movement will be speaking at Wadham College, Oxford followed by the film Narmada Valley Rises 8pm Contact Oxford Dambusters nobigdambusters@gmail.com

* Not content with drowning Kurds, Balfour Beatty has taken over all of Stoke-on-Trent schools. The deal—under the dodgy 'privatisation' by the back door 'Private Finance Initiative' (see SchNEWS 210) will mean Balfour Beatty runs the schools for 25 years. It's thought to be the biggest PFI in the country.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 10 for next 9 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX.

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

SchNEWS in brief

Young, Free and Cuban talk by women from Havana, this Sunday at the Branch Tavern, London Rd., Brighton 7.30 pm. ** On Tuesday there's a public meeting organised by the **Don't Fuel Climate Change** coalition at St.Peter's Church Hall, Brighton 7.30 pm 01273 298192.

** **Class War and Movement Against the Monarchy** get their heads around the fuel tax crisis in a public meeting entitled "Anarchist Approaches to the No Fuel Tax Struggle" next Wednesday (22) 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, Holborn, London ** Dragomir Olujic, a journalist and trade unionist from Serbia will be talking at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square next Thursday (23) 7pm 0845 4583100 ** Next Friday (24) there's a benefit for **Index on Censorship** with comedians Mark Thomas, Robert Newman, Navelgazing and Ben'n'Arn at Brighton Dome, 29 New Rd. Advance tickets: 01273 709709 ** Saturday 25 is **White Ribbon Day** which focuses on efforts to end violence against women, one in four women experience domestic violence at some time during their lives. 020 7588 6099 www.womankind.org.uk ** Same day is another **Hackney in Crisis** demonstration against council cuts and the wholesale privatisation of council services (see last two weeks SchNEWS) 11.30 Stoke Newington Common, Hackney. ** **Unhappy birthday! Close Down Campfield Detention Centre**, on its 7th anniversary. Meet 12 noon - 2 pm outside the gates on Saturday 25th November. www.closecampfield.org.uk 01865 558145/557282 ** And over the whole weekend (24-26) there's a **Women speak out** conference in Bristol. Workshops speakers and campaign updates. DJ's, band, open mic and theatre in the evenings 0785 588 2385 www.bluekey.co.uk/chaosorder/wso.

Kings of the Hill

After six and a half years, the 4-acre Kings Hill "bender village" of experimental low-impact dwellings near Shepton Mallet in Somerset has been granted permanent planning permission for 16 eco-dwellings 01749 860660.

* For more info on low impact planning applications and policies get Chapter 7 Magazine. Subs are £5 (£3 concessions). 01460-249204.

* There's a Straw Bale & Straw Clay Construction Seminar on 20th November near Buckfastleigh, Devon. More info 01364 643267 email hkireland@aol.com.

* While low impact dwellers struggle to build a sustainable future the government wants to fast track big planning projects. Trade and Industry Secretary Stephen Byers said "What we should not allow is people to be grit in the system and clog the whole system up". SchNEWS reckons that if all us bits of grit get together we could be a big rock! The Land is Ours produce an Activist Guide to the Planning Process. 01865-722016. www.oneworld.org/tlio

* When bailiffs turned up cheeky squatters in the Newcastle community centre "Ecletic City" (SchNEWS 280) just moved next door! The owners NCP now have to go through the courts to get them evicted again!

Rebel Alliance

After the summer break, the next meeting will be at the Hanover Community Centre, Southover Street at 7pm on Sunday 26th November. There will be a showing of the new Zapista film. Bring your own beer, food and music. Kids welcome

Inside SchNEWS

*All charges against the 10 Ashington protesters arrested for trying to stop a housing development have been dropped. Though Wilcon Homes felt their case was water tight, with 20+ witnesses and their behaviour beyond reproach, they decided it was in the public interest to drop the case. Hooray! Mass invasion of the site planned: December 16th. 020-74503599

*War Resisters International will be publishing a list of imprisoned peace activists on Prisoners for Peace Day, 1st Dec. 020-7278 4040 or www.gn.apc.org/warresisters.

*Benefit for prisoners fighting against isolation units in Spain. Nov 24 at the Button Factory: Hardest Street, Herne Hill Road, London. Spanish prisoners are planning hunger strikes next month to demand the closure of the isolation units.

MILAN MILITANTS

It kicked off big style in Milan last week during a meeting of the Trilateral Commission, a lovely group of 335 'distinguished' individuals from big business that was set up by our friends in the Bilderberg Group. The neo-nazi Forza Nuova called a demo against what they call 'Jewish globalization', so 3,000 people decided to pay them a visit.

A 3 hour street battle started when police prevented anti-fascists from getting to the disco that the nazis were meeting at. Hundreds of teargas grenades were fired, cars set on fire, 17 people were arrested, and 20 people hospitalised by cops.

PEST CONTROL

The British Crop Protection Council (BCPC) held their annual conference at the Brighton Hilton Metropole Hotel this week. 'Crop protection' sounds harmless, but what it means is the protection of monoculture crops using chemicals and genetic modification. Not so good, eh?

Before the Conference, spoof letters from the hotel management appeared telling guests to expect trouble and that income from conferences was more important than money from ordinary guests!

The night before the conference, people gained access to the hotel (top security there guys!) and conference rooms were graffitied with "No GMOs" and "Corporate Scum" and locks were superglued. The next day... the conference had hardly begun when sound cables were cut, leaving delegates sitting in silence for about 20 minutes. At midday around 40 people turned up for a demo outside and continued to harass delegates and hand out leaflets, with more sabotage inside.

At the end of the day BCPC put out a press release explaining that they were "saddened by these occurrences and particularly regret the vandalism to property and theft that took place." SchNEWS wondered if this meant the vandalism and theft caused by agribusiness, but they continued: "We have had excellent co-operation and understanding from the Sussex police who described the groups as 'The Brighton Anarchists'."

...and finally...

A company exhibiting at the British Crop Protection Conference with the dubious name of Crack Processing offer "facilities for formulating and processing of powders... techniques developed by the company which result in dust free granules with excellent flow properties". Drop them a line, 01483-223501.

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all hostesses looking for a little flight relief that you must be plane crazy not to use a joystick as then you'll be contented cos the skys the limit. Honest.

Putting the Clog In

"I call it politricks"

Juanita Stewart, community activist, US
As yer Anarchitours rovin' reporter pulls into Holland on the ferry, the sky darkens and the forecast is for hot air and a thick cloud of bullshit. Yep, this week SchNEWS is visiting The Hague for the UN Climate Change Conference. Much of Holland is below sea level, so the Dutch have plenty to lose if sea levels continue to rise. Which begs the question: why is the Conference here. Irony, or wot?

Anyway, here's yer Diary of Dissent.

Saturday 2-3000 people turn up to build a dyke around the Conference Centre in an action by Friends of the Earth (Holland). When the dyke has been raised, the UN Environment spokesman is invited to add a sandbag and spouts the predictable greenwash. Then the army gets to use the sandbags so generously filled for them. All a bit too much for yer cynical SchNEWSer! Things get better at the Climate Technology trade fair, where activists 'raise sea levels' in the building by replumbing the basement. Shell's HQ gets paintbombed, too, and one of their garages has its windows put in. That'll please the Queen of Holland - she's a major shareholder!

Sunday A lunchtime critical mass of 200 cyclists precedes the opening of a 2 day 'Counter Conference'. Later, delegates and ministers arriving at the station are met by a crowd of 500 making a massive racket. In the evening, the 'Liquidators' show up at a dinner for the ministers and spill symbolic 'blood' red wine on them.

Monday ASEED (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development) activists wearing gags occupy the Ministry of the Environment, after their access to the Conference Centre is withdrawn by the UN. In the evening, activists target the press launch of www.CO2e.com, a website where emissions are 'traded'. A samba band brings the noise, while inside undercover troublemakers cause disruption with words and a smokebomb, and leaflet a surprisingly sympathetic audience. Elsewhere, hackers shut down the site altogether!

Tuesday Now it's the turn of the International Emissions Trading Association. People enter offices and drop banners, dish out verbal grief and spread pro-planet propaganda. One scientist tells them, "The Global Climate Coalition are worse than us!" Round here there's always someone worse.

Wednesday Time to turn our attention to those inside the conference. The day starts with 150 kicked at an anti-nuclear demo. Meanwhile, activists are infiltrating the Conference Centre. More replumbing, computers disappear, and pieixing of all kinds goes on right under the noses of the security. A crack team shimmy up onto some crossbeams in the main concourse and do a banner drop. The head of the US delegation gets pied, people smile and laugh. We set up the biggest ever squatted stall at a conference and serve up some SPOR and SchNEWS underground goodness. The Centre Co-ordinator clocks us and comes over to chat. He's delighted we've made our presence felt, that the concerns of ordinary people who've been excluded from the conference are being expressed! He assures that no-one who does actions will be arrested because they just don't want the negative publicity. Everyone, so it seems, is fed up with the US trying to control the show...

Stay turned to next weeks SchNews to find out what happens next. To keep up to date with the conference capers www.climateconference.org

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 10 for next 9 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX. Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

SchNEWS in brief

Congratulations to Railtrack boss Gerald 'Killer' Corbett-off on holiday to India with his £1m pay-off for services to the road industry ** **Anti-fur campaigners** were celebrating this week as fur farming was banned in England and Wales thanks to the Fur Farming (Prohibition) Bill. The 13 mink fur farms in England now have until 2003 to cease operations. Animal rights groups want it sooner. ** Meanwhile in the States an animal rights protester wearing just her knickers led to distracted drivers crashing into each other outside a busy shopping centre. 27 year old Amanda Valencia was drawing attention to the plight of animals killed for their skins. ** **Greenpeace Eco-Chickens** who had been occupying the Cargill GM soya factory at Liverpool Docks were this week served with an injunction which ordered them to leave. Around 60 Greenpeace members had entered the plant on Monday with the intention of halting production of the genetically modified soya, most of which is destined for animal feed ** Around 10,000 people gathered at the Fort Benning military base last week for an annual protest calling for the closure of the US Army School of the Americas (SOA). Many graduates of SOA end up in the military squads of dodgy third world regimes. Groups of activists entered the base from different entrances, staging symbolic die-ins, pouring fake blood onto the ground and holding theatrical battles dressed as campesinos and soldiers and around 2,000 protestors were arrested! The demonstration, organised by the School of Americas Watch, is held every year to mark the death of six Jesuit priest in El Salvador at the hands of Salvadoran officers who we're trained at SOA www.soaw.org ** **Seattle anniversary** and Indymedia one year birthday Party next Friday (1st December) at the Button Factory, South London, Hardess Street/Herne Hill Road, Brixton Tube station 9pm-6am. 3 rooms including the Squall soundsystem, film, stalls etc. Plus London Underground's monthly meeting from 7-9pm. ** **December 1st is West Papuan Independence Day.** There is a real risk that the event will be marked by a military crackdown. There will be a demonstration in Solidarity with the People of West Papua next Mon (27) from 12.30 - 2pm at the Indonesian Embassy, 38 Grosvenor Square, London. 01865 439705 www.koteka.net ** On the 2nd December there is a **day of action against McDonalds** in Liverpool. Meet outside the McDonalds on Lord Street at noon. Bring whistles, drums, megaphones, costumes etc 07733200856 livunigreens@yahoo.com ** The UnderCurrents Foundation Swansea alternative media event including films made by people from around Swansea, is taking place on Saturday 9th Dec, starting at 10am, at the Environment Centre, Pier Street 01792 455900 ** **Building a World of citizens-** One year after Seattle is the title of an international gathering next weekend in Paris www.postSeattle.org ** **Big Brother Awards**, 4th December at the London School of Economics. Awarding those who, in the last twelve months, have done the most to invade our privacy. www.privacyinternational.org

REBEL ALLIANCE

Brighton's direct action knees-up (sort-of). Sunday 26th November 7pm at the Hanover Community Centre, Southover St, Brighton. There will be a showing of the new Zapatista film with food and music provided. Kids welcome. Bring your own beer.

Positive SchNEWS

This country is not known for being at the forefront of renewable energy initiatives. So it's great news that the small island of Islay off western Scotland, has this week become the first place in the world to use the power of the waves to produce electricity commercially. On Tuesday the first kilowatts of wave-generated power began supplying nearly 400 local homes on the island. The government had predicted that wave power would not be viable for decades; this project has proved them wrong. The World Energy Council has estimated that if less than 0.1% of the oceans' energy was converted into electricity it would satisfy present world demand for energy more than five times over. Here in the UK we have loads of coast line, from which we could easily meet all our energy needs. So there should now be nothing holding us back. Three sites on the Welsh coast are now being considered for similar projects that could provide a fifth of Wales' electricity needs. Information on the Islay project is available from Wavegen 01463 238094 www.wavegen.co.uk.

Upstart is a new project aiming to set up a community renewable energy project in Somerset. Contact them on 0870 7332538

You're SHIT - and you know you are...

Video activists last week turned the tables on the police at the Metropolitan police's football league match. Fed up by the constant surveillance of the public, they surrounded the football pitch with a mass of cameras whilst comedian Mark Thomas provided a constant commentary alongside a huge television screen showing the game. A spokesperson from Undercurrents commented, "The action was to highlight the police attempts at intimidating people during protests with video cameras. It is a waste of taxpayers money and is only designed to build secret files on us all." The referee of the match complained that the sound of Mark Thomas' amplified commentary was putting the players off the match, and confusing them as to which wing they were supposed to be on.

••••• XMAS BOOK PLUG •••••

• What makes a great Xmas? Mince pies, brandy, Bond on the telly and the whole family gathered around the SchQUALL book, sneering at the cops! Go on-fill granny's surgical stocking! £7 plus 1.50 p&p from the SchNEWS office. Only 30 shopping days (and one no-shopping day) til XMAS! Order Now.

...and finally...

Here at SchNEWS towers we've been dreaming about some havin' it holidays for next year. Instead of bothering with glossy brochures, though, we reached straight for Riskmap 2001, a report which lists countries that are so dangerous, you shouldn't consider going there. The report reads like a list of countries that have been severely fucked over by capitalism. The most interesting part of the report for us international activists is its listings of areas to avoid due to possible anti-capitalist demos. For next year it lists Davos, Quebec and Washington as 'potential flashpoints'. So no points for guessing where's top of our holiday wish list!

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all drips flooded with info about capitalism's rain of terror to get an umbrella organisation and a good pair of wellies.

22nd November: Security was breached as around 80 activists spirited themselves into the Conference Centre and proceeded to cause havoc - reclaiming meeting spaces and engaging in pixicing. Delegates could only look on in horror - though the security seemed pleased!



CAPITALISM CLEANS UP



Image: Shape-Maker (SPOR)

STOP DE SLOOP

It was quite a week we had in The Hague. Walking about there were Fly Agaric mushrooms of every conceivable material and size in shop windows - a symbol of decay and the shape of nature's cyclical regeneration, and an advance warning of all the Rising Tide pixies who showed up - many with bikes - to prevent climate chaos. The squat most of the Rising Tide infinity crew stayed in was called The Blouwe Aanslag (Blue Attack), a massive building scheduled for demolition despite 20 years of full on creativity and resistance. It had a café, and bar where they brewed their own beer, a vegan organic restaurant, cinema, print shop, office, permaculture yard, underground dance space, and lots of friendly, welcoming people living there.

In addition to the Blouwe, buildings were opened up as free spaces from where the resistance could launch: an outreach office to the public, and just round the corner an activist convergence centre with daily action planning and resources. There was also a well equipped Indymedia centre, and in the same building a Climate Justice conference was held as an antidote to the nonsense being puffed out in the main UN affair. The main Conference Centre itself was enormous, the floorplan useless. Like the weather, there were oases of calm, where delegates made their decisions behind closed doors, while everyone else wandered around in the hot and turbulent atmosphere, playing the game or counterattacking.

It was very inspiring to meet so many well organised and on it activists, and as soon as we arrived we all got on with our various missions. Special mention should perhaps go to the Rhythms of Resistance samba band and Rinky Dink pedal-powered sound system, who both proved that autonomous and sustainable production of 'avin it music doesn't do it for the authorities.

Towards the end of the UN's failed Conference, the Blouwe crew started a 20 day celebration of their 20 years of squatting action with a street party snaking through the streets. Fire jugglers, bagpipes, a punk band on the back of a truck, more samba, a German with a home-made light-sensitive synthesiser (!), we had a laugh.

See you next year in Marrakesh...

[* Stop de Sloop = Stop the Demolition - graffiti sprayed on walls in The Hague.]
- Stropharia Cubensis (SPOR)

www.climateconference.org



25th November: The result sinks in - Conference Centre Saturday afternoon. No agreement was reached, mainly due to the US. Since then, newly elected US president Bush has pulled out of the Kyoto Agreement entirely. They'll try again in Bonn in July, and then next year it's off to Marrakesh in Morocco. Check www.risingtide.org.uk

SOCIAL BENEFITS OF ECO-VILLAGES

Research has shown that people living in community groups tend to experience intensified personal growth and at times profound transformation - even in communities that do not emphasise these aspects as explicit agendas. A broad range of well-developed human qualities and capacities are universally reported for people living in community, regardless of the size, location, focus, or governance structure of the community. These characteristics include:

- * Increased self-confidence.
- * Better communication skills.
- * Clearer thinking.
- * Broader perspectives.
- * Less idealism.
- * Increased awareness of personal limitations.
- * Increased responsibility.
- * Broader set of skills.
- * Broader general (useful) knowledge.

From 'Creating Harmony: Conflict Resolution in Community', ed. Hildur Jackson (Permanent Publications)

Unclear Future

Sniffin' around at the Climate Conference were the nuclear lobby, who reckon we should all embrace nuclear because it will help cut greenhouse gas emissions. How nice of them to be so caring. * Rising tides will cause havoc for at least four UK power stations located on low coastal areas - let's hope water levels don't rise much during the 150 years it takes before even de-commissioned plants can be dismantled. BNFL are not past the 'brainstorming' stage about the problem.

* Cases of leukaemia and breast cancer double in areas downwind of nuclear refineries and mudflats which contain 'discharges'. * Nuclear waste is carried hundreds of miles from power stations all around England up to Sellafield... **RY RAIL!!** Well no worries there then!

* Nuclear plants in Ukraine replacing Chernobyl fail European Safety standards. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are being lobbied not to fund more reactors - which will also put more financial strain on the already strapped maintenance budgets for existing Russian plants.

* 3.4 million Ukrainians are suffering from cancer and other diseases after Chernobyl with numbers set to continue to rise for at least 15 years. * If US company Pangea have their way Rudall River National Park in Western Australia - considered highly 'geologically stable' - is set to become 'the nuclear toilet of the world' storing up to 76,000 tonnes of waste for future generations to enjoy.

Web of Lies

Shell has a skeleton in the closet - and it's not Nigerian - it's English! In 1968 at Shell's Thornton Research Centre, Cheshire a bit of a disaster happened while playing with nuclear fuels - and after a hasty clean-up much of the radio-active waste is still there. It was hushed up. Shell say it didn't happen and issued a 'Narrative' about it in fact being an incident involving low radiation 'Cobalt-60' material. They're calling their story a 'Narrative' because the last thing they want is their story going up against the truth in court and the publicity that would follow.

Researcher John Dyer has spent twelve years bringing this bogey into the open - and his website on this issue has brought another can-o-worms out about libel on the internet. Visit www.nuclearcrimes.com to read that the 1968 incident has even caused deformed births, and that Carlton Television made a documentary about it in 1993 which at the last minute was 'dropped' thru' fear of a legal battle with Shell. Now Shell are again using lawyers - this time to close the website. Instead of directly threatening the publishers of the material, Nuclearcrimes, they're bullying the 'internet host' - Easy.net (also host to SchNEWS) into switching off the offending site or suffer the consequences. This comes after a legal precedent was recently established during the Godfrey libel case when an internet host who knowingly left allegedly defamatory information on one of their sites were then in turn made liable for the defamation. Caspar Bowden, director of the Foundation for Internet Policy Research (www.fipr.org) told SchNEWS "the judgement in (this) case, by effectively deeming that Internet hosts are publishers, allows powerful interests to bully websites into self-censorship merely by alleging defamation. Reform of legislation is needed to prevent stifling of free speech." Under their nuclearcrimes may have to move hosts again - possibly outside the UK (see RIP Act in SchNEWS 269).

This could be the shape of things to come for free information on the internet: If someone doesn't like something that's been said about them on the net - and the publishers aren't budging - they can go upwards to the hosts and internet service providers transmitting the article until there's one part of the chain willing to do the right thing and press the 'off' button.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 10 for next 9 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2DX. **Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk**

Inside SchNEWS

On the 7th December Eddie Gilfoyle will begin his long awaited appeal against the miscarriage of justice that got him sent down for life. Eddie was arrested in June 92 for murder after the tragic death of his wife, and has been in jail ever since. It seems that Merseyside Police are on their own in thinking that Eddie killed his wife after the case was first investigated by the Channel 4 programme "Trial and Error," who called it a "Keystone comedy of errors" and then by Lancashire and Cheshire police, the Home Office, and the Criminal Cases Review Board. All concluded that Paula (Eddie's wife) tragically committed suicide. The evidence against Eddie rests on a rope that was "found" by a certain DC Gregson in a drawer in the garage 3 weeks after the initial search by a specialist team failed to find anything as significant as that. Even an expert appointed by the Crown at the original trial has had second thoughts and is now a prominent defence witness. The Eddie Gilfoyle Campaign has called for a demonstration on the 7th 9.30 am at the Court of Appeal, The Strand, London (nearest tube Holburn) www.appleonline.net/justiceuk/jus

* 1st December is Prisoners For Peace day. For a list of people to send nice things to, contact War Resisters' International, 0207 278 4040 or warresisters@gn.apc.org

Outta Their Tree

The Tree Council were aiming to set a tree-planting record last weekend and earn themselves a place in the Guinness Book of Records. Nothing wrong with that. Except that the sponsor of Tree Week is the largest oil company in the world Esso (Exxon-Mobil to everyone else). Esso certainly care about the environment. It was just over 10 years ago when one of their ships ran aground in Alaska causing the most damaging oil spill in history (see SchNEWS 205) and they are still dragging their feet on paying out any compensation. They are also one of main players of the Global Climate Coalition, who deny climate change is happening and use their corporate muscle to make sure nothing gets done about it that might harm profits. A couple of years back an ex-Esso Chairman even went to an international gathering in China and urged developing countries to sort out their environmental problems by "increasing...the use of fossil fuels"! SchNEWS asks wouldn't Esso be better off sponsoring National Sandbag Week?

* House builders Countryside Residential have earned themselves a slap on the back from the Essex Wildlife Trust, which is a bit strange seeing as the 'developers' have been busy destroying the countryside at Hockley by building 66 luxury homes on a wildlife rich area that contained legally protected great crested newts. Nothing to do with the corporate sponsorship of £250 a year Countryside Residential hands over to the Trust every year.

Positive SchNEWS

The government has set itself the target of generating 10% of our electricity by alternative energy by 2010. As we are officially the windiest country in the Europe, wind power would be the obvious choice. But on-land wind power has met with loads of problems, because nobody wants them in their backyard. Most of the proposals so far have been large 'windfarm' projects, which people find both ugly and noisy. Local co-ops around the country are now experiencing less opposition to smaller scale, locally owned wind projects. There are now local schemes popping up all over, such as The Dulas project in Mid Wales, which will supply power to the Centre for Alternative Technology and nearby villages and will be totally owned by locals. Contact then on 01563 705000 www.gn.apc.org/dulas

SchNEWS in brief

Basildon Council in Essex are changing the colour of their dog litter bins from red to grey after bright locals kept mistaking them for postboxes and sticking letters in them. Doh! ** No Sweat is a new UK based campaign against sweatshops, who have already worked with Manchester United supporters around the Nike shirt deal, and are looking at direct action campaigning against companies like Nike and Gap and working to unionise fast-food restaurants, shops and sweatshops in the UK. There's a day of action targeting Nike and Gap on Dec. 9th, 23th Northlands St, London SE5 07958 556 756 www.nosweat.org.uk ** UK Rivers Network is another new group who plan to "combine long-term work on political, educational, and community projects with short-term, rapid responses to particular riverine threats." www.ukrivers.net ** Birmingham based Banner Theatre are going on the road with their new production "Reclaim The Future". 25 young people from marginalised communities in El Salvador, the former East Germany and the West Midlands have shared their experiences to produce a multimedia production looking at the issues of race and how they create their own identity against a backdrop of McDonalds, Coca Cola and Britney Spears. To find out if they're performing in your area call 07971 770073 ** Next Thursday (7th) Glenn Jenkins of Luton's Exodus Collective will be among the speakers at a 'Sources of Radicalism' meeting in Manchester 7.30pm, Green Room, Whitworth Street West 0161 225 0807

** On the Friday (8) Bristol's Kebele Culture Project are having a free party at the Easton Community Centre. There's acoustic music, techno, poetry, videos, plus vegan food and drink ** While at Birkbeck College, University of London (nearest tube Russell Square) there's a public meeting Return of Star Wars - A Threat to Peace? 020 7405 6661 email pugwash@qmw.ac.uk ** Staying in London there's a Poetry for Palestine Benefit on Friday and Saturday night to raise money for two community arts projects in Palestine. 9-12 midnight. £5 at the Planet, 11 Malvern Rd., London NW6

** On the Saturday (9) 'Older And 'Bolder' People from Growing Old Disgracefully and the Older Feminists Network discuss the aims of their organisations at Epicentre, West Street, London 8pm 020 8555 5248 Admission free, but bring something for the buffet ** And in Brighton there's a South East Permaculture Convergence on the Sunday (10) Call 01273 503613/ email brynthomas@ecodesign.fsnet.co.uk for details ** The man arrested for criminal damage to a lampost after peeling off an NF sticker has had his charges dropped. ** To keep up to date with all the action check out party and protest on the SchNEWS website.

...and finally...

It could only happen in America... Mayor Keith Holliday of Greensboro, North Carolina has thought of a novel solution to prison overcrowding. His idea is to cryogenically freeze inmates on death row until new evidence clears them. If it doesn't then they just stay frozen. ** At present Death Row inmates can appeal against execution year after year claiming wrongful convictions. That delay causes overcrowding and costs us millions in legal fees. So instead of wasting all that money why don't we just put them on ice? ** SchNEWS wonders whether they'll be destroyed for appeal hearings, or if the authorities can claim on the insurance if there's a power cut. After the 'execute by' date, the instructions on the chamber could read: defrost slowly and fry gently for ten minutes on an electric chair...

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all environmentalists who think the ice is melting with politicians - it's just a wet dream. Honest

Direct from frontline Prague

8/7/9/00: International Blocs rock the Eastern Blockades S26 in the city of 100 fires. Si Mitchell e-mailed this on-the-spot report.

The SQUALL posse are still at large on the streets of Prague, despite the secret polis pinning a tail on their donkey asses, and one cameraman catching a cobblestone around the noggin. Don't worry about what you read in the papers - S26 was a total success - what meetings they managed to hold were backed by a chorus of concussion grenades and the whiff of CS gas. On the streets a well organised, hierarchy-free bloc did what they came to do - and more. Unbreakable links have been formed. We have seen the future of international solidarity. There is no going back.

We hit the square at eight, shin-pads and sticks gaffer-taped to every limb as body armour. The SQUALL crew were in good company. A global call to arms had mobilised anarchist blocs from every corner of the planet, Bologna's 'Ya Basta' mingled with Czech Solidaritska, Catalonia's CNT and blocs from Poland, Germany, Greece and beyond. Latin Americans, Bangladeshis and Maoris traded resistance tips as the sound system beat adrenal glands into action.

An elaborate route and splitting plan had been formulated in internationally attended multilingual street meetings. Months of preparation brought 20,000 well-focused justice hunters onto the streets of Czech's capital to blockade the World Bank and IMF's annual carve up. Aware that the real decisions are made well before such glutinous shindigs, the kids on the street set out to blockade the assembled bankers, funders and corporate liggers inside the city's fortress-like Congress Centre - which squats imposingly on top of a city centre hill.

The blockade divided into three groups - yellow, pink and blue. The yellow took the bridge - a four lane viaduct 300ft above the valley which splits the city - the only northern exit from the Conference centre. The pink and blue were to head south on the east and west sides, to siege all other exits. Despite plans for tactical amalgamation, by September 24 it was apparent that Pink was red, Blue was black and yellow would be fronted by Ya Basta.

With a 500 strong international hardcore anarchist bloc heading the blue route, we felt obliged to go blue. Mass chants of "Oh Ay, Internationale Solidaritel!" mingled with drums and whistles and cacophonous laughter. It was as close to the morning of Culloden as you'll get in a built up area.

The police seemed content to let us plough down to the Centre. However, with our target in sight the cops had made a blockade at the narrowing point of a steep hill. A line of riot cops and a water cannon truck blocked the road. Left was into the valley, and right was blocked by the Vyshera Castle. It was forward or bust. The 'clava posse didn't miss a step as the cobblestones that paved the street began raining on the police line. The cops responded with stun grenades and water cannon (the smarter 'activitsky' wore black waterproofs - the rest of us were instantly soaked to the skin). Within moments the molotovs



Pic: Simon Chapman

were coming over the front lines. Blood was spilling on both sides. We fished one geezer - completely spark-out - from the river of water flowing down the hill, as the cop line was replaced with water-firing armoured cars. The police sprayed some kind of skin-burning paint, perhaps to pick people up later, perhaps to just hurt them now. Concussion grenades exploded repeatedly and, the now familiar, sting of tear gas filled the street (why do the SQUALL eds keep sending us to these places?). While half the crowd donned gas-masks, the Greeks piled up to the front: "Let us through," they said. "We're used to it!"

After a pitched battle lasting an hour or more (American Seattle veterans looked on in awe at non-



Pic: Andy Robertson

violent direct action - European style), the police pushed the blue bloc down the hill. Steel fencing barricades were erected in the streets and fires lit. Small masked groups stoned caged canon trucks. It was Jihad without the religious bollocks. The western exit was sealed. Leaving half the bloc and a burning car to hold the line, the other blues (complete with new riot shields, helmets and sticks...er dunno where they got them from) followed the Infernal Noise Brigade Marching band around to help siege the south side.

A renegade pink and silver bloc headed by a UK Earth First! Samba band had got within poking distance of the Centre's eastern flank. Meanwhile Ya Basta's military machine was holding the bridge in

By Simon Chapman

AIN'T NO STOPPIN' THEM NOW



One of the stunning sights of the anti-capitalist demonstrations in Prague last September were a cohort of disciplined Italian activists marching through police lines dressed in inflated padding and white overalls. Originally inspired by Mexico's Zapatista guerillas, from whose rally cry they take their name, the Ya Basta! association don't know the meaning of the words 'Halt! Police'. Their inner tubes and body foam render them immune to truncheons, their determination drives them across reluctant border controls and through police lines. Steve Wright talks with Hobo from Radio Sherwood, a media project closely linked with Ya Basta!, about the motivations for their militancy.

SW: What are the origins of Ya Basta and the tute bianche? What are their connections to the social centres movement in Italy?

Hobo: Ya Basta and tute bianche are not synonyms. The Ya Basta! association is a network of many groups across many Italian cities. It was formed after Italian militants participated in the first Encuentro in 1996. It has the dual purpose of supporting the Zapatista struggle and of spreading the deep meaning of the struggles against neo-liberalism in Europe. In 1998 most Ya Basta militants also joined the emerging movement called the tute bianche (white overalls). This comprises young people from the social centres, unemployed and casual workers, people searching for their first job, all united against the pressure of neo-liberalism, asking for a universal basic income, but also asking for better conditions of life for everybody. White overalls were chosen as a strong image to symbolise the condition of invisibility imposed upon all those people forced to live without guarantees, without social security, on the margins of a normal life.

SW: How did Ya Basta become involved in S26? How was the demonstration organised?

Hobo: As I said, Ya Basta is not only a support network of the Zapatista movement, but also accepts their principles of democracy, dignity and humanity as universal categories in an increasingly globalised world. So it wants to affirm these principles in Europe as well. Neo-liberalism is the same, the multinationals are the same, the few people (World Bank, IMF, etc.) who rule the whole world are the same, the battle we have to fight is the same.... in Chiapas as in Seattle or in Prague. So S26 in Prague was the first important occasion to send a signal in Europe of a real resistance to the plans of globalised capital. Ya Basta and tute bianche were involved from last summer in the

meetings held in Prague to organize the demonstrations and direct actions. We decided to reach Prague by train, given the large number of people involved. We had done this for earlier Euro-demonstrations in Amsterdam and Paris, squatting a thousand seats in a train and affirming our right to freely demonstrate wherever in Europe. This time we didn't want to spend most of our energy in defending our right to leave, so we negotiated an agreement with the railways and we paid a nominal political price to get a train for Prague. But things didn't go so well at the Czech border. The train was blocked for almost two days by the police, who wanted to reject a number of people as 'persona non grata'. Finally, after international media attention was focused on the case, the demonstrators were allowed to reach Prague.

SW: What led to the decision to use padding and shielding at demonstrations? How successful has this tactic proved to be?

Hobo: For years our practice of self-defence has been instrumentalised by the media. Every time the police charged a legitimate and peaceful march or demonstration, it was always the fault of the autonomists. The papers would carry headlines like violence returns to the

streets, the years of lead are back, or urban guerrilla warfare again. We realised that the communication of events often modifies things more than the events themselves. We decided to send strong images and signals that left no doubts as to intentions. So we invented, rummaging through ancient history, systems of protective apparel, like plexiglass shields used tortoise-style, foam rubber armour, and inner-tube cordons to ward off police batons. All things that were visible and clearly for defensive purposes only. We wanted people to understand on which side lay reason, and who had started the violence. When we decide to disobey the rules imposed by the bosses of neo-liberalism, we do it by putting our bodies on the line, full stop. People can see images on the TV news that can't be manipulated. A mountain of bodies that advances, seeking the least harm possible to itself, against the violent defenders of an order that produces wars and misery. And the results are visible, people understand this, the journalists can't invent lies that contradict the images. Last but not least, the batons bounce off the padding. But the question goes beyond the purely

PAIN & PUNISHMENT FOR PRAGUE PROTESTORS

Corroborated reports of police brutality against Prague prisoners.

Hundreds of reports of police brutality against detained activists in Prague have been confirmed by OPH, the independent legal observer group in the Czech Republic.

Over 850 people have been taken into custody by Czech police following the anti-capitalist demonstrations in the city last week. A barrage of physical and sexual assaults, starvation tactics and cell overcrowding have been reported and a significant number have been corroborated by legal observers and independent eye-witnesses. Many lawyers have lost contact with clients as prisoners are being rapidly moved around from one cell block to another with no official notice.

nights and a day we were crowded in that dark hellish basement with a total refusal of contacts and two blankets provided for between eight to 15 people in each cage."

According to Si Mitchell, SQUALL's reporter in Prague: "Those filtering back onto Prague's half-cobbled streets relay tales of demonstrators cuffed to walls being punched and clubbed. The Israelis are fairing badly and the hundreds of Czech activists have gone missing in action.



Upper pics: Simon Chapman



There have been hundreds of reports of women being strip searched and humiliated by male police officers, and a large number of activists also report being taken to an out-of-the-way place on the way to the police station and being beaten and kicked. One female activist who jumped from a window during "interrogation" fractured her spine and broke her femur.

Around 500-600 of the detainees are Czech nationals and, along with activists from Israel, seem to be coming in for particularly bad treatment.

According to SQUALL's reporter who stayed in Prague to cover the aftermath: "Hundreds of Czech activists are getting hammered in their cells. The Czech police seem intent on making Prague's resistance community pay heavily for running the IMF out of town."

Around 30 detainees are from the UK and are gradually being deported back to the UK.

British activist, Scott Kelly, was dancing in Moestecha Street next to Prague's Charles Bridge when heavily armed police arrested everyone in the area: "We were taken to the central police station into the basement via two or three flights of stairs, blood was on the walls as we went down and an abusive and aggressive officer slammed us against the walls. I had my photo taken and was pushed roughly into a cell. Inside there were already six to ten people and more came in all the time. Over the next two

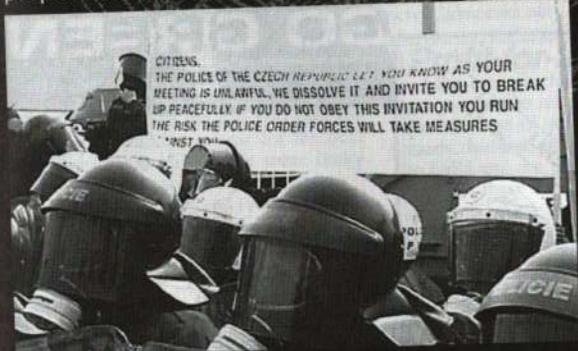
The S26 international coalition of activists who coordinated the anti-World Bank and International Monetary Fund protest have asked people throughout the world demand respective Czech embassies to observe the human rights of detained activists including their entitlement to legal representation, food, water, sanitation and warmth. The United States - who sent police advisors to aid the Czech operation to the squash the demonstrations - are refusing to aid US citizens in Czech jails.

Spanish solidaristas managed to get over 100 of their country-folk out of the jails by occupying the Czech embassy in Madrid. However, when shown the door, the imprisoned Spaniards refused to leave until those held with them were released too. The authorities capitulated and the entire lot were released.

The Czech Embassy in London is being picketed by British activists demanding that basic humanitarian standards be upheld for all activists currently in Prague prisons.

Czech Embassy, 25 Kensington Gardens, London W8. Tel: 0207 243 1115.

Czech Ministry of Justice: wsp@wsp.justice.cz
Czech President Vaclav Havel: president@hrad.cz





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER PILLED UP

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 13th October 2000

<http://www.schnews.org.uk/> Issue 278 Free/Donation

In Sickness & In Wealth

"This isn't some isolated struggle but part of the huge web of market madness sweeping the globe." - *Dave Carr, Branch Chair, University College London Hospital*

On Wednesday, 600 hospital workers from the Dudley Group of Hospitals voted to escalate their strike to stop their jobs being transferred to a private company. Summit Healthcare want to build a new 'superhospital' under the Private Finance Initiative - so super that out of the four hospitals, 170 jobs will be shed, one hospital will be closed, two hospitals will lose inpatient services and overall 70 beds will be lost.

Winnie Whitehouse, a hospital catering assistant told SchNEWS, "We are on strike to keep our jobs within the NHS and to fight job losses. We want to win and set a precedent for everyone else around the country." Mark New, a nurse and branch secretary added, "The strike has given us an opportunity to build opposition to privatisation...and we can win."

The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) is an interesting little scam where corporations manage to get their grubby mitts on more of our public services. When in opposition, New Labour's one time health spokesperson Margaret Beckett called PFI "privatisation by the back door" - now New Labour can't get enough of PFI.

The consortiums who want to take over Dudley's hospitals include: McAlpine - the building firm; Siemens - the electronics firm who last year managed to bugger up the passport and immigration computer systems; the Bank of Scotland Infrastructure Investments and Building and Property (who are 75% owned by venture capitalists CVC Capital Partners Ltd) - names synonymous with healthcare who will obviously have patients' best interests at heart.

As Bob Piper, UNISON's West Midlands Regional Convenor put it, "The private sector care - they care about the profits they can make." And there's a nice load of profits to be made. Just take a look at the new Edinburgh Infirmary, which would have cost the government £180 million to build, but thanks to the PFI will cost the taxpayer £30 million a year for the next 30 years - £900 million for some lucky company thank-you-very-much.

Meanwhile Building and Property are already part of a consortium involved in Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle, the first hospital in the country built under PFI. And what a success! Ceilings have collapsed -

narrowly missing patients in the maternity unit; the sewerage system could not cope with the number of users and flooded an operating theatre; clerical and laundry staff cannot work in their offices because they are too small; new trolleys had to be ordered cos those supplied didn't fit the spaces between beds; and the transparent roof means that on sunny days the temperature inside the hospital reaches 33° C, and the hospital has no air conditioning. 40 cleaners have so far lost their jobs thanks to 're-structuring' and there has already been a shortage of beds. All this for a £67 million hospital that will eventually cost the taxpayer a staggering £500 million

Still, that hasn't stopped the government pressing ahead. 38 PFI hospitals are now in the pipeline - with a lot more to come. Unless, perhaps the Dudley workers win. Robert, a striking hospital porter earning just £4.86 an hour said, "We need the public, the nurses, we need everybody really we can get on our side, to show what the people of the country want, to keep the NHS for the people." As Dr Kay Phillips said at a recent rally in support of the hospital workers, "We need Dudley to win. We need to turn the tide back." And if they don't? Perhaps London hospital worker Dave Carr, summed it all up, "If we don't beat the Private Finance Initiative it's the end of the NHS as we know it."

How you can help

* Next demo Sat Oct 28 assemble 11am Priory Park, The Broadway, Dudley next to Dudley College. Followed by a rally at the Town Hall

* Get along to one of the picket lines.

* Send money (payable to UNISON Dudley Group of Hospitals) and letters of support to Union Offices, Wordsley Hospital, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 5QX. Tel/Fax 01384 244350

* For more on the strike and other trade union activities around the world check out www.labournet.net

Profit-for-all-Initiative

Like hire-purchase, PFI allows the government to avoid paying up front for the cost of schools, hospitals or roads. Instead, private companies get to build and run the 'assets' (in hospital PFIs these so-called assets include cleaning, catering, portering, technical services etc.) and the taxpayer then has to buy back these services, usually over a 20-30 year period.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

...for having a wall fall on you

A chap at last weekend's Nine Ladies anti-quarry action was peacefully sitting on a wall when the crap masonry collapsed, leaving him shaken but unhurt. Helpful coppers rushed over - and nicked him for criminal damage.

*Nine Ladies stone circle, Derbyshire, threatened by quarrying. Protest camp 1 year old- Happy Birthday! <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/nineladies/>

* The King's Fund, an independent think tank who have criticised PFI hospitals, say they are in danger of becoming white elephants unable to adjust to changing health needs. "New hospitals are being built without regard to how they fit in with other health services. That could leave the NHS with expensive hospital buildings which become outdated within a few years, but for which it still has to pay."

* Closer to home, the Accident & Emergency Dept at the Princess Royal in Haywards Heath is threatened with closure to save money. If this happens, the nearest A&E Dept. will be in Brighton, which is already both overstretched and 20 miles away, meaning that emergency cases could face dangerous delays in getting to hospital. A recent meeting to protest about the proposed closure attracted over 300 people.

* More Sell-offs I: Defend Council Housing National Conference, October 21st 11-4pm Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester. Fighting to stop the privatisation of council houses. 179 Haggerston Rd, London E8 4JA 020 7275 9994 www.defendcouncilhousing.org.uk

* Sell-offs II: Demonstrate against government plans to part-privatise the tube. Saturday 21st October 11am outside Railtrack House (front of Euston station).

SQUAT A PARTY!

On 15th October 1975, 200 West London squatters barricaded against the bailiffs finally forced the GLC to securely rehouse them. Come and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the "Great & Glorious Victory of Elgin Avenue Squatters" - part of UK squatting legend! Meeting and fun social with squatters old & new... Sun 15 Oct, 6.30pm at WECH Community Centre (on the site of the battle), corner Elgin Ave/ Harrow Rd W9. Tube Westbourne Pk & left over bridge. Bring leaflets, literature, news, food. Details 0410 432320

Marred Opinions

The BBC constantly boasts of the honesty and integrity of their 'impartial' news and analysis. But, as David Edwards reveals, the appointment of Andrew Marr as the Corporation's new Chief Political Editor stretches credulity. Can a man who insists "The World Trade Organisation is on the side of the angels" be deemed a credibly impartial political interpreter?

While it is often recognised that the reporting of the right-wing 'Tory press' is hopelessly distorted, there is often a naive faith in the 'neutral' output of newspapers such as the Guardian, Observer, Independent, and the BBC. An individual who has been at the heart of this 'liberal' media establishment for some time is Andrew Marr, one-time editor of the Independent and Observer columnist, and recent appointee as political editor of the BBC.

Noises have been made about Marr's favoured status among New Labour elites. Writing in the Observer, Kamal Ahmed noted that "Marr... is close to senior officials in Downing Street and makes no secret of his New Labour credentials. He is well-liked by the Prime Minister and his official spokesman, Alastair Campbell." ["BBC risks row over key TV post", Observer, 14/5/00]

This will surprise no one who recalls Marr's performance during last year's bombing of Serbia. In the Observer, Marr wrote a series of adulatory articles with titles like, "Brave, bold, visionary. Whatever became of Blair the ultra-cautious cynic?" (4/4/99), and "Hail to the chief. Sorry, Bill, but this time we're talking about Tony" (16/5/99). Marr declared himself in awe of Blair's "moral courage" and wrote: "I am constantly impressed, but also mildly alarmed, by his utter lack of cynicism."

"WHY DID BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION STAY ROCK-SOLID FOR THE BOMBING IN SPITE OF NATO'S MISTAKES? BECAUSE THEY KNEW THE WAR WAS RIGHT. WHO GAVE THEM THE INFORMATION? THE MEDIA."

In a debate, Marr repeated Blair's call for a ground war: "I want to put the Macbeth option: which is that we're so steeped in blood we should go further. If we really believe Milosevic is this bad, dangerous and destabilising figure we must ratchet this up much further. We should now be saying that we intend to put in ground troops. I don't believe this stuff about the Serbian army being an undefeatable, extraordinary, superhuman group." ["Do we give war a chance?", Observer, 18/4/99]

A week later, as thousands continued to be killed and wounded under NATO's ferocious high-level bombing, Marr's war fever reached boiling point: "We have become feminised, at least a bit. And - here's the odd thing - it is NATO that has done the feminising... For nearly half a century, it was fighting the peaceful war, during which accumulating arsenals and ever-deadlier, cleverer technologies on both sides engaged a kind of silent, static economic confrontation." ["War is hell - but not being ready to go to war is undignified and embarrassing", Observer, 25/4/99]

According to Marr, the frozen idleness of the Cold War left us ill prepared to kill, or die, for what we believed in: "After the permafrost, the beasts. We are not well-prepared for this. The idea that our people should go and die in large numbers appalls us. Killing our enemies appalls us too. The war-hardened people of Serbia, far more callous, seemingly readier to die, are like an alien race. So, for that matter, are the KLA."

The "beasts" - the "war-hardened people of Serbia",

nor merely the Milosevic regime - assuredly were far more callous than we feminised Westerners as they died so readily under our high explosive and cluster bombs.

Marr's conclusions could have come from the pen of Blair's speechwriter. Rarely, in fact, has the basic understanding that the corporate media and state power equals, 'us', been stated more openly: "If we wish to be world policemen, confronting ethnic cleansing, coming between tribes at war, prising nasty bastards out of their presidential offices, then we have to rethink our general queasiness about violence. Why are we limiting it to an air bombardment, despite the terrible consequences, now obvious, of refusing to threaten Serbia on the ground? Because we have, like late Romans, decided that risk is for others."

"I MADE THE JUDGEMENT THAT BATTLE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WAS MORE ACCURATE THIS TIME", SAID LAITY. "I WAS WRONG. I MEAN, I JUST GOT IT WRONG."

The BBC never tires of reminding us of its objectivity and neutrality. A BBC self-promotional advert recently declared: "Honesty, integrity - it's what the BBC stands for." [Advertising spot, BBC2, 15/2/00]

This makes Marr well suited to join the likes of Matt Frei, a BBC correspondent who reported the rape of East Timor from Jakarta last year. Discussing the Western failure to react to the atrocity until 70 per cent of all public buildings and private residences in East Timor had been destroyed, and 75 per cent of the population had been herded across the border into militia-controlled camps, Frei said: "This is a moral crusade by the West, like Kosovo... but a moral crusade without teeth." [BBC1 6 O'Clock News, 10/10/99]

According to the BBC, the destruction of Serbia was a truly moral crusade. Clearly the West has the moral Midas touch: whether we subject defenceless people to massive bombing or do nothing at all, we are engaged in moral actions. Compare Frei's version with that of Mary Robinson, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, just two weeks later: "The awful abuses committed in East Timor have shocked the world. It is hard to conceive of a more blatant assault on the rights of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. For a time it seemed the world would turn away altogether from the people of East Timor, turn away from the plain evidence of the brutality, killings and rapes. Action, when it came, was painfully slow; thousands paid with their lives for the world's slow response. It was the tide of public anger that stirred world leaders to intervene, however belatedly, on behalf of the East Timorese."

Long after the truth emerged, the BBC seemed to find it excruciatingly difficult to admit that our Indonesian allies really were behind the killings. As late as October 12, newscaster Nicholas Witchell described how the Indonesian armed forces "have failed to protect the people of East Timor". [BBC 8:50 News, 12/10/99]

Frei gave several reasons for the lack of teeth this time around: there was no stomach for bombing or putting troops in harm's way after the attack on Serbia, and Western leaders feared that intervention in Indonesia might cause this huge, fragile country to collapse, heralding an even worse tragedy. Frei made no mention of the fact that the military regime which runs the country is a major business partner and ally of the west, and that we have long supported Indonesian terror in East Timor for reasons which have nothing to do with protecting the stability of the fragile invading force.

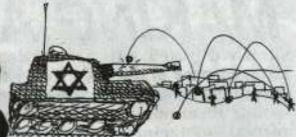
Not much of this is conscious deception. John Pilger has talked of "the subliminal pressures applied by organisations like the BBC, whose news is often selected on the



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SPAM, SPAM, SPAM

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Sticks and stones may break my bones, But not while I'm in this tank.

Friday 20th October 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 279 Free/Donation

GAZA STRIPPED

"We are fighting for our lives. It is clear that the Israelis are not prepared to give us anything. They want to treat all Arabs as slaves and second class citizens. And under attack we have the right to defend ourselves. We have to have militias. We have to gather arms where we can find them."

Middle class Palestinian professional

When Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon visited Jerusalem's Haram al Sharif mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, on 28th September he knew exactly what he was doing. It was the exact anniversary of the 1982 massacres of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps that he had ordered as Israeli Defence Minister. The Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak provided Sharon with an escort of over 1,000 soldiers for his visit, more Israeli troops than had originally invaded the area in 1967. It was like the BNP marching through Brick Lane with the British army in support - and it met with an inevitable reaction.

Film shoot

Within days there were large scale uprisings - intifadas - in almost every Arab area of Palestine. Main highways were blocked, stones thrown at occupying Israeli troops. Those troops, backed by missiles and tanks, started killing dozens of Palestinian youth. When 12 year old Muhammad al-Dura was filmed being shot by Israeli troops at the Netzarim Junction in the Gaza Strip on 30th September, Israeli government officials described the death as a "PR nightmare". But that was the limit of their regret and the killings continued. Six days later one gas canister fired at the same spot was met with a hail of bullets that left four Palestinians dead and 24 injured. There are now over 100 dead, mainly Palestinian youth and children, and almost 2,000 wounded. If it is war, it is the war of the stone against the helicopter gunship.

Reserves

The middle east holds two-thirds of the world's oil reserves. Western powers have always feared the possibility of popular uprisings against the exploitation of the region's mineral wealth by transnationals and have propped up endless corrupt Arab dictators in order to maintain their control. As early as the 1930s, the British governor of Palestine Ronald Storrs spoke approvingly of "A Jewish state [that] could be for England a little Jewish Ulster" in a sea of potentially hostile Arabism".

In keeping with this original vision, the 'peace process' begun in Oslo in 1993 had

precious little to do with finding a just settlement that would allow Jews and Arabs to live together in peace as equals. No attempt was made to address the injustice done when the Palestinians were dispossessed in 1948. The four million Palestinian refugees - now the largest and longest existing such population anywhere - were told that they could forget about return or compensation. When the Palestinians, whose historical capital is Jerusalem, conceded west Jerusalem to the Jews they were soon asked to concede east Jerusalem too, getting offered a distant suburb under nominal self-rule instead. It was like asking for Trafalgar Square and being offered Croydon.

In 1948, just after the Holocaust of European Jews that the western powers had done so little to prevent, the United States and Britain helped found the state of Israel on top of most of the historic land of Palestine. It was a typical colonial process of settlement, conquest and extermination, or expulsion by terror, of the native Palestinians. Zionist terror gangs ethnically cleansed the country of 750,000 Palestinians. In one village, Deir Yassin, 250 men, women and children were murdered by a gang under the command of future Israeli Prime Minister Menachen Begin, who sent them "congratulations on this splendid act of conquest". In 1945 Jews owned 14% of the land and Palestinians 80% - by 1953 Jews owned 73% and Palestinians 25%. As one Zionist leader at the time put it, "it must be clear that there is no place in the country for both peoples together. Transfer the Arabs from here...not one village or tribe should remain".

Most Palestinians now live in what amount to reservations in their own country, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, where they are supposed to have self-government but which are covered with armed Jewish settlements - in the last 15 months alone, 2000 dwellings have been built in such settlements - and are surrounded by Israeli-controlled borders. The Palestinian economy has been crippled by road blocks, police checks and constant disruption of everyday life and trade that ensures no escape from poverty and dependency.

Israel's role as regional policeman for transnational capital is based on a deal - the west, primarily the United States, gives Israel the aid and arms to ensure Israeli Jews can maintain their rule and their privileges,

and Israel uses its armed forces to control any popular uprisings in the region. Israel receives more aid per capita from the United States than any other country, billions of dollars a year, with none of the normal strings attached. Britain does its bit, of course. Robin Cook's recent calls for "calm and restraint" sound rather hollow when you consider that last year alone we sold £11.5m worth of arms to Israel such as components for combat helicopters, tank parts, armoured vehicles and grenade making kits.

Standards

Israel uses its war machine to ensure an apartheid system where its privileged Jewish citizens maintain relatively high standards of housing, health, education and employment in a region with endemic poverty. Even in the 'Palestinian controlled' West Bank, Jewish settlers, who constitute 13% of the population, consume 80% of the water. Since the peace process began Palestinian unemployment has risen dramatically and economic activity has halved. It is apartheid in all but name.

Israel takes its role as the transnational's local hit squad in the region very seriously. In the 1967 six day war it invaded Egypt, Syria and Jordan and occupied the Sinai, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. In the 80s it invaded and occupied South Lebanon. Further afield, Israel was the biggest military backer of apartheid South Africa, collaborating with it in the development of an atomic bomb and sending the country a third of its weapon exports.

Flashpoint

Increasingly, people across the world are making the parallels between apartheid and the Israeli state. A mass movement against Israel, similar to the one against apartheid, is starting to be built. In the short term it is likely that Israel and a hopelessly compromised Palestinian leadership under Yasser Arafat will cobble together another interim agreement. But the US who are running the show are not about to allow justice or anything like it for the Palestinian people. The level of repression will not be lessened. Palestine will continue to be a flashpoint of conflict between the world's powerful corporate interests and the dispossessed.

Further reading: *The End of the Peace Process* by Edward W Said www.addameer.org/september2000.

Donations are urgently needed by Makassed Hospital (PO Box 19482, Jerusalem) in East Jerusalem to pay for care of the wounded. Make cheques payable to Makassed Hospital.

Know FC Know Comment

Reclaim the Streets distribute 20,000 spoof FT's to commuters

Whilst over 10,000 international anti-capitalist activists gathered in Prague for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund conference on September 26, British activists in London, Worthing and Brighton were busy giving away copies of the Financial Crimes to rush hour commuters.

The pink paper spoof of the Financial Times was designed and produced by Reclaim the Streets and packed full of both humour and factually backed articles about the corruption of public life by corporations. The front page photograph was of a NATO picture of a bomber's target site over a train full of civilians just seconds away from being missile attacked by NATO planes during the recent Kosovo crisis.

Around 20,000 copies of the spoof newspaper were given out at London Bridge station, with several hundred more going to commuters outside Worthing's Central Station. Financial Crimes was so true to the original design that hundreds of suited businessmen specifically asked for the paper thinking they were getting a free copy of the FT. One Worthing activist commented: "Every time a major protest like this is staged anywhere in the world, people are denied a fair account of what is going on by the in-built bias of the mainstream national media against anyone challenging the status quo. But once people hear about the real issues at stake - which boils down to the rights of people and communities versus the profiteering of international bankers - it quickly becomes



Extra! Extra! Riot all about it!

clear to them that the moral rights and wrongs are in fact the other way round to what they have been taught to assume. We put a lot of effort into informing people because as the authorities know only too well, information power and we want to see power in the hands of the public, not of governments, the multinationals and banks."

A PDF of the front page of *Financial Crimes* is available to download at www.squall.co.uk

Service provider closes Financial Crimes website

A spoof website designed by Reclaim the Streets activists has been closed down by its web server, Easynet Ltd, after legal threats from the Financial Times. The financialcrimes.com website was constructed to coincide with the distribution of the 20,000 copies of *Financial Crimes*, the pink newspaper spoof of the FT distributed to rush hour commuters on Friday September 22.

Following a complaint from lawyers representing the Financial Times, Easynet Ltd told the Financial Crimes team by e-mail that they considered their website breached a service code of copyright and that Easynet were afraid of being held legally responsible for the content of the site.

In a letter sent to Easynet by the Financial Times' lawyers, the FT claims that the availability of a pdf version of the spoof paper, available for download off the financial crimes website, "is calculated to damage the considerable and global goodwill attaching (sic) to our client's business."

The letter paid particular reference to the use of a cartoon of flying businessman on the front page and a photograph of real FT front page from June 19 with the headline: "Anti-capitalists lay siege to the City of London" which appeared on page 13. They also claimed that the use of pink pages throughout contributed to "a combination of elements confusingly similar to our client's proprietary get up (including the uniquely distinctive pink background which has been used by our client since 1893)".

"In other words," the FT lawyers told Easynet, "Your customer is committing the tort of passing off."

Although the actual grounds for copyright infringement are slight (the use of pink newspaper is not exclusive to the FT having been used by the Evening Standard, Independent on Sunday and Sunday Business), Easynet are the latest internet service provider to backdown against complaints rather than face legal challenges. The law regarding libel and copyright infringement on the web is still unclear as there is so little case law. In March 1999, Demon Internet were deemed to be responsible for defamation after being told by Lawrence Godfrey, a UK scientist, that he was being defamed in their newsgroup postings.

Demon ran scared of the ruling and despite a commitment to appeal against the decision, the company backed down leaving a dangerous legal precedent which no-one has yet challenged.

In the year and a half since this high court ruling, a number of websites have been closed by ISPs simply because complaints about content have been received. Kingston Internet closed down a website critical of judges after being contacted by the Lord Chancellor, Derry Irvine; Webgenie Internet Ltd closed down a site about miscarriages of justice after being threatened by lawyer's representing a police officer and, perhaps most alarming of all, The Land is Ours site was closed down by Demon Internet after a single unnamed complainant told the ISP that the TLIO site contained false information about freemasonry.





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER RIGHT TO BE WRONG

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



'My company is so human - its shit stinks!'

Friday 27th October 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 280 Free/Donation

The Right To Profit

"There has to be considerable concern in Scotland that... the application of the European Convention of Human Rights grants 'human rights' to a French multi-national." *Kevin Dunion, Director of Scotland Friends of the Earth.*

It is the usual story - a large corporation wants to get its greedy mits on a bit of 'under-developed' land. There were protests and a long public inquiry. The company loses patience and runs to the courts.

Except this time the company uses Article 6 of the European Convention complaining that because of the delay its human rights have been violated.

Come again? Since when did corporations have human rights? And what sort of a corporate can of worms are we opening now the Human Rights Act has become law in the UK?

Hold Up

The countryside in question is the Roineabhal Mountain of Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Despite it being part of a National Scenic Area, Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd. want to flatten the mountain and dig a super quarry to supply aggregate for roads in England and Europe, which is nice. They took the Scottish Environment Minister to court because of the time taken to reach a decision over its superquarry - and won. Kevin Dunion says of the decision, "The clear public perception is that the Act was brought in to protect the rights of individuals against powerful commercial interests. Given that companies already have rights not available to individuals or community organisations (e.g. their right to appeal planning decisions and that of 'commercial confidentiality') then it appears, by this decision, that far from levelling the playing field once again it is the powerful and rich who can play on both halves of that field".

Lafarge supplies about 10 per cent of the UK's demand of quarry stone, but reckon it's up with the best of them when it comes to environmental credentials. Well, they are corporate members of 17 County Wildlife Trusts. Hey, one of the World Wildlife Fund UK directors even used to work for them.

The public inquiry finished over five years ago, and while the decision has been a little long in coming, the goalposts have moved considerably. As Kevin Dunion, points out, "There is no need for this quarry, and Government policy has changed since the close of the inquiry." Coming in 2002 is the Aggregates Tax, which will tax quarrying operations according to the environmental costs such as noise, dust, visual in-

trusion, loss of amenity and damage to biodiversity. Demand for aggregates across Europe has collapsed, and there is a lot more emphasis now on recycled rather than 'virgin' aggregate. However, by taking the case to court the company managed to get all these new arguments ignored.

Peace Take

By about the middle of the 18th Century companies had managed to get themselves treated as people under the law - which means they can have human rights.

In this country corporations have used this 'right' to apply SLAPP's (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation - see SchNEWS 184) to silence critics. But the most useful of all Rights to the corporations is 'the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions', which is used for example to bully councils to gain planning permission. And it was this Right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions that the Court of Appeal referred to when judging that Monsanto's rights had been violated by people who peacefully decontaminated fields of GM crops.

Even more worrying is, as solicitor Daniel Bennett points out, the fact that Article 13 of the European Convention, by which people could have contested the corporations' control of resources has been deliberately excluded from our own Human Rights Act.

So will corporations be running to the courts to reclaim their 'freedom' to destroy, pollute and contaminate every time it is challenged? Perhaps as Freedom newspaper points out, (while lawyers might be rubbing their hands with glee,) campaigners shouldn't exactly be doing cartwheels over the new Act. "Rights are gains of struggle not gifts of the state... When the state's interference with our right to or-

We think that the Bill Of Human Rights should be extended to those without enough rights: corporations. Here's our proposed Bill Of Corporate Rights:

1. Nothing Should Get In The Way Of Making Money.
2. Corporations Are More Important Than Humans.
3. Corporations Are Humans If They Want To Be.
4. Business Is More Important Than The Environment.
5. It Is Everybody's Right To Deprive Their Children Of A Habitable Planet.
6. Governments Who Bring In The Bill Of Human Rights Are In No Way Obligated To Follow It.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For removing offensive material... sometimes you just can't make it up. Readers are used to outrageous arrests, but this one seriously takes the piss. John Curtis was nicked for criminal damage to a lamp post at the recent counter demo to the nazi protest in Margate. What he actually did was scrape off a nazi sticker with a front door key, surely an act beneficial to society. Not according to the cops, who after filming him "causing damage to lamp post CIT1013" promptly jumped on him shouting "We've got the agitator" excitedly into their radios. Dunno about you, but SchNEWS reckons that this has got to be contender for crap arrest of the year.

ganise is manifest in the Terrorism Act and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, it would be a fatal error to allow ourselves to be conned into seeing the courtroom as a prime site of struggle."

* To get involved in the campaign against Lafarge digging up Harris contact Scotland Friends of the Earth, 72 Newhaven Rd., Edinburgh, EH6 5QG Tel 0131 554 9977 www.foe-scotland.org.uk

* For a brief history of how corporations got human rights check out the new issue of the indispensable Corporate Watch. £4 inc. postage to 16 Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG Tel 01865 791391 www.corporatewatch.org

* The Environmental Law Centre is organising a conference on the 24th November which will focus on key issues of injustice in the UK legal system and whether the Human Rights Act will make any differences. It's at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London. (nearest tube Holborn) Bonafide law students/NGOs free on first come basis/Others £50 www.ele.org.uk

* 'Challenging corporate influence over our lives, our politicians and global trade.' Public meeting to launch the World Development Movement's campaign on the threat posed by the World Trade Organisation to public services worldwide. Thursday 9 November, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL 7 - 9pm (nearest tube Russell Square)

Let It Rip

This week the RIP (Regulation of Investigatory Powers) Bill (SchNEWS 269) kicked in. Companies can now legally read every personal email on their employees' computers, as long as they quite rightly suspect monkey business (that's the powerful Data Protection Act showing its teeth). The Human Right to Privacy? Well luckily decent citizens like your good selves have nothing to fear have you. By next year all internet providers (Yahoo etc) will have to have that 'black box' which makes all data available directly to MI5. A way around this is to choose a provider that's based overseas. And rather than saving dodgy info on your computer's hard drive, store it on the internet where you can retrieve it as and when necessary (e.g. www.freedrive.com; for more info on all this check out the Foundation for Information Policy Research: www.fipr.org/rip/).

ECLECTIC CITY

SQUATTING IS STILL LEGAL, NECESSARY AND FREE

By Paul Appleton

'Squatting is a solution to homelessness, empty properties and speculation. It provides homes for those who can't get public housing and who can't afford extortionate rents. Squatting creates space for much needed community projects. Squatting means taking control instead of being pushed around by bureaucrats and property owners. Squatting is still legal, necessary and free' (Advisory Service for Squatters, 1996)

What follows is an account of a brief intervention in the contemporary urban landscape in an English city, Newcastle upon Tyne. It is an account of a group of people who squatted a building as a response to the increasing dominance of corporate organisations and the declining accountability of local authorities in cities

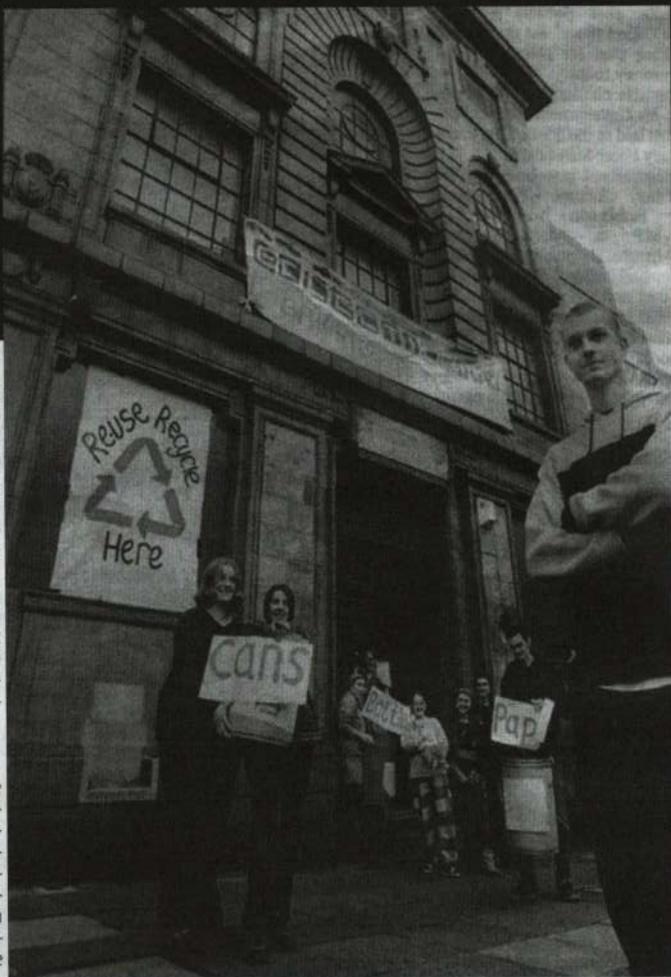
CORPORATE CITY...

Most cities over the last 20 years have become fixated with the use of culture, leisure and entertainment in an attempt to boost economic development and make city centres safer and more interesting. While British cities are not overwhelmed by corporate entertainment and leisure to the same extent as their North American counterparts (through an abundance of malls, multiplexes, marinas, casinos, chain bars and restaurants), large parts of where we spend our free time in cities is now largely defined, directed and owned by corporate capital and the machinations of an increasingly small group of local elites, property developers, place entrepreneurs and leisure corporations. For example, 70% of beer sales in the UK are controlled by three brewers, while the top ten pub operators own 50% of all pubs. The story is similar in the UK night club sector with Luminar Leisure, recent purchasers of Rank and Northern Leisure, owning 10% of all night clubs in the UK.

There are a number of implications of such developments. For example, rather than being rooted in place, entertainment in city centres is aimed at a highly mobile professional service class. The less 'desirable' denizens of urban life - the homeless, the skaters, the goths and punks, the kids hanging out - those in general whose main purpose is not buying consumer goods are cut out of this equation. Corporate developments in city centres continue to squeeze out small-scale, independent arts, cultural and entertainment activities which cannot survive in face of rising city centre property values. In this context, large corporate operators gain advantage over their smaller counterparts as they have access to large sums of capital to buy and renovate city centre property, are backed by vast legal, administrative and marketing resources, and can negotiate bulk-buying discounts with suppliers to undercut small operators.

ECLECTIC CITY...

It is in this context that a group of us in Newcastle squatted a derelict building in the city centre. There had been a desire to open a squat for a number of months and it was felt that something should be done in the city in solidarity with the demonstrations against the meeting of the World Bank and IMF in Prague on 26th September, 2000. An opportunity presented itself through a disused building, a former arts and community venue, which had been earmarked for demolition as part of a proposed development called Electric City



which was to include a 4,000 seater multiplex cinema, bowling alley, night club, shops, casino and car park. We occupied the building towards the end of October 2000, driven initially by a desire to provide a number of free services and events which were lacking in the city centre such as a recycling point, an environmental resource centre and library, a drop-in centre, café and performance space for local musicians and artists.

In particular, we felt that the city-centre was becoming dominated by profit-driven, off-the-shelf leisure and entertainment developments which many local people could not afford to use and which offered little variety. Moreover, the idea that the city needed another multiplex cinema, especially considering that there were a number of other proposed multiplexes, seemed absurd to many local people. At this time, there were also concerns about the lack of public accountability from the local authority as it had already agreed to a number of large scale, mega-buck schemes with national developers and leisure operators in preference to developing or subsidising smaller scale schemes.

The squat which was established was christened 'Eclectic City', in part to contrast with the name of the proposed development, Electric City, but also to highlight the need to use a greater diversity of ideas and methods to develop the city centre. Over the course of the first week, preparations were made to open the building to the public. A rota was drawn up to ensure the building was permanently occupied and a copy of Section 6 of the Criminal Law Act (1977), which gave residents some protection from eviction, was pinned on the front door. Mutually agreed house rules were also drawn up to establish how the building was to be used.

Eclectic City was opened to the public a week into the occupation and a number of events were held including a showcase evening for local bands, a cabaret night and a free café and resource centre. As the building had no running

SANCTIONING IRAQ

With the affect of Western sanctions on Iraqi children now reaching genocidal proportions, David Edwards interviews former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Denis Halliday, to find out why resigning and speaking out was the only humane thing to do.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 4,000 more children under five are dying every month in Iraq than would have died before Western sanctions were imposed. Over the eight years that these sanctions have been in place, 500,000 extra children under five are estimated to have died.

These extraordinary figures lead directly to the question of responsibility. For citizens of Western democracies, it seems almost inconceivable that we could be to blame. We have grown up surrounded that the West is a cradle of democracy and human rights, a centre of civilisation and sanity. During the Kosovo crisis last year, President Clinton insisted: "We are upholding our values and advancing the cause of peace. We cannot respond to such tragedies everywhere, but when ethnic conflict turns into ethnic cleansing where we can make a difference, we must try, and that is clearly the case in Kosovo." Likewise, Prime Minister Blair declared that Kosovo was a new kind of war in which we were fighting "for values" - a logical step, given that Blair had previously announced, "We will make the protection and promotion of human rights a central part of our foreign policy."

In the case of Iraq, the salient facts are very clear: Iraq is ruled by a ruthless and violent dictator, Saddam Hussein; he presides over a country subject to the most wide-ranging sanctions regime in modern history; and thousands of Iraqi children are dying every month.

The claims and counter-claims surrounding these facts are well-known: human rights groups, and even leading figures within the United Nations, insist that the sanctions regime imposed by the West, with food and vital medicines blocked by the UN Sanctions Committee, is a primary cause of this appalling rate of child mortality. In response, Western governments argue that it is Saddam who has been deliberately withholding food and medicines made available by the UN's 'oil for food' programme, and therefore it is he that is responsible for the mass death of children, not Western leaders.

With these claims in mind, I interviewed Denis Halliday, former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, who resigned after 34 years with the UN in September 1998. Halliday spoke to me over the phone from New York. Since his resignation as humanitarian co-ordinator in Iraq, his successor, Hans von Sponeck, also resigned on February 13 of this year, asking, "How long should the civilian population of Iraq be exposed to such punishment for something they have never done?" Two days later, Jutta Burghardt, head of the World Food Programme in Iraq, also resigned, saying privately that what was being done to the people of Iraq was intolerable.

I suggested to Halliday that it must have been a huge wrench to resign from the United Nations after 34 years of work. I asked him what specifically it was that made him take such drastic nation?

HALLIDAY: I worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), I was involved in development activity, working closely with governments trying to address their issues of poverty and education and economic well being - all very positive; I'd do it all again tomorrow. Then I allowed myself to get sucked into the management in New York: I was Director of Personnel in UNDP for four years and Boutros-Ghali promoted me to Assistant Secre-

tary-General and made me head of Human Resources for the UN itself. I volunteered to go to Baghdad and I set about trying to make it work, and of course found out very quickly that it does not work - it wasn't designed to work; it's not funded to work; it's strangled by the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council - and in a matter of six weeks I was already trying to get the Security Council to assist me, but I got no support whatsoever from the United Nations in New York. So then I spoke to the French, Russian and Chinese ambassadors who are in Baghdad, with the help of the UNicef man, and we set about doubling the programme which we accomplished in fact in three or four months through the Security Council.

EDWARDS: *Did these changes happen solely on your initiative?*

HALLIDAY: Absolutely, it would never have happened, believe me, if we hadn't started that process in Baghdad. But to come back to your question of exactly why I resigned: after that development work, to preside over a programme which in a sense was designed to stop deterioration but in fact did no more than sustain an already unacceptable situation of high levels of child mortality, adult mortality and malnutrition, I found this was incompatible with my past, incompatible with my feelings about the United Nations, and incompatible with the very United Nations Charter itself and human rights themselves. There was no way I was going to be associated with this programme and manage this ghastly thing in Iraq, it was not a possibility for me. So I put in a year, I did my best, we doubled the programme, but the problems continued.

EDWARDS: *The British and US Governments claim that there are plenty of foodstuffs and medicines being delivered to Iraq, the problem is that they are being cynically withheld by the Iraqi regime. In a letter to the New Statesman recently, Peter Hain, Minister of State, wrote: "The 'oil for food' programme has been in place for three years and could have been operating since 1991 if Saddam had not blocked it. The Iraqi people have never seen the benefits they should have." Is there any truth in that?*

HALLIDAY: There's no basis for that assertion at all. The Secretary-General has reported repeatedly that there is no evidence that food is being diverted by the government in Baghdad. We have 150 observers on the ground in Iraq. Say a wheat shipment comes in from god knows where, in Basra, they follow the grain to some of the mills, they follow the flour to the 49,000 agents that the Iraqi government employs for this programme, then they follow the flour to the recipients and even interview some of the recipients - there is no evidence of diversion of foodstuffs whatever ever in the last two years. The Secretary-General would have reported that.

EDWARDS: *What about medical supplies? In January 1999, George Robertson, then defence secretary, said, "Saddam Hussein has in warehouses \$275 million worth of medicines and medical supplies which he refuses to distribute."*

HALLIDAY: We have had problems with medical drugs and supplies, there have been delays there. There are several good reasons for that. One is that often the Iraqi government did some poor contracting; so they contracted huge orders - \$5 million of aspirins or something - to some small company that simply couldn't do the job and had to re-tool and wasted three, four, five months maybe. So that was the first round of mistakes. But secondly, the Sanctions Committee weighed in and they would look at a package of contracts, maybe ten items, and they would deliberately approve nine but block the tenth, knowing full well that without

EDWARDS: *Who, in your view, is primarily responsible for the deaths of those 500,000 children under five?*

HALLIDAY: All the members of the Permanent Security Council, when they passed 1284, reconfirmed that economic sanctions had to be sustained, knowing the consequences. That constitutes 'intent to kill', because we know that sanctions are killing several thousand per month. Now, of the five permanent members, three abstained; but an abstention is no better than a vote for, in a sense. Britain and America of course voted for this continuation. The rest of them don't count because they're lackeys, or they're paid off. The only country that stood up was Malaysia, and they also abstained. But you know, by abstaining instead of using your veto, when you are a permanent member you're guilty because you're continuing something that has this deadly impact. However, I would normally point the finger at London and Washington, because they are the most active in sustaining sanctions: they are the ones who will not compromise. All the other members would back down if London and Washington would change their position. I think that's quite clear. But unfortunately Blair and Clinton have an almost personal investment in demonising Saddam Hussein. That's very hard to get out of, they have my sympathy, but they created their own problem. Once you've demonised somebody, it's awfully difficult to turn around and say, 'Well actually he's not such a bad guy, he likes kids'. Under the Baath Party regime, they ran a social welfare system in Iraq that was so intense it was almost claustrophobic, and they made damn sure that the average Iraqi was well taken care of, and they did it deliberately to divert them from any political activity and to maintain stability and allow them (Baath Party) to run the country. [US Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright has also fallen into the demonisation hole: her whole career is linked to maintaining this policy, although she didn't start it.

EDWARDS: *How do you feel about the performance of the media in covering this issue? Has it been adequate?*

HALLIDAY: I'm very disappointed with the BBC. The BBC has been very aggressively in favour of sanctions, I found, in the last couple of years. But recently - as recently as three weeks ago - that changed. After the von Sponeck resignation they did an introductory piece to a programme I was on which was brilliant. It described the catastrophe brilliantly. So even the BBC seems to be coming around. Here in the United States the media has been disastrous, because the media in this country is controlled by large corporations like Westinghouse, like General Electric, which are arms manufacturers, and they don't want to highlight the 'no fly zone' bombing which takes place almost every day, or all the other things: Raytheon making Tomahawk missiles - by the way, they're going into Derry in Ireland - they've just got the media under control. Having said that, I've been on all the networks here at one time or another, but they're not pushing it; it just dies here. The New York Times gives usually three or four lines on 'no fly zone' bombing every couple of days.

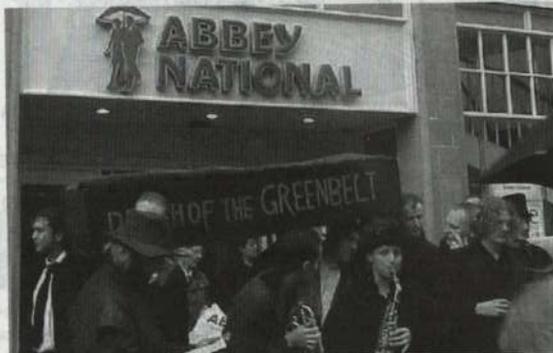
EDWARDS: *Have you been heavily in demand since Pilger's film was shown? How many interviews are you doing?*

HALLIDAY: I cannot handle the number of speaking engagements I get, I'm turning them down. I'm doing on average, I would say, two talks a week and probably three or four interviews, even in the slow times. When von Sponeck resigned, I think I had 25 interviews in four days. People are tired of Iraq; they want it to go away. I sympathise with that. I want it to go away myself, but I want it of course resolved first. The Americans just don't want to know about it; it's too uncomfortable. They don't want to be reminded that they've just spent \$1.3 billion last year on bombing this country.

EDWARDS: *It's awful even to think about it, but there is a real racist undercurrent going on here isn't there?*

HALLIDAY: I fear so. Iraqi kids don't count apparently. It is a racist problem, there really is no question about that. It's ugly.

NO RELIEF FOR BIRMINGHAM



October 28th, Birmingham: Campaigners have a funeral procession - with band - which does a tour of the city centre dropping in on branches of Abbey National - who are joining the Bank of America in financing the new toll motorway, the Birmingham Northern Relief Road (BNRR). They were in mourning over the 'death of the green belt'.

Despite the unregulated toll rates, which will allow Midland Expressway Limited (MEL) to charge as much as they like to use the road, it is believed that the toll will have a significant off-putting effect and that the motorway may struggle, like the Channel Tunnel or the Millennium Dome, to reach its optimistic targets.

Companies also due for a visit soon by protestors are the construction firms: Balfour Beatty (not them again!!), AMEC, Carillion and Alfred MacAlpine.

Not only will the motorway cut another huge swathe through countryside, it will act as a catalyst for further Green Belt development - with industrial and urban in-fill housing projects lining up to build around the new road. The motorway will destroy 27 miles of the West Midlands' green belt and damage two nationally important nature sites (SSSIs). It is unclear how much traffic it will attract because it runs parallel to free A-roads, and it is acknowledged by the Highway Agency and MEL themselves that congestion on the adjacent M6 will be similar regardless. Locally it is very unpopular attracting 10,000 registered objectors during the Public Enquiry.

The BNRR is the largest new road in the current New Labour 'no new roads' programme: the Tories had it in mind but turned it into a 'toll road' as their road programme crumbled. In opposition Labour were opposed to the road, but after only three months in power they performed one of their now all too familiar u-turns and gave the road permission to go ahead in July 1997.

MEL are now three and a half years behind schedule thanks to occupations by protestors, which have resulted in a doubling of construction costs.

Alliance Against the BNRR, 54 - 57 Allison St. Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5TH www.ds.dial.pipex.com/beep/bnrr/



The car-nage begins outside Birmingham



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER FUELISH...



SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?

This rain is brought to you by the oil industry

Friday 3rd November 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 281

Free/Donation

TRUCK OFF!

With the worst storms and flooding for 50 years and a new report on how climate change will affect Europe, the fuel protestors picked a good week to announce its next days of action.

Without a sense of irony it was announced there would be another Jarrow march - except unlike the last one in 1936, where starving unemployed Tyneside workers walked to London to demand jobs, this one will be in the form of a four-day convoy of slow-moving lorries. Their demand - a 26 pence cut in fuel duty, for the right of the motorist to drive anywhere-like-for-as-little-as-possible, and bugger the consequences. And it gets better - the protests will begin on the very first day of the Climate Change Conference in the Hague! Hello, is anyone home?

And can't you see the similarities between the original Jarrow crusaders and the hauliers and farmers. The original crusaders lived in a town with 80% unemployment with a means test benefit system that made you sell everything you owned in order to qualify.

But if you think that's hardship look at what some of the fuel protestors have to live on. One of the leaders, Nigel Kime, struggles by with his haulage firm worth just £2 million. Another, Derek Mead, owns a piddling 1,600 acre dairy farm in Somerset. Poor old Derek Lynch owns just one haulage company in Kent, while Richard Haddock owns a farm covering just 800 acres. How embarrassing. These people are obviously starving!

Does SchNEWS have to spell it out? Our love affair with the motorcar not only means a never-ending sprawl of concrete covering our land, but that in the not to distant future the weather patterns we've been seeing over the past few weeks will be the norm, and huge swathes of the country will be permanently under water.

Perhaps commentator John O'Farrell summed it up best "After the burning of fossil fuels, our second greatest source of greenhouse gases is apparently the methane from cows' bottoms. But with the amount of bullshit coming from the fuel protestors at the moment, this figure looks set to rise as well. They used to give out free glasses with petrol. They should start to give out sandbags and life-jackets instead."

* Spare a thought for the poor old oil companies too...in the UK, North Sea Oil operating profits have almost doubled during the last 10 years, yet tax on them has remained non-existent.

* It's now less than two weeks till the Climate Change Conference at the Hague, and things are hotting up, so to speak. Unsurprisingly, the world's richest nations will be battling to carry on regardless, while the majority of the 'developing' world will be battling to get their voices heard. Actions and events will be happening throughout the conference, including a Counter Summit.

* For info about climate change get a copy of ASEED's excellent new booklet **Send £3 to Aseed Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands.** www.aseed.net/climate/climate.htm.

* If you want to go to the Hague from the UK contact 01865 791 391 or info@risingtide.org.uk

* **12th November**, eve of the climate talks is the anniversary of **Ken Saro-Wiwa's** death. Activists will gather outside Shell HQ in The Hague.

13 Critical Mass bike ride to co-incide with the opening of the Hague Conference Meet 7.45am at Devonshire Green, Sheffield. criticalsheffield@yahoo.com

* The South African Government aims to distribute **one million bicycles** by 2010 as a sustainable transport solution. Ten thousand bikes are to be distributed in rural areas early next year. Check-out www.afribike.org

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For taking stuff out of a bin...It seems Lewes cops aren't in tune with the recycling tip after two people were arrested for taking a kid's bike, a cheese grater and a wok out of a skip. As readers may already know Lewes was one of the towns in the South East to be hit by the recent floods, and to claim on insurance all sorts of stuff was thrown away-destined for landfill. The cops seemingly take a very dim view of this recycle/re-use culture sending 3 Range Rovers to nick the miscreants who were then held for over seven hours, while pictures were taken of the bike, the cheese grater and the wok as evidence! The two "cnims" were released on bail while the cops try and find out who owned the said items before they are no doubt once again thrown away back into a skip!

Fawke Off

It's Bonfire Night this weekend, but if Guy Fawkes was alive today in Stockton-on-Tees he'd get slapped with an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) for his trouble (as well as a bit of torture, burning at the stake etc). Hot on the heels of pre-pubescent terror tots, joyriding knicker thieves and foul-mouthed smackhead neighbours from hell, 'unofficial' November 5th bonfire-makers are the latest targets of Jack Straw's war on 'off-message' citizens. Under an ASBO, those deemed troublemakers are given a slapped wrist, with the threat of five years jail if they fail to comply.

Part of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, ASBO's were originally talked up as a way of dealing with persistent criminals and tearaways on estates. But by October last year, Jack was horrified to notice that only 5 had been issued. So an urgent call went out, and councils have responded with gusto. Over 150 ASBOs have now been slapped on a whole range of miscreants, from 'problem families' to prostitutes - though whether the councillors, cops and judges among the latter's clientele will get similar hassle is open to question.

Some councils have gone even further - a ticket tout earned his ASBO for asking passengers at Brixton tube for their Travelcards. Other agencies have been quick to notice 'alternative' applications. ASBO's have been mooted in discussions between government, police, scientists and 'law-abiding' animal rights groups as a means of dealing with 'extremists', who visit or threatening vivisectionists and 'home visiting' staff. "People can be treated more leniently because they are seen as idealists," warns the Home Office. "They aren't. They are criminals." As, it would seem, so are the homeless and beggars. In fact everybody except, funnily enough, truck driving, road blocking fuel protestors.

SchNEWS 6th BIRTHDAY PARTY

& Brighton Peace Centre

PRESENT

THREE FLOORS OF HIP
GRINDING, CANDLE BLOWING,
PAMPHLET GUZZLING, RIB
TICKLIN KISS-ME-QUICK
ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring SchLIVE plus

Timmy Wobble (As seen on TV)
* Marcus (Innerfield) * Da Void
(Stompafunk) * Jude (Planet
Yes) * DJ Wah Wah * Misti Love
* Sister G * Bobby Dazzler *
Dom & Cosmo's Bottleneck
Bluegrass Band * And films Big
Rattle In Seattle * Revolting In
Prague * Capital Ills

Thursday

16th November 9 til 2

@THE OCEAN ROOMS -
1 MORLEY ST BRIGHTON
£2.50/£2 Con/Student

This is a benefit for both SchNEWS and the Peace Centre.

©ANTI-COPYRIGHT - INFORMATION FOR ACTION

PETROL PARIIAHS

There must have been a few residual socialists in the Labour Party who wished their government could have taken a leaf out of the Cuban Book of Decisive Government when the so called 'petrol crisis' cut a wound in New Labour's public image.

In the years immediately following the triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959, transnational oil corporations like Esso and Texaco attempted to bring the fledgling revolutionary government to its knees by refusing to refine oil in Cuban refineries. The Cuban government tried to negotiate but, when the oil giants refused to temper the demands of their ultra-capitalism, the Cubans simply kicked them off the island; lock, stock and corporate barrel. Putting the refineries under state control, Cuba then stridently asserted that multinationals would never again hold the country to ransom.

Contrary to popular portrayal, the recent paralysis of oil deliveries in the UK did not arise from a spontaneous expression of public dissent. The oil corps may have pretended not to send out drivers because of picket line intimidation, but it is now widely acknowledged that they didn't want to. At some refineries the thin smattering of picketers who were supposedly holding the country to ransom were receiving refreshments courtesy of the oil companies themselves.

Seemingly forgotten in the mayhem was the fact that on August 1 - just over a month previously - a 'dump the pump' protest, co-ordinated by the Association of British Drivers and backed by both the Sun and the Daily Mail, had fingered the oil industry itself as the culprit for high petrol prices. How quickly was this forgotten? How adroitly did the corporations manoeuvre themselves out of the dock and into the seat of innocence. Under the guise of spontaneous public insurrection, the oil companies helped harness popular animosity over high petrol taxes and redirect it against the government. It was a coup of corporate cleverness. But why now?

* * * * *

The oil industry didn't complain back in 1993 when the Conservative government increased petrol duty paid by British motorists by 10% and set up the 'fuel duty regulator' which increased petrol duty by 3% above inflation each year thereafter. At the same time, Thatcher's government sliced petroleum revenue tax (PRT) from 75% to 50% for oil fields currently in service, and abolished it altogether for fields developed after the 1993 budget. PRT is the UK's version of an oil extraction tax which every oil producing country in the world levies to compensate for the removal of their mineral resource. The abolition of this tax by the Conservative government back in 1993 was a staggering gift to those oil corporations mining British oil. In answer to a parliamentary question, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury at the time, Stephen Dorrell, said the move was "a direct response to an industry request" and would "double the investors marginal share of the profit." BP's share price rose by 6.4% immediately.

After Eire, the UK's oil fields are now the cheapest in the world for corporations to drain. It is a situation the oil leviathans wish to maintain.

Finance analysts, UBS Warburg, predict that the world's top ten oil companies are set to weigh in a cool \$75

billion dollar profit by the end of this year. Shell's third quarter profits announced on November 2 were up a staggering 80 per cent on last year's figure reaching a record \$3.254 billion. BP are also expected to report a record 77 per cent increase. These mammoth profit swells are all due to the high price of crude oil. However, none of this gargantuan profit margin, will be passed onto drivers at the pump. Instead Esso, Total and Jet had the audacity to raise petrol prices by four pence just after the petrol crisis came to an end.

In 1997, new Labour chancellor Gordon Brown, mooted the idea of reintroducing petroleum revenue tax; a plan which the oil industry were voraciously keen to scotch. Brown abandoned the plan after the oil giants argued that the extremely low price of oil at the time (\$8) already meant that profits were being hit. However, even this dubious argument collapsed when the price of crude oil went skyward and now stands at over \$30 a barrel. Keen to warn the government away from the notion of reintroducing petroleum revenue tax, the oil corporations flexed their political muscle.

The second motivation for their attack on New Labour is the imminent imposition of a climate change levy. This proposed levy was planned as a way of making the oil corporations contribute a sum of money specifically for environmental projects which might help counter the global warming caused by petrochemical omissions. The actual amount has yet to be set and the oil industry is evidently warning the government to keep it low.

After the September petrol crisis the New Labour government belatedly realised that oil companies had been complicit in the fuel shortage. And what's more there was little that could be done about the way they had executed their involvement. Strict anti-union legislation brought in by Thatcher means that police have a legal right to wade in if a picket line blocks company gates. However, if the company themselves are secretly in support of the picket and refuse to send vehicles out the gate then the police are powerless.

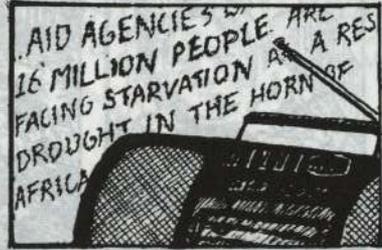
So it was to the oil companies that the New Labour government went first to secure a pledge that guaranteed a certain degree of fuel distribution in the event of more picketing. What the government offered the oil companies behind closed doors we may never know, but it was more than likely to be some respite from the petroleum revenue tax and/or climate change levy.

The other vested business interests behind the petrol 'crisis' are the road haulage industry and farmers. The large land-owner dominated Country Landowner's Association (CLA), the National Farmer's Union (NFU) and the Road Hauliers' Association (RHA) were among a posse of lobbying organisations who saw opportunities to further their profit-making causes.

Having exclusive access to 'red diesel' with a minimal levy of 3p a litre tax, British farmers are only really affected by fuel tax indirectly via produce distribution haulage costs. The involvement of farmers in the dispute was more a reflection of a general disaffection amongst Britain's ailing conventional agricultural industry than it was about fuel prices.



FUNNY WEATHER WE'RE HAVING AT THE MOMENT, ISN'T IT DEAR?



...everything you didn't want to know about climate change, but probably should find out. kate evans 2000

SO WHAT IS THIS GREENHOUSE EFFECT THEN?

FIRST, THE SUN SHINES

THEN RADIATIVE GASES, PRINCIPALLY WATER VAPOUR AND CARBON DIOXIDE TRAP THE SUN'S HEAT AND PREVENT IT RETURNING BACK TO SPACE

WITHOUT THIS NATURAL PROCESS, THE EARTH WOULD BE -18°C , AND WE WOULDN'T BE HERE.

1896, SVANTE ARRHENIUS, SWEDISH SCIENTIST WORKS OUT THAT PUMPING EXTRA CO_2 INTO THE AIR WITH THE LARGE SCALE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS IS ADDING TO THE NATURAL INSULATING PROPERTY OF THE ATMOSPHERE...

... 2000 NO-ONE SEEMS TO HAVE LISTENED VERY MUCH. CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS ARE UP MORE THAN 30%, FROM 280 PARTS PER MILLION TO 365 ppmv.

METHANE (CH_4) HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED, FROM 700 TO 1,720 PARTS PER BILLION (ppbv) SINCE PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES. NITROUS OXIDE IS UP FROM 275 ppbv TO 310 ppbv AND NEW CHEMICALS CFC11 AND CFC12 HAVE REACHED LEVELS OF 280 AND 484 PARTS PER TRILLION.

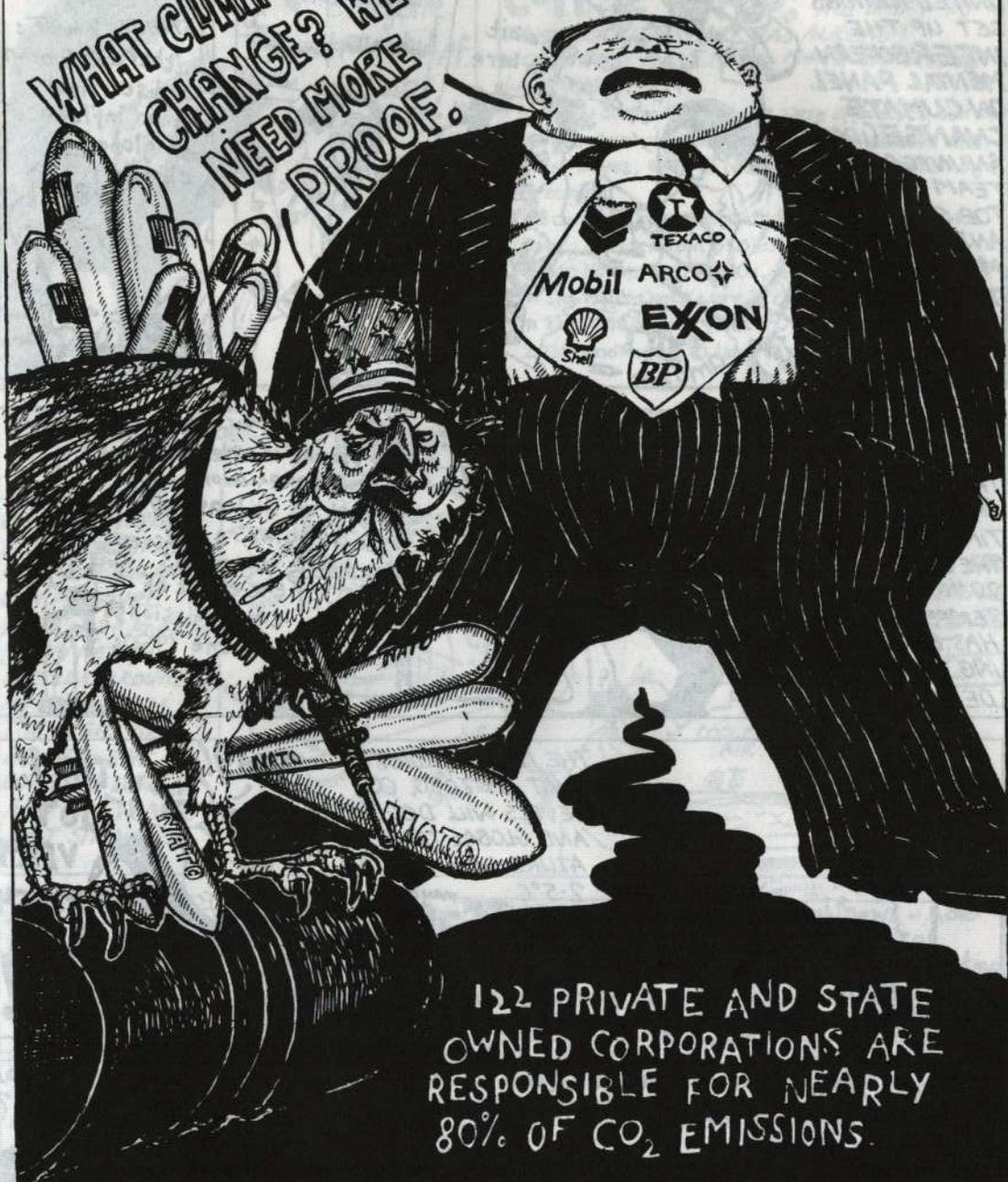
AT THE SAME TIME AS CO_2 (FROM FOSSIL FUEL BURNING) IS HOTTING THINGS UP, SO_2 , THAT'S SULPHUR DIOXIDE (ALSO FROM FOSSIL FUEL BURNING) FORMS SULPHATE PARTICLES WHICH COOL THE PLANET DOWN BY REFLECTING INCOMING LIGHT BACK INTO SPACE. THESE TWO PROCESSES HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER TO GET AN

ACCURATE PICTURE OF GLOBAL TEMPERATURE, BUT WHEN THEY ARE IT'S CLEAR THAT THINGS ARE GETTING WARMER.

ASK YOURSELF; WILL YOUR GREENHOUSE BE AFFECTED? THE ANSWER IS ALMOST CERTAINLY YES

WHERE DO GREENHOUSE GASES REALLY COME FROM?

WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE? WE NEED MORE PROOF.



122 PRIVATE AND STATE OWNED CORPORATIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEARLY 80% OF CO₂ EMISSIONS.

THE USA, WITH 4% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION EMITS 24% OF GLOBAL GREENHOUSE GASES.

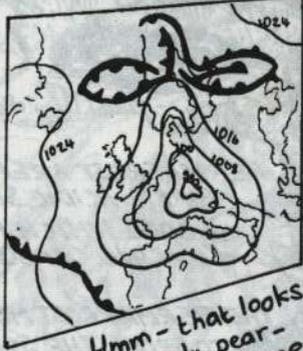


NO, IT'S NOT REALLY GLOBAL WARMING WE'RE GOING TO SEE SO MUCH AS...
CLIMATE CHAOS! THE SHIFT IN TEMPERATURE THAT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED HAS LED TO MORE EXTREME WEATHER:

- In 1998, 300 million people were affected by storm surges; torrential rain, landslides, mudslides, and tidal waves, and 45 countries were stricken by drought.
- The costs of climate related disasters have doubled every decade, from \$50 billion in the 1960's, to \$400 billion in the 1990's.
- In the 1960's there were 16 climate related disasters, in the 1990's there were 70. Between 2000 and 2020 another 245 large disasters are predicted.

It's just going to get a bit **WINDIER** and **STORMIER**...

WIND IS CAUSED BY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ATMOSPHERIC HIGH AND LOW PRESSURE. WITH MORE ENERGY (FROM HEAT) BUZZING AROUND IN THE SYSTEM, THE HIGHS GET HIGHER, THE LOWS GET LOWER AND THE WINDS GET STRONGER.



Hmm - that looks completely pear-shaped.

ALSO, HEAT SOAKS INTO THE SEA, AND BOUNCES OFF LAND. THIS MAKES THE AIR ABOVE THE SEA COOLER THAN ABOVE LAND. MORE HEAT MAKES FOR A BIGGER TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE AND STRONG WINDS + CYCLONES RESULT.



... a bit **DRIER**... (OBVIOUSLY)

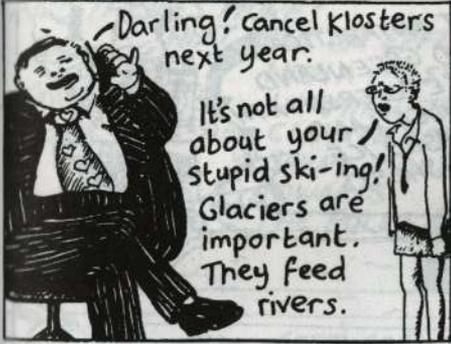
SOON 3 BILLION PEOPLE WILL BE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION.

... and a bit **WETTER**

WHERE IT DOES RAIN IT WILL RAIN HARDER. THIS IS BECAUSE WARMER AIR CAN HOLD MORE WATER VAPOUR BEFORE IT REACHES THE POINT WHERE IT DROPS IT ALL AS RAIN.

AND ALL THESE THINGS AT ONCE HAVE GOODBYE TO REGULAR SEASONS, THIS NEW WEATHER IS ESSENTIALLY UNPREDICTABLE.

Yeah, great news - hold with the sunscreen investments - I'm putting my money into umbrellas.

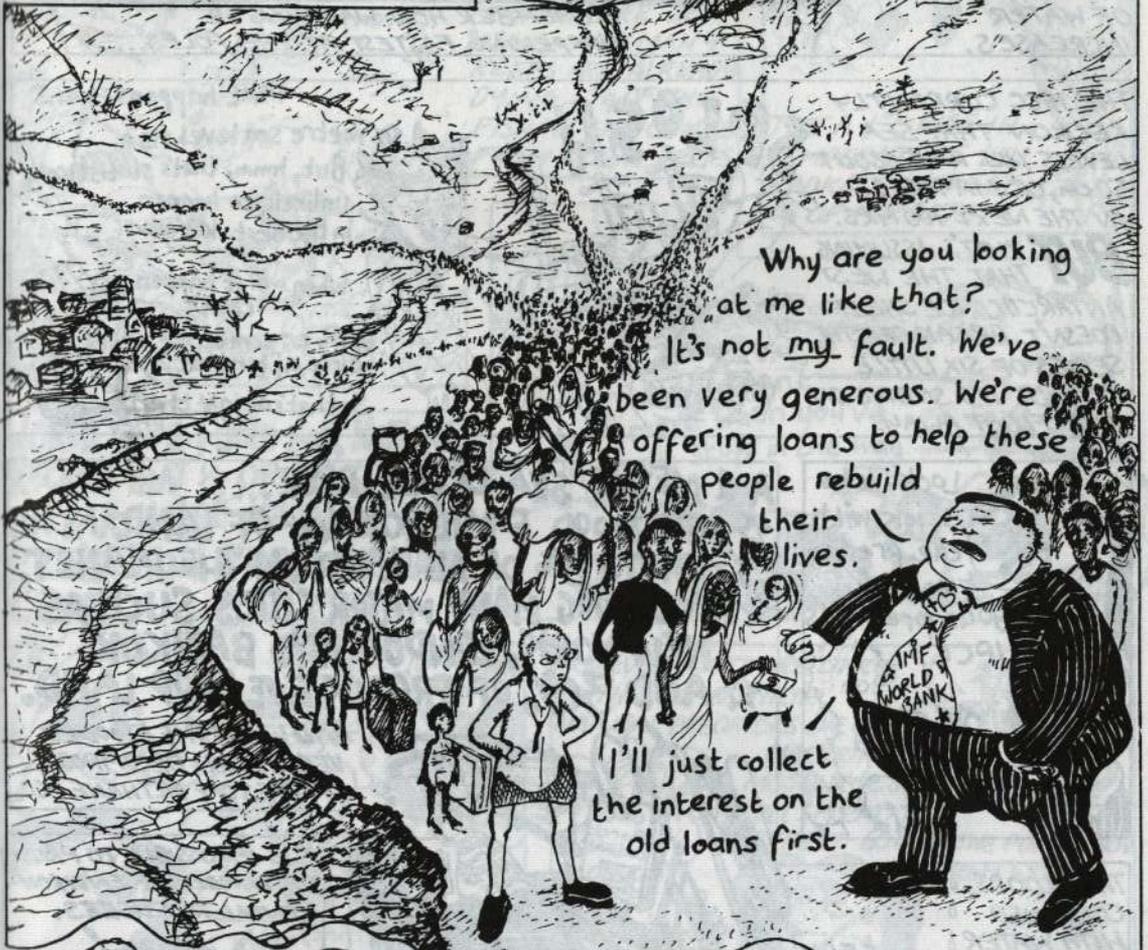


Darling! Cancel klosters next year.

It's not all about your stupid skiing! Glaciers are important. They feed rivers.

RIVERS LIKE THE INDUS, GANGES + BRAMAPUTRA, WHICH IRRIGATE THE FARMS OF 'THE BREAD BASKET OF INDIA' - FEEDING 1 BILLION PEOPLE.

BY 2040 THOSE GLACIERS WILL BE GONE. THE RIVERS WILL ONLY EXIST DURING THE RAINY SEASON (IF THE RAINS COME). WHERE WILL THE PEOPLE GO?



Why are you looking at me like that?

It's not my fault. We've been very generous. We're offering loans to help these people rebuild their lives.

I'll just collect the interest on the old loans first.



And then, of course when it gets downstream glacier melt, er contributes to

SEA LEVEL RISES

SEA LEVELS HAVE RISEN BETWEEN 10cm AND 25cm SO FAR, FROM GLOBAL WARMING. ABOUT 6cm OF THAT COMES FROM "THERMAL EXPANSION" - AS THE SEA GETS HOTTER, IT GETS BIGGER. THE REST COMES FROM MELTING ICE.

AND THERE'S MORE! WHAT ABOUT THE EFFECT ON WILDLIFE?

Oh no!
This is getting really depressing.

WITH A 1-3.5°C WARMING, THE CLIMATE ZONES SHIFT 150-550km TOWARDS THE POLES.

Well, things can just move then.



Don't be stupid. Trees can't move.

JUST A 1°C RISE IN TEMPERATURE WILL RADICALLY AFFECT 1/3 OF FORESTS.



coral can't move.

CORAL IS INCREDIBLY TEMPERATURE SENSITIVE, AND MANY REEFS ARE ALREADY DYING. 1/9 OF THE FISH WE EAT COMES FROM CORAL REEFS.



Wildlife can't move when you've built stuff in the way.

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE RECKON THAT 1/3 OF ALL SPECIES ON EARTH ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION FROM CLIMATE CHAOS.



PARTICULARLY AT RISK ARE ANIMALS HIGH UP THE FOOD CHAIN, SUCH AS WHALES POLAR BEARS GRIZZLY BEARS TIGERS AND GIANT PANDAS.

But -(sniff)- those are all the cute ones!
Look - I've got panda's on my pencil case. Pandas can't die out. (sniff sniff)



HOWEVER, RATS ARE LIKELY TO THRIVE, AS THEIR NATURAL PREDATORS DIE OUT...
... MALARIAL MOSQUITOES WILL SPREAD TO AFFECT 60% OF THE POPULATION (UP FROM 45%)
BACTERIA, VIRUSES AND PARASITES CAN BREED IN THE WARMER CONDITIONS.

OH MY GOD! WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!!

Tsk tsk These adolescent mood swings.



ULTIMATELY, SCIENTISTS CAN'T TELL US EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN BECAUSE LIVING THINGS ARE INFINITELY MORE COMPLEX THAN MODELS.



BUT IT'S EASY TO SPOT TWO REALLY SCARY OBVIOUS THINGS THAT THE EARLY IPCC REPORTS FORGOT...

FOR EXAMPLE, THE WARMER ATMOSPHERE WILL HOLD MORE MOISTURE...

The clouds will reflect the sun's heat back into space.



WILL THAT HEAT EVERYTHING UP? OR COOL IT DOWN?

"The interpretations about past and future changes are considerably complex and in some cases contradictory."

IM RIGHT (YOU'RE WRONG)



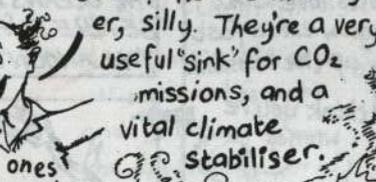
NO, I'M RIGHT + YOU'RE WRONG.

IT ISN'T POSSIBLE TO GET A SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS ON EVERYTHING.

About half the CO₂ that humans produce are absorbed by living processes on Earth; plankton in the oceans, and plant growth such as that, er, that occurs, er, in big, mature tropical rainforests.



They're getting chopped down? How remarkably er, silly. They're a very useful "sink" for CO₂ emissions, and a vital climate stabiliser.



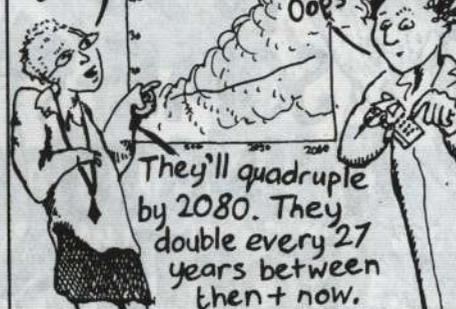
Look - tell him that. At this rate we'll have totally done them in by 2030.



THIS IS THE OTHER THING: So your calculations are based on CO₂ levels doubling by 2080.



But look, business is booming. CO₂ emissions are growing far faster than that.



SUCCESS STORY OF THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMY... EXPANDING CHARCOAL FIRED PIG IRON PRODUCTION... CATTLE PRODUCTION... EXPORT MARKET... DOESN'T IT MAKE YOUR HEART GLAD!



My goodness A 10-14°C temperature rise over major land masses.



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?



Let's see, hmr, well, an initial cut of 60% in greenhouse gas emissions followed by er, er, an 80 or 90% drop. That would stabilize things.

AND WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Calm yourselves. It's all under control. The Kyoto protocol. Top level international negotiations. Luxury hotels. Lovely hostesses. Many really important people: Captains of industry, oil company representatives, shaping the future of the world...



AND COMMITTING US TO?

A 5.2 cut in emissions! (Not counting international air and road freight and anything from the developing world).



HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THIS?

Clean development mechanisms. Activities implemented jointly. Carbon offsets.



WHAT?

Planting trees to soak up the carbon dioxide.

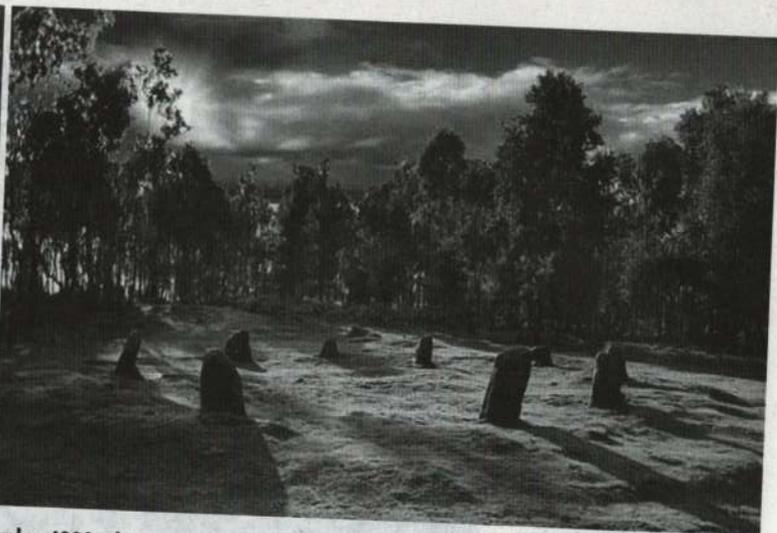
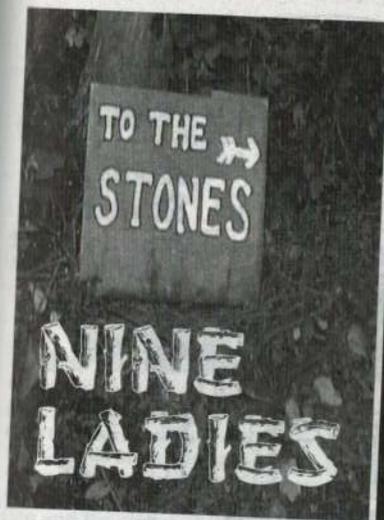
WHICH WONT WORK

No, but it sounds good.



No it doesn't. Things are going to change around here.

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD INDEED IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER DOES. MARGARET MEAD.



Pic above: Tash

Nine Ladies Protest Camp started in September 1999 when Blockstone UK decided they wanted to re-open quarrying in the site - the two disused quarries separated by a road - which was last quarried in 1942.

The Nine Ladies is a 4000 year old stone circle at the top of the moor in the Peak District National Park, in a Bronze Age burial ground. The quarries are directly below it and subsidence is rife - any more quarrying would destroy the site forever.

The camp is surrounded by loads of diverse wildlife: trees, flowers, fauna, moss etc. It is an eco-garden well worth visiting - come along and see it for yourself.

Many dwellings have been built around the site: scattered about are over 12 tree houses, many with walkways and nets, plus benders. There are communal structures and room for visitors to sleep.

The site has seen active participation from a diverse range of international activists including Dutch, German, American and Israelis helping out and learning about UK style protest camps.

There is a womyn's space on site, a communal creative space and work is beginning on vegetable and herbs gardens. Everyone is welcome to come and be involved.

In likelihood this site will be safe from quarrying for five years - the company are looking at two sites up the road - but after they've done those they may be back.

'We at Nine Ladies, would like to say a big hi and thanks to all who have supported our campaign to save this wonderfully beautiful hillside from being quarried again. Basically at the moment we are expecting a final determination on May 25th 2001. We don't expect them to get the go ahead, but never say never, we are dug in and well prepared but the more people that come up the stronger the position we are in. So come up and visit this beautiful moor, unfortunately the foot & mouth has blocked off the stones (and a lot of our donations). But a warm and friendly welcome is assured.

We await the pleasure of your company, bring food (preferably skipped) musical instruments, and people!

Please visit our website at <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/nineladies> or phone us on 0777 9431820 or 0779 9528871.

Thanks again all beautiful earth pixies everywhere, see you on the moor.'

Will



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BOMBSHELL...



SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



SHELL'S ANGELS

Friday 10th November 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 282

Free/Donation

SHELL SUIT

"I repeat that we all stand before history. My colleagues and I are not the only ones on trial. Shell's day will surely come for there is no doubt in my mind that the ecological war that the Company has waged in the Delta will be called to question and the crimes of that war be duly punished."

Ken Saro-Wiwa at his trial

Five years ago this week, environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine others took a fatal lesson in the costs of fuel when they were hanged for their campaigning for clean air, land and water for the Ogoni people of the Niger Delta. Holding Shell Oil to be the main corporate culprit for ecological damage and human rights abuses, protesters had forced it to close the majority of its oil producing operations in Ogoniland in 1993. Now Saro-Wiwa's family have initiated a law suit against the company in New York. Shell, meanwhile, has announced that it plans to return to Ogoniland.

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK TO THE DELTA...

It took five bungled attempts to hang Ken Saro-Wiwa. His final words, "What country is this? What are you doing to me?" still echo tragically in a land that remains one of the most polluted places on the planet, thanks to oil giants like Shell, Chevron and Mobil. Fountains of oil pouring into villagers' fields, contaminated water, leaking pipelines, pools of sulphur and drainage problems have been the legacy of Shell's history of collusion with the brutal former Nigerian regime.

Greasy Palms

In October 1990, a planned protest by the Etche community of Umuechem, prompted Shell to enlist the help of the notorious Mobile Police Force. Eighty people were killed in the massacre which followed. Then in 1993, an Ogoni grassroots rebellion, led by Ken Saro-Wiwa, was put down at the cost of 2,000 lives. An estimated 80,000 were subsequently made homeless.

Despite consistently denying any links with the Nigerian military, Shell has since admitted to bankrolling them and providing support, including helicopters and boats. They even subsidised the military's brutal commander in Ogoniland, Major Okuntimo, who personally tortured Saro-Wiwa as well as shooting and raping protestors. A May 1994 memo written by Okuntimo in the days before Saro-Wiwa's arrest was flatly honest: "Shell operations [are] still impossible unless ruthless military operations are undertaken for smooth economic activities to commence".

By December '98, three years after the killing of Saro-Wiwa and his fellow activists, the neighbouring Ijaw people declared themselves "tired of gas flaring, oil spillages, blowouts and being labelled terrorists." Deaths of "possibly over 200 people" promptly followed, as well as "torture and inhuman treatments", as recorded by Human Rights Watch. Girls as young as 12 were raped or tortured.

Then in November last year the Nigerian military destroyed Odi - a town of 15,000 - killing hundreds of civilians. "When I went back everything was burnt down. There was still the smell of rotting flesh", says Ike Okonta from Nigerian campaign group Environmental Rights Action.

Heart Attack

Shell has, to be fair, long made clear their high degree of concern over these issues of community relations. Back in November 1995, during the Saro-Wiwa trial, the minutes of a meeting between the Nigerian High Commissioner and executives at Shell revealed their exclusive topic of discussion: how to deal with the damaging publicity.

Their response has since become known to us in the West. "None of our business? Or the Heart of our business: Human Rights" reads one piece of their PR greenwash campaign. "It's not the usual business priority. At Shell, we are committed to support fundamental human rights... We invest in the communities around us to create new opportunities and growth."

SchNEWS

6th BIRTHDAY PARTY

& Brighton Peace Centre PRESENT

THREE FLOORS OF HIP GRINDING, CANDLE BLOWING, PAMPHLET GUZZLING, RIB TICKLIN, KISS-ME-QUICK ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring SchLIVE plus

Timmy Wobble (As seen on TV) * Marcus (Innerfield) * Da Void (Stompafunk) * Jude (Planet Yes) * DJ Wah Wah * Misti Love * Sister G * Bobby Dazzler * Dom & Cosmo's Bottleneck Bluegrass Band * And films Big Rattle in Seattle * Revolting In Prague * Capital Ills - DK in DC

Thursday

16th November 9 til 2

@THE OCEAN ROOMS -

1 MORLEY ST BRIGHTON

£2.50/£2 Concession-Student

This is a benefit for both SchNEWS and the Peace Centre.

How Do They Manage?

When SchNEWS heard these sorry figures about our underprivileged corporations we thought of having a whip round in the office. This is what the oil companies rake in EVERY DAY:

| Profit per day | 2000 | % increase PA |
|----------------|--------|---------------|
| Exxon Mobil | £32.5m | 94% |
| BP Amoco | £28.8m | 94% |
| Shell | £24.6m | 79% |
| Chevron | £12.5m | 135% |
| Texaco | £6.2m | 84% |

New Labour have done their bit too...oil companies pay £2 billion per year less in tax than they did under the Tories.

Shell's commitment to the well-being of the local communities includes generous assistance to the well-appointed Gokana Hospital in Ogoniland. It lacks running and hot water, electricity and mattresses, its kitchen is a single hob with a blackened pot, and they have fewer drugs there than many folks over here would consume on an average Saturday night. Meanwhile up the road is the Shell workers' hospital, a picture of air-conditioned efficiency.

Foreign Body

While the Saro-Wiwa family's law suit goes forward in the US, the Nigerian Government still refuses to release Ken's body, despite permission from the president. An observer from the UK Bar Human Rights Counsel tell us that the two chief prosecution witnesses at Saro-Wiwa's trial signed affidavits, saying that they had been bribed by Shell to testify against him. To hand over the body could be interpreted as official acknowledgement of Saro-Wiwa's innocence. A symbolic burial, according to Ogoni tradition, took place this April attended by 10,000 mourners.

The government has instead given the Ogoni a different body, this time called the Niger Delta Development Commission, appointed to oversee the Ogoni situation. Says Okonta, "The people of the Niger Delta had very high hopes for an independent agency which would deal with the problems of environmental devastation and lack of facilities such as roads and electricity."

What they didn't expect, however, was for ex-Managing Director of Shell in Nigeria, Mr. Godwin Omene, to be at the helm. If, as looks likely, Omene's appointment is approved, it will be a slick two fingers to the communities who had thought some independent scrutiny might assist their plight. Instead, says Okonta, they are getting "the same man who raped them for so long. The Government and Shell are not serious about bringing the Delta back to environmental health".

For more information about greenwashing see Andy Rowell's book *Green Backlash* (Routledge).

Ramallah. Palestinian West Bank

Bristol based video activist Ian Ferguson travelled to Ramallah on the Palastinian west bank with the aim of filming life in the region. When the current political upheavals flared up he decided to stay on as an alternative media witness. He sent this frontline report back to SQUALL.

Guns will always make me nervous. Outside my house guarding the main road into Ramallah is a checkpoint manned by earnest-looking police armed with AK's. When the Police station was bombed three weeks ago in retaliation for the mob lynching of two soldiers, they all legged it. Not surprising. Cobra gunships are ugly business.

Ramallah is a town of few smiles. You can see its fabric crumbling around you. Empty shops, cafes and long queues of frustrated taxi drivers with no where to go. Yesterday was a strike. The only shops open were the pharmacies. Nuff said. People here are biding their time. Waiting for things to get back to normal. 'Normalisation' is a term frequently used by the Israeli politicians but THEIR definition is what this whole conflict is all about. Business as usual, I believe they say in the U.S.

An Arab-English psychologist I spoke with can't wait to leave town. She's been here for five years and has young twins. The first month of the intifada has burnt her out. She spoke of how the Israeli soldiers are deliberately targeting the groin area of stone-throwing youths. Illegal exploding 'dum-dum' bullets are reported being used on the ground as well.

Daily there are new martyrs. A never-ending vicious circle - funerals, clashes and martyrs. Each martyr has their face fly posted around town. Young men executed for daring to wield stones against a 'peace process' that for them never existed. 'Peace process' is a misnomer - it serves only the national interest of the Israelis and the USA. There are few things better off since the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords. Water has become a major issue here. 1999 was a drought year. The Israelis consume three times as much water as the Palestinians. Oslo should have addressed this but conveniently Israel still controls the flow. The right wing Israelis would like to see a freeze for all Palestinian utilities including gas & electricity during this lop sided conflict.

Across from my house is a partly built five storey apartment block. The owner also has a restaurant in town called Nefertitis which is empty. No customers and no building supplies. He is losing a lot of money. But you seldom hear his story on CNN. They prefer to hole up in Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel (a snip at \$200 a night) and only have time for the REAL story. You can

spot them easily at the clashes with their enormo-zoom carnage with a chilling detachment...scores on the doors...business as usual huh?

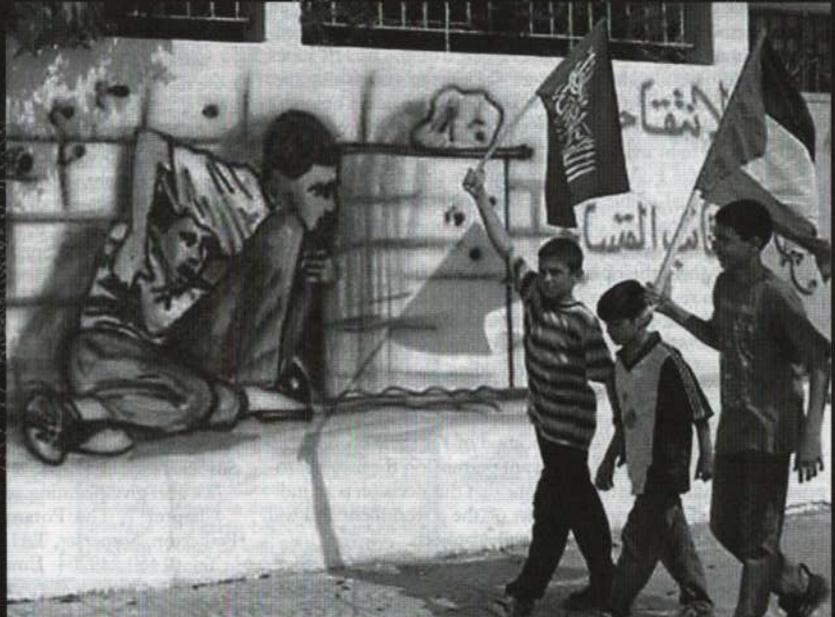
And I make no apologies for the one Palestinian channel operating. 24 hour loops of Arafat's propaganda machine and a constantly evolving montage of death, funerals and teenagers armed with slingshots attacking Israeli machine gun posts. No respite - any time of day and night...Someone told me that Propaganda + agit-prop equals pornography. Hmmm

Yesterday I met with Toufic Hadid. He co-edits a magazine called 'Between the Lines'. 28 photocopied pages. They've just completed issue one. They are the remnants of the prestigious 'News from within' and offer a platform to the lone dissenters such as Chomsky, Edward Said, Graham Usher et al. The only English language magazine that gives a clear analysis of life on the ground. They have just enough money for 2 more issues, then who knows...When your choice is CNN propaganda or Palestinian channel porno, you really need these publications. (PO Box 681, Jerusalem - in case anyone feels the need)

It's not a pretty picture. Dr Mahid Abed Al Hadi, director of Passia (Palestinian Academic Study Analysts) was quoted in Haaretz as saying "the new intifada has opened wounds on both sides. It has generated attitudes of real enmity, hostility, and hate, leaving both sides feeling cheated and betrayed." His pessimistic estimate is that this has become a relationship patterned upon the Lebanese conflict. In other words it could get much worse, heavy bombings, kidnappings and snipers... business as usual?

Ian Ferguson works with the i-Contact video-network

SQUALL Frontline Communiques are unedited dispatches from the frontline of an action, event or incident





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SH# OF THE BEST!

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 17th November 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 283

Free/Donation

Flight of Fancies

How far did you have to go for your breakfast this morning?. Or perhaps the question should be how far did your breakfast travel to get to you?

A report out this week from the New Economics Foundation (NEF) highlights the fact that efforts to reduce global warming at this weeks Hague conference will all be in vain unless we halt the growth of global trade by air. Air travel is now the fastest growing source of carbon dioxide emissions - the principal cause of climate change. But these emissions do not figure in any of the plans to cut greenhouse gases. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change claims that at current rates carbon dioxide emissions from aviation will grow tenfold by 2050. This weeks NEF report claims that unless this growth is controlled it will cancel out any benefits that may be agreed in The Hague. The report identifies the needless transportation of food as one of the main reasons for increases in air travel.

Have you ever thought about where your food comes from? Even a simple meal has travelled the globe before it arrives on your plate, with potatoes from Egypt, apples from New Zealand, and beans from Kenya. Aircraft fuel isn't taxed and costs just 17 pence a litre, making these multinational meals cheaper than food produced in our own country, affecting not only the climate but also this country's farming industry.

Here's just a few examples of crops that we could grow ourselves, yet insist on flying in from around the world. Apples now come from New Zealand and South Africa causing 600 times more nitrogen oxide pollution than if we grew them at home. Over the last 30 years 60% of our apple orchards have been destroyed, and although there are 2,300 apple varieties and 550 pear varieties in the National Fruit Collection, just two apple and three pear varieties now dominate UK orchards.

Most of Europe's orange juice comes from Brazil. Demand for orange juice has doubled in the last decade, yet in this country there is a richer source of vitamin C that grows every where - rosehips. During the Second World War when it was impossible to get oranges, children were given days off school to go and pick rosehips - by 1943 450 tonnes were picked a year. (For ways on cooking and preparing them see Richard Mabey's book 'Food for free', which tells you all the free nosh you can get in the UK)

Trucked up

The fuelled up farmers and lorry drivers who've been moaning about fuel costs have missed the key point that fuel is used very inefficiently. One supermarket chain lands its fish at Aberdeen and trucks it down to Cornwall to be smoked. Vegetables being sold in two superstores on the outskirts of Evesham in Worcestershire were grown just one mile from the town. But before they reached the shelves they had been trucked to Hereford, then to Dyfed, then to a distribution depot in Manchester, from where they were sent back to Evesham. A quarter of our road traffic is now transporting food.

Real Growth

When was the last time you saw persimmons, quinces, damsons, or bullaces on the shelves of your local Sainsburys? Forget kiwi fruits, mangoes, and other exotic imports - there are dozens of traditional English fruit varieties which are just as nice but are seldom in the shops. Here's your handy SchNEWS guide on how to turn food miles into food smiles by buying and growing your own local food.

- If possible, buy locally grown apples and pears in season. Buy from your local greengrocer, or ask your supermarket to stock traditional varieties, sourced locally.
- Buy fruit direct from producers. The Soil Association (0117 929 0661) has a directory of local food schemes and farmers' markets.
- If you're into growing your own, your local authority can also tell you how to rent an allotment. Even better squat some empty waste land and set up your own city garden!
- Get involved in your local City Farm, Community Garden, or Community Orchard. Not only are they places for growing food, they also provide places for chilling out, a refuge for wild life, and bring the community together. There are 65 City Farms across the UK and more than 500 Community Gardens. Contact The Federation of City Farms (www.farmgarden.org.uk). Common Ground have info on community orchards: 020 7267 2144.

Food mile facts

*For every kilo of kiwi fruit transported from New Zealand 5 kg of Carbon Dioxide is pumped into the atmosphere.

*1 kilo of asparagus flown from California produces 4 kg of Carbon dioxide. If they were grown in Europe 900 times less energy would be produced.

*1 tonne of food in the UK now travels an average of 123km before it reaches the shelves, compared with 82 km in 1978.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For standing in front of a lorry!

Betty Krawczyk a 72 year old great-grandmother has been given a year in prison with no parole for standing in front of a logging truck. Letters of support to Betty Krawczyk, Burnaby Correctional Center for Women, 7900 Fraser Park Dr., Burnaby, C V5J 5H1 Canada.

- Plant your own apple or pear trees. Choose a traditional variety from your area. Lists of suppliers are available from Common Ground and the Henry Doubleday Research Association (01203 303517). The Brogdale Horticultural Trust also sell traditional fruit trees (01795 535286).
- Encourage your local school to get free fruit from the Intervention Board (0118 953 1694).

For more info on where food comes from check out 'The Food Miles Report: The Dangers of Long Distance Food Transport' £10.00 and 'Food Miles Action Pack: A Guide to Thinking Globally and Eating Locally' £5 both available from Sustain, 0207 83711228. For weird and wonderful food get 'Plants For A Future' by Ken Fern, from PFAF Permanent Publications, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0NG

We plucked most of these ideas from two ace websites: www.sustainweb.org and www.commonground.org.uk.

Runaway Runway Profits

Not only is air travel bad for the environment - so are airports. Airports cause loads of noise and traffic and result in vast development in the surrounding area. But the cost of air travel has fallen over the past ten years and the resulting industry boom has created a rush to build more airport capacity. As well as plans to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow and a new runway at Manchester, construction is planned at 19 other sites around the country. New international airports are in the pipeline at well known business and tourist hubs like, er, Doncaster and Ramsgate, as well as expansion of Farnborough Airport. The Farnborough expansion threatens the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area and will clear 82 acres of trees, 01252 675231.

Oil's well in Chad

The President of Chad has received a \$25 million bonus from oil companies for giving the go ahead for the World Bank funded Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline (SchNEWS 277). What a surprise he has spent a lot of the money on the purchase of military equipment.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER STICK-IT-ON-THE-TABD

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 24th November 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 284 Free/Donation

YOU'VE BEEN TABD

"A unique, business-driven process. Helping to shape US-EU trade policy"

What with people congregating in The Hague this week to turn up the heat on the Climate Change Conference, you could be forgiven for having missed an interesting little bit of bother last weekend in downtown Cincinnati.

Tucked away in the sleepy Ohio city, a high-level meeting of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) was overshadowed by clashes between police and anti-globalisation demonstrators. It was the first protests in the organisation's 6-year history with over 100 riot police ringing the conference hotel for the duration of the two-day meeting, with 47 people nicked during largely peaceful demonstrations.

If you've never heard of the TABD, you're not alone. They like it that way. The TABD has, since 1995, brought together over 100 captains of industry from the US and EU to push for the removal of all 'barriers' to transatlantic free trade - including such nuisances as the European eco-labelling system and restrictions on marketing GM products.

The brainchild of Tory lard-arse Leon Brittan, the TABD is basically a direct line between multinational corporations and US and EU governments; a direct line that conveniently misses out other little 'nuisances' like public discussion and democracy. They are cocky enough to present their demands in the form of a 'scorecard', with priorities and deadlines for action; they're cocky because governments queue up to carry out their recommendations. And they've shown little interest in listening to people with different ideas. As ex-TABD Director Stephen Johnston said, businesses would soon get fed up "if they have to sit down and spend half an afternoon arguing with environmentalists."

But now they may have to change their tune. Most of last weekend's meeting was spent debating how better to convince the public of the merits of free trade. "We have a selling job" said EU trade commissioner Pascal Lamy "We need to find new ways of getting across the benefits of globalisation". George David, US co-chair of TABD, admitted "we would be foolish to fail to listen to these demonstrators and their views". Although undoubtedly 'greenwash', such statements highlight the TABD's discomfort at being dragged into the anti-globalisation spotlight. Fears of protest may now have temporarily scuppered one of its highest priorities - a 'mutual recognition

agreement' whereby a product approved in one country would be given automatic approval by others. No community would be able to set standards higher than ones set internationally under the guidance of transnationals. But the discussions ended in stalemate because US agencies have become scared of anti-capitalist opposition.

In Cincinnati, citizen's groups and other protesters held 'teach-ins', workshops, pickets and other activities to get local people up to speed on the facts whilst panicky cops nicked people for things like jaywalking. "They [TABD] are terrified of the NGO's" said an EU official. Just wait 'til they meet the black bloc...

This'll ERT

The TABD however are just one of many shadowy business groups behind the scenes pushing their pro-corporate agendas into the politicians mouths and onto our de-regulated plates. One of the main movers is the European Roundtable of Industrialists (ERT), representing the largest multinational corporations in Europe, who frequently use its corporate muscle to get its own way.

The latest example of this was the EU's 'Jobs Summit' in Lisbon earlier this year. Despite 50,000 people demonstrating in front of the summit building the EU said it would create more jobs - by speeding up privatisation of electricity, gas, rail, post and pensions as well as pushing through 'urgent structural reforms' like dismantling the welfare state. An ERT wet dream. In fact one ERT official commented that their very own Competitiveness Working Group "were very much involved in the preparation of the Summit."

According to groups like ERT everything should be thrown to free market forces. Take education. One member complained of the "culture of laziness which continues in the European education system," where 'human resources' (we think they mean human beings) "take liberties to pursue subjects not directly related to industry. Instead they are pursuing subjects which have no practical application." All schools should be privatised

FANCY THAT!

French President Jacques Chirac has recently appointed Jérôme Monod to join his staff of advisers. Monod is Chief Executive of a French water giant, and was last year's European Co-Chair of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue and former Chair of the European Roundtable of Industrialists!

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK For taking a photo!

Joan Russow, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, organised a demonstration outside a Quebec city jail which is being emptied to accommodate anticipated protesters at next April's Free Trades of the Americas meeting. The police took offence to her presence, arrested her for the despicable crime of taking a picture. She was slammed up, but only for 45 minutes after concerns were raised that she wouldn't be out in time for her dinner. www.oqp2001.org

to encourage competition, because "schools will respond better to paying customers, just like any other business..."

Have A Nice Day

When leaders of the EU meet in Nice in France in December one of the proposals on the agenda is the 'fast-tracking' of international trade agreements. Business groups are fed up of their great ideas being watered down or blocked altogether by interfering governments and protesters. They want swift, centralised decision-making, making it easier to push their demands through an already industry-friendly European bureaucracy.

All this can not only get very confusing but also a bit depressing. However nearly one year on from the successful Seattle protests (SchNEWS 240) and anti-capitalist protesters are continuing to rattle those corporate cages. Every major business conference is now ring-fenced with barricades and riot cops. Biotech lobby group EuropaBio, even had to cancel its annual congress recently for fears of public protests. At a recent International Chamber of Commerce Conference the subject of how to counter the growing backlash against globalisation topped the agenda.

Crucial for demonstrators is to see through the 'we need to talk' bullshit. Because as those nice people from the Corporate Europe Observatory point out "industry isn't really interested in actually dealing with the very real social and ecological problems caused by corporate-led globalisation, but focuses on how 'to be seen' to be dealing with these problems." Or as one Business PR consultant put it "It is easier and less costly to change the way people think about reality than it is to change reality."

* European trade unionists have called for a day of action on December 6th at the opening of the EU Summit.

* For more on all this check out the excellent Corporate Europe Observatory, Paulus Potterstraat 20, 1071 DA Amsterdam, Holland Tel +31-20-612-7023 www.xs4all.nl/~ceo

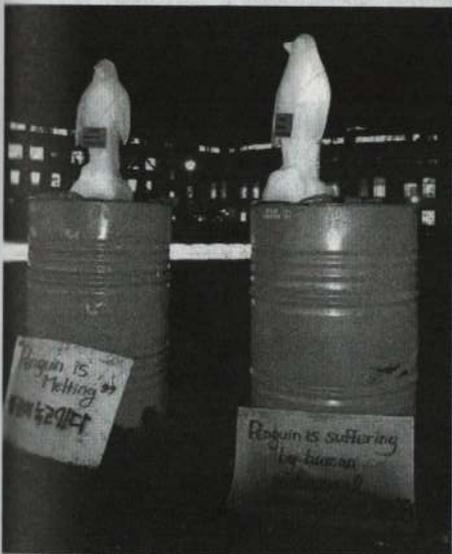
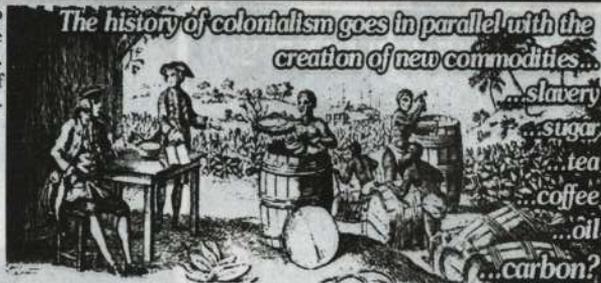
* Also read their latest book 'Europe Inc. - Regional and Global Restructuring and the Rise of Corporate Power' (Pluto Press)

NO CLIMATE NO CHANGE

Cop 6 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
The Hague, HOLLAND 12th to 25th November

UN delegates from around the world met in The Hague to try and ratify the Kyoto Protocol, which called for worldwide CO2 reductions of between 5% - 8% - almost entirely useless.

Meanwhile, activists turned up to make the concerns of ordinary people felt, to put a spanner in the works of capitalism's move into new markets with new commodities.



15th November: In front of the Conference Centre, artist Byung Soo Choi, of the group Korea Ecological Youth (KEY) exhibited a painting filled with black CO2 smoke from a factory. In front of the painting the pollution of capital was contrasted with a small penguin sculpted from ice. As the artist said, "The innocent creature is losing its own ice land by global warming. Please stop destroying the earth only for more money."



After having their passes to the Conference Centre withdrawn amidst fears of direct action taking place (!), ASEED occupied the Ministry of the Environment. The Rising Tide pixies could not be gagged...



One suggested way of reducing carbon emissions was to build more nuclear power stations! 150 people were arrested on a nuclear march of shame.

All pics: ©2000 Boyd Noorda, Socia Media, The Hague



19th November: Around midday Critical Mass bikers from all over Europe arrived at the Spuiplein in The Hague, near the city government. After a parade in the rain the bikers demonstration went on to the congress centre.



WAKE UP! IT'S YER TINGS CAN ONLY GET WETTER!

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 1st December 2000

www.schnews.org.uk

Issue 285 Free/Donation

SPLOSHED!

"I am searching for justice for those who have been left behind by the consumerist people of the western world" -

*Dr. Owens Wiwa
(Ken Saro-Wiwa's brother).*

"We must counter, both in the UN and within the framework of the North-South dialogue, any discussion of global problems which questions the validity of the free market and of free enterprise in the countries of the Third World." -

A US Official

Last week's climate change conference in the Hague has been described as the most important conference ever - an opportunity to eventually do something about the consumerist society's continued efforts to destroy our planet. That the world is on the brink of climate armageddon is obvious to most people with half a brain, but the conference descended into farce with the main argument being whether John Prescott was a new man or not. But hang on, what everyone seems to have forgotten is that it was the United States dragging their heels from the start that was responsible for the talks collapsing. Industrialised countries are responsible for 55% of emissions, but still don't want to face up to their responsibility for making the planet go down the plughole.

The US with a mere 4% of world population, produces an impressive 24% of global CO₂ emissions, but is still trying to wangle its way out of making any meaningful changes. Well you've got to agree with them, what is there for them to change, they've only got the greatest output of CO₂, the lowest petrol costs in the West, and the least efficient energy industry.

So here is the blaggers guide to getting out of cutting yer emissions:

Carbon 'sinks' (that's forests to you and me) are supposed to suck up CO₂. So planting more trees is a good idea, but after all that good work some countries think you wouldn't need to decrease yer emissions, hey you might even be able to increase them. The Kyoto Summit in 1997 called for cuts in CO₂ emissions of 5%, not too impressive when you consider that what we really need just to make up for 'economic growth' is about 30%. And if yer feeling really radical how's about a cut of 60-80% which will actually reverse the spiral of decline future generations will inherit? Still, one scientist claims that trees contribute to global warming because they have dark leaves that don't reflect sunlight

back into space! Guess which country he comes from...

Clean Development Mechanism: Japan, US, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia were all in favour of investment in reforestation, building nuclear, hydroelectric or 'clean coal' (!) power stations in developing countries. Not as much as an effort but a way of earning emissions brownie points. But look at what these countries are up to at home - The US and Canada are clear cutting their ancient forests every day.

Emissions trading: countries (or companies) that reduce their emissions to below their targets can sell 'credits' to countries that can't manage it. This would mean that countries whose economies have collapsed (like Russia) could sell their quota of emissions to richer countries (like the US), who can then carry on polluting as normal. The EU was insisting that emissions trading shouldn't make up more than 50% of any country's targets, this was bad news to the US who like the idea of throwing money at a problem.

And check out the following scams put forward by the US: using wheat as a carbon sink, extending the working day to 24 hours so people never leave the office and so cut down on traffic emissions; digging holes to plant seeds rather than ploughing up the land which release's CO₂; feeding sheep, pigs and cows anti-flatulence pills to cut down on methane emissions, a big source of greenhouse gases, and putting up window boxes on all those skyscrapers. OK, we made two of them up but that America's ideas are so ridiculous it's hard to tell which ones are porkies. Maybe the anti-flatulence pills should be fed to US delegates, or someone should seal up their mouths to stop emissions of hot air.

Still, it was good of all those 'green' companies that are trying to cash in on climate change to produce their own carbon sinks in the form of all the leaflets they produced saying how capitalism could save the world.

Splish

"I invite political leaders to come and see our beautiful islands and see if they are worth saving"

Opetaita Foa'i, Pacific Islander.

Among the 11,000 delegates were Opetaita and 9 members of his band Te Vaka. Two years ago they wrote a song about their islands disappearing, they

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

For tagging a green sign with green paint! Squint and you might miss it, but one fresh-faced young painter was left feeling decidedly embarrassed after writing slogans on a BP sign in green paint and being nicked! Schwoops.

For banging on a window! Four people arrested, held for 24 hours and charged with 'public violence' for the heinous crime of banging on the windows of a public building that they were refused entry to. Inside was a presentation by carbontrading.com and various companies such as Shell and BP.

Crap No-Arrest! For disgusting crimes against the planet and humanity: various corporations, puppet governments, lobbyists, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Global Climate Coalition, carbon traders, marketing and advertising people and a few NGOs who seem to have severely compromised their integrity.

weren't allowed to sing it in their homelands as people believed it would bring bad luck. Now he says many of the islanders are eventually accepting the truth as evidence mounts that their islands are slowly disappearing into the sea.

Most of the meetings at the conference took place behind closed doors, as delegates attempted to wade through the voluminous heap of gibberish they were supposed to be ratifying. The balance of power was uneven though, with the richer countries able to afford whole teams of delegates and support staff. The US sent over a team of 150 delegates who larded it up in a fancy hotel, while the 3 delegates from Mozambique (who could tell a tale or two about climate change) stayed in a youth hostel with Chinese tourists. Eventually, there wasn't enough time to do a deal, cos they had to get out of the centre and make way - for a meeting of oil industry experts!

For more info have a look at:

* Green Pepper, Climate Change issue, Autumn 2000 from Postbus 94115, 1090 GC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. +31 20 665 7743 or eyfa@eyfa.org

* Kate Evans has produced a cartoon booklet on climate change. Send 2 1st class stamps to her at 1 Townhead Cottages, Dunford Bridge, Sheffield S36 4TG

* 'Greenhouse Gangsters vs. Climate Justice' by Transnational Resource and Action Center, PO Box 29344, San Francisco CA, 94129 www.corpwatch.org www.climateconference.org

TRIBES DRAW THE LINE: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

"The tribal warrior cultures of the native Papuans would rather die fighting than live another minute under the brutal, destructive and genocidal Indonesian regime. I have to say I agree with them".

- Western observer in West Papua.

"In the forest we can fight and win with bows and arrows and a few old rifles. Give us a hundred guns and we could take Jayapura and drive the Indonesians out".

- Malkaya Brower, 60, OPM activist.

December 1st, 2000: 39th anniversary of the failed, unilateral declaration of independence for the former Dutch colony of West Papua. Across the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya the banned Papuan 'Morning Star' flag is proudly raised and the people of West Papua announce that Enough is Enough: 'Independence-or death!'

The government response was predictable and sickening. Army units marched into villages demanding the removal of the 'separatist' flags and killed, wounded or arrested those who tried to defend them; the university in Jayapura was also raided and pro-OPM students dragged from their beds to be shot or detained. Fighting broke out sporadically throughout December; by the 20th, the death toll for the month stood at 19, bringing the years' total to nearly 50. Hundreds more had been arrested, wounded or 'disappeared'. Torture is routine:

"I could see the clubs, sticks and split bamboo whips at their work. Their ends were smeared with blood, and blood sprayed the walls all the way up to the ceiling. Sometimes I saw the policemen hopping up on benches, continuing to strike blows from there or jumping back down onto the bodies below."- Oswald Iten, Swiss journalist nicked in West Papua.

On January 7th, a cheery bit of poetic justice saw a plane packed with military top brass crash into a remote mountain top in Kurima district, robbing West Papua of some of its biggest bastards. Then on the 16th, an OPM guerrilla unit led by Willem Onde took hostage twelve Korean timber company workers, demanding compensation for the trashing of the environment and the withdrawal of the military. A crack 'negotiating' team sent out to strike a deal got taken hostage, too!

SO WHY NOW?

Why 2000, the 39th anniversary? Separatist sentiments boiled over last year when the 'soft' approach and token gestures (legalisation of the flag and an official name change to West Papua) promised by President Wahid in '99 were overruled by his own hardline government. A new ban on the flag has been brutally enforced by police and army. 2000 also saw the West Papuan independence movement instigate mass gatherings of the clans; the second 'Peoples' Congress', running from 29th of May to 4th June attracted 50,000 and saw the formation of the Presidium Council - a group of moderates trusted to conduct pro-independence dialogue with Indonesia. The moderates, predictably, went straight for compromise. Both the OPM guerrillas and the Penis Gourd Council of Elders- whose exotic name is derived from the traditional, 'minimalist' attire of the Dani hill tribe- have denounced the Council and have vowed to Live Wild or Die. They will undertake armed attacks as the only effective way of countering Indonesian brutality.

"We are all OPM in our hearts"- student leader Jatin Wakerkwa.

In the months preceding Independence Day, the military machine of the world's fourth most populous nation geared up for full-scale assault on tribal peoples armed with little more than spears and bows and arrows. On Friday October 6th, the chief of police ordered all Morning Star flags pulled down within a month. The next day, in the highland town of Wamena, protests broke out after cops moved in to remove a flag; by the

end of the weekend, over 30 lay dead. In one incident, soldiers took a Papuan family hostage, cut the children up alive and fed the pieces to dogs.

By the end of November, there was a huge Indonesian military presence. As in East Timor, Indonesia has also gone all out to raise pro-Jakarta militias from isolated villages. Then on the 28th, 5 members of the Papuan Presidium Council were arrested for insurrection, despite being in dialogue with Wahid. The fear is that the OPM and other radicals are being baited into retaliation-easy 'justification' for all-out war on the Independence Movement.

In theory, the 5 Council members- including leader Theys Eluay- could get up to 20 years in jail if convicted. The Presidium Council (PDP) has a mandate of trust to forward demands for independence by 2005. Although dubious as to the efficacy of such a Council, the West Papuan people and the OPM cautiously agreed to back the PDP, recognising it as a useful 'tool' to help internationalise the West Papuan issue at a crucial time. Come the end of the year, however, Papuans felt they had been right to be doubtful.

"People are crying because PDP has become the Indonesians' little puppet"- Timi, OPM activist.

On 29th August, the OPM invaded the PDP offices, shut them down and nicked the keys. The PDP, like most 'elected representatives', were selling out the people. Dialogue was keeping the independence issue an 'internal matter', playing into Jakarta's hands. On the 6th December, 8 days after the arrests, the OPM announced to the world that the PDP's

mandate was withdrawn. Many in the OPM see the PDP as handing themselves to the cops on a plate to avoid Papuans demanding their accountability over what they've done since their election. This may be true - it wouldn't be the first time aspiring bureaucrats used 'political arrest' as a handy protection mechanism. On the other hand it might also have got to the point where the Indonesian state wants to contain any Papuan organisation - however moderate. By jailing - rather than killing - members of the PDP Indonesia can achieve two things. Firstly it can send a stark message to all Papuans that any resistance or minor demands will be met with firm repression. Secondly by jailing the PDP members, rather than simply killing them, it can hold in reserve a group which if mass struggle escalates it can wheel out to negotiate with and moderate the people. By both containing and maintaining moderates while murderously repressing militants Indonesia can hedge its bets.

Western NGOs have fallen over themselves to puff up the PDP as having unquestioning support- 'the true representatives of the peoples of West Papua' (Dutch NGO). To read newspaper and NGO reports the arrest of these leaders is THE most important event of the last six months. The reality however is that it is only a sideshow to the main attack on grassroots Papuan



Indonesian soldiers in West Papua