

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

SchNEWS

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Free/Doughnation

IT'S WAR!

... ON THE KILLER CORPORATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

White-haired Moody-Stuart, 57, told the protesters: "I don't really want a 'MURDERERS' banner on my roof, could you take it down? I'm getting on a bit and it'd benefit us both - you could use it at the next AGM!"

It marks the build up to MAI-DAY, when the corporations finally take over the world (see SchNEWS 141) with the signing of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, due in May. And this time: ITS WAR! This monster free trade treaty will give multinationals the right to sue national governments, with greater political right than any sovereign nation. It's already happened in Canada under a three-

country treaty, NAFTA, where the Ethyl Corp. Of America is suing the Canadian government for \$367M for trying to ban the use of MMT, a controversial gasoline additive it produces in Ottawa. It wants "immediate compensation for imposing legislation which hides its operations [profit]."

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

ACTION!

On Feb 23-25th, 600 activists from People's Global Action will meet in Geneva for the first conference of a new world-wide co-ordination of resistance to the global market and the MAI. SchNEWS'll be there - why not come too?

- * Playfair Europe!, Oviedo, Pedro Masaveu 1 10 E 33007 Oviedo, Spain +34 85241121 www.agp.org www.citizen.org e-mail the Counter Globalisation Network on CGN@avocados.globalnet.co.uk
- * GLOBAL STREET PARTY, May 16th, everywhere. Contact RTS 0171 281 4621
- * PEOPLE'S SUMMIT, May 15th-17th, Birmingham, against the G8 meeting 0121 632 6909
- * RECLAIM EUROPE!, June 14-16th, Cardiff, against EuroSummit '98, the finale of Britain's six-month UK presidency.

SchNEWS PRESENTS:
* MARK THOMAS *

★ as seen on that TV thing ★
@ Pavilion Theatre, Brighton, £10

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(10th) to launch our sexy 3rd book -
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...ON THE TELL

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

David McReynolds,
USA War Resisters League

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

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

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

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

ACTION!

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

- * Sat Feb 14th 12 noon: National demo against the threat of war outside Ministry of Defence.
- * Monday 16th Feb: direct action to shut down the air base at Northwood in Middlesex which is the HQ for the rapid-deployment force.
- * There's a cheap minibus going to Faslane Peace Camp in Scotland (camped outside the home of Trident) from Brighton and London 17th Feb - 22nd. Ring Alis 0171 275 9452 to book a place.

FRIDAY 13th MAI HORROR SHOW @ HOUSE OF COMMONS

PIGS, RIGS AND

CLAMP DOWN RUNDOWN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A VIEW FROM THE DANCE FLOOR

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

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

Debbie Staunton, United Systems

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

The Big Issue, 3/11/1997

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clubbed to Death

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

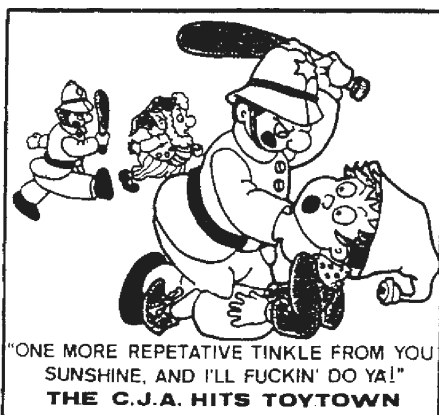
Manchester Metropolitan University Institute for Popular Culture

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

Chief Superintendent Peter Harris, Greater Manchester Police

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

This new clean club solution won't effect corporate scum like the Ministry of Sound but will wash out alternative dance and DIY circuits nationwide. In Brighton, where special SWAT teams forever chase the rave to the grave, fave Chief Inspector Bailey issued a report to Environmental Services calling for a revoke of a cafe's 24 hour licence. Bailey said Brighton police had "collated intelligence and video footage" implicating the Sub Cafe's management with known criminals and drug dealers. The cafe had its flyers banned for using the words "chill out", CCTV cameras spying on the venue, and officers wandering in on weekends, threatening the place with closure. However, when Bailey's bully boys rolled up in front of the licencing committee with their snoopier film rushes and "intelligence" casebook; it turned out the evidence was misleading, and the Sub management were cleared. However, the continued harrassment eventually led to their closure.



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

NAUGHTY KIDS

ZAPPED ON CAMERA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DANCING TO WHOSE TUNE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



...THAN TO SQUANDER YOUR YOUTH ON REFORMIST POLITICS

RADSTOCK RAILSTOCK

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

COOLTAN RE-SQUATTED

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

KICK McCRAP OUT OF FOOTIE

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

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

A-MAIZING

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

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

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happy birthday Toby - have a website on us.

SchNEWS in brief

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

SCHNEWS TRAINING DAY

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

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

GANDALF UPDATE

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

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

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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

* Write letters of support to the prisoners

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

* Carry on reporting about *and taking* direct action

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

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

Check out SchNEWS website for more comprehensive coverage.

ROAD WARS...again

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

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

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

...and finally...

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

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