



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER MUCK SPREADING...

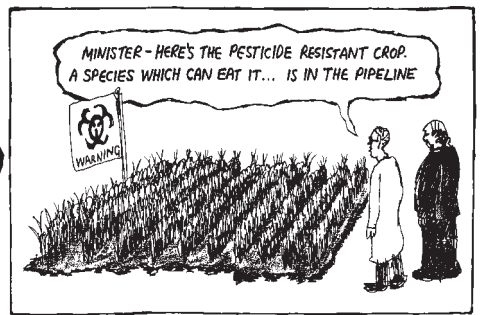
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE AGRI-BUSINESS

Corporations like to gloat that one of the great achievements of capitalism has been its ability to feed 6 billion of us. Back in the heady 60s the world's agriculture underwent the so-called "Green Revolution" - a massive expansion in the use and abuse of fertilisers, pesticides and mechanised, petrol fuelled intensive agriculture designed to meet the problem of global population growth. Arguably any economic system profiting from the abundance of cheap oil at the time would have been able to produce a similar miracle, using thousands of oil calories to produce just one food calorie, but agribusiness wants to force the model onto the most vulnerable parts of the developing world and are proposing to deal with global hunger using not so subtle blend of biotechnology and genetic modification. (see SchNEWS 96-547).

This week the US government, various banks and fertilizer producers are gathering at the African Fertilizer Summit in Nigeria, a hard-sell shindig which promises a profit boosting end to African starvation. All corporate sponsors donating \$25,000 get an advert on the Summit's website, but if they fork our \$100,000 they get a whole page in the summit's literature, together with a "Special Booth" in Summit Exhibit Hall. Bargain! The fact that so many corporations are interested in such an event, just goes to show that they are intent in foisting their outmoded, energy intensive, environmentally damaging and yet extremely profitable farming practices; if Africa gets inundated with pesticides and GM crops there's some real cash to be made.

Ironically, traditional small-scale agricultural cultivation techniques of manuring fields and rotating crops are extremely energy efficient. But despite being used for millennia, traditional cultivation techniques are out of the window. Take the element nitrogen, for example - crops love it. You can introduce it into the soil in the form of chemical fertiliser and it'll work for a few years even in soil totally unsuitable for your crop, or alternatively you can ensure a good dose for your veggies by rotating them with beans. Crop rotation prevents diseases in plants by breaking the up the natural life cycle of pests, but moving them around is an expensive business; the sort of thing that really eats away at your profits.

The agribusiness solution to this problem is to spray everything with a cocktail of dodgy chemicals, killing off any pests and, unfortunately, their natural predators in the process. Should this spray-fest kill off the plants too, then its time to geneti-

cally modify the veggies and make them resistant to the effects of highly profitable and potent chemicals like Monsanto's nasty herbicide, Roundup. Plants aren't that keen on these chemicals and reject much of what is sprayed on them which then washes away into groundwater causing nitrate contamination of underground sources of drinking water. Up to half of all UK fruit and vegetables contain pesticide residues when they reach the supermarket shelves.

On smaller scale farms, nutrients are recycled from farm animals to crop as manures, but monopoly control of the meat industry by a handful of companies means that cattle, pigs and chickens are being bred in factory conditions hundreds of miles away from farms, making such recycling an impossibility. Pork, beef and chicken companies have, in part, been responding to the growth of the fast food industry. Back in 1983 when Chicken McNuggets were launched, most chicken was sold whole, but now 90% is sold chopped into pieces, cutlets or nuggets. In an attempt to drive down costs so any old McCrap can be sold for less than a dollar, sheds are built to house 25,000 or more birds, pumping them up with growth hormones and antibiotics, so much so that fat content in chicken is up 50% in less than half a century!

As for agribusiness ending poverty - In the UK 200,000 farms disappeared between 1966 and 1995. 17,000 farm workers left the land in 2003, alone. Despite this, there are plenty of backhanders for big business, as each year, under the Common Agricultural Policy budget, the government gives away £3billion of subsidies, 80% of which goes to agribusiness. These transnational corporations operate in different parts of the food system, which means they can take a loss in one area, providing a profit is made in another, forcing local companies into a price war they can not sustain, killing off the competition and reinforcing their monopoly.

Agribusinesses also control and own more parts of the food chain. Cargill is one of three major traders of grain, the second largest animal feed producer and one of the largest meat producers in the world. Livestock farmers find that they are buying feed from the same companies to which they are selling their meat. "In a subsistence food system the family controls food from seed to plate", says food researcher, David Heferman, "in the emerging monopoly food system, a few food companies are gaining control of the world's food system by controlling it from seed to shelf".

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

Which wasn't 'officially' an arrest...

Last week at the Yorkshire International Business Convention in Harrogate, Lindis Percy from the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) was waiting for George Bush Snr, the headline speaker at the event. Hiding away among the press, Lindis quietly stepped out, holding an upside down US flag with the words "Bush Off Please" written on it. After Bush rolled up in his four limos with CIA outriders, Lindis got close enough to Bush to shout "Your son is doing terrible things to the world", to which he replied "I'm proud of what my son has done". She was then 'escorted' away by several North Yorkshire Rozzers, including two officers from the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU). As they nicked and searched her, she was told that she still had not officially been arrested, but rather taken away "to prevent a breach of the peace". Lindis was then kept in Harrogate Police Station for three hours under the instruction of a 'higher authority' until Papa Bush had left, after which she was released without charge.

Together with agribusinesses like Cargill, biotechnology companies are still making a packet. Advanta is one of the world's leading seed breeding, production and marketing organisations, making it one of the five largest seed organisations in world. Seven years ago Advanta was in debt, as the public reaction to genetically modified seeds led to a 30% decrease in sales. Despite a limited GM moratorium in Europe and a ban on terminator seed technology (which produces sterile seeds, so farmers have to buy new seeds every year), 21 countries are still growing GM crops on 90 million hectares, an 11% increase on 2004.

GET STUFFED

In order to give people a step up on the farming ladder, number of 'County Farms' were bought by English councils to help people take up farming, and worked a bit like starter homes for people trying to get on to the property ladder. But these are being flogged off at quite a rate. In a recent protest activists squatted Balham Hill Farm in Somerset against proposals to sell the place off to the highest bidder at auction (see SchNEWS 540), but earlier this week (12th June) bailiffs evicted the farm. Even the successful farm shop the squatters set up with its 1,000 customers would have been unable to pay the annual £30,000 interest charges needed to buy the farm that Council bosses and local Liberal Democrats want £425,000 for. In a partial victory to the activists, the farm is now due to go to tender rather than be sold at auction which means that it will be sold whole and could still be used agriculturally. The

continued back page....

THE GHOST OF FESTIVALS PAST

This might look alright, but there hasn't been a real festival in Britain since the Stonehenge Launch Party in 3100 BC - and I'll tell you why...



After Castlemorton in '92 and the Criminal Justice Act, a lot of the travellers went to Spain or Ireland. That was after the pigs smashed the Peace Convoy at the Battle of the Beanfield in '85 and Stony Cross in '86.



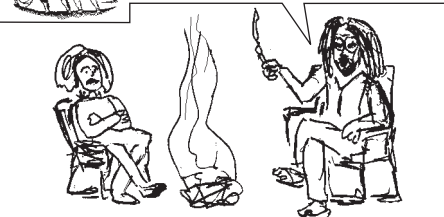
O' course that was after English Heritage banned the Stonehenge Free Festival in '84 and the Windsor Free Festivals in the 70's. And by '79 Bedford stopped making the TK truck and were making TM's which weren't as good. I blamed Thatcher.



Which takes us back to the Enclosures Act of 1720 kicking us peasants off the land, forcing us into towns as a ready made workforce for the Industrial Revolution...



Before that they smashed a ragged band they called the Diggers on St Georges Hill in 1649. The Peasants Revolt 1381 put the wind up 'em but it wasn't to last.



We're still struggling under the Norman yoke imposed in 1066... and I don't even wanna talk about the Roman Empire. Being anti-roads really meant something in those days



PARTY & PROTEST

Listings for Summer 2006 - look out on website for further updates

JUNE

16-21 Sunrise Summer Solstice Celebration A Summer Solstice celebration offering a new concept in UK festival design. 13 Areas, 6 Stages 5000 tickets. The next generation of global family gathering - contemporary performing arts, permaculture, healing and visionary culture. Fully ecologically-empowered. Site-wide organic policy. South Somerset, £50 E/B, £60 normal ticket, £15 Parking Charge, 01458 831358, info@sunrisecelebration.com www.sunrisecelebration.com ** **16-18 Projectile:** A festival of anarchist film and culture. At the Star & Shadow Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2BB. £25 waged/ £5 unwaged / free for asylum seekers. Accommodation - contact in advance. Email info@projectile.org.uk Web: www.projectile.org.uk ** **17 No Incapacity Benefit Cuts!** March and rally for a decent disability welfare system in Sheffield. Assemble Devonshire Green 12:00pm - with music, speakers, and info. By Sheffield Welfare Action Network www.swansheffield.org.uk ** **17 Protest to defend refugees** against Neo-Labour's vicious and racist immigration laws at 12pm, Market Street, Manchester city centre, by the North West Asylum Seekers Defence Group. email - fightback_05@yahoo.com ** **17 EAPeace Conference** - East Anglia Peace Network are having their 3rd conference on the theme of "Honing our Campaigning Skills" at Friends' Meeting House, Upper Goat Lane, Norwich, 09:30am-4.30pm. www.eapeace.org.uk ** **17 Peace News 70th Birthday Event.** Special all-day event to celebrate the independent peace and antiwar monthly. 11am - 5pm (workshops, discussions, NVDA training games and more!); 7pm-midnight (bands, film showings and DJ's). Food and drink! Donation. At The Square Occupied Social Centre, 21 Russell Square, Central London. (tube Russell Square) For more info see www.peacenews.info ** **17-18 Leamington Peace Festival.** Two day free festie featuring: Rory McLeod, Boka Halat, Pressgang, Three Daft Monkeys, Perfect and Baraka. www.peacefestival.org.uk ** **17-25 Golowan Festival** The Cornish Feast of John blends Celtic traditions of Penglaz and the Serpent Dance with a ten day programme of diverse festivities, entertainment and music. www.golowan.com ** **19-23 Voice of Iraq Music Week** organized by the Department of Music in SOAS, RASIT Culture for Pace International Program, and is supervised by the renowned Iraqi musician Mr. Ahmed Mukhtar Contact Nora Mehdi 020 8668 4025 info@rasit.org.uk ** **19-25 National Refugee Week** - for events see www.refugeeweek.org.uk ** **20 Hastings 'NO2ID** - ID cards do not stop terrorism meeting'. Speaker: "David from Brighton" (NO2ID Campaign) and open discussion. Organized by Hastings Against War 7.30pm Friends Meeting House South Terrace Road. ** **21 Summer Solstice Celebration Stonehenge 2006.** Access to the stones will be-

gin at 10pm on Tues, 20th June, with the solstice sunrise occurring at 5am on the 21st. Buses will run all night from Salisbury, and vegie food will be on sale. Bring blankets and acoustic music. To find out what else you're allowed to do see www.english-heritage.org.uk/summersolstice or call 0870 333 1186. ** **21** Also at Stonehenge: **Celtic Heritage Trust.** Peaceful protest against road under Stonehenge - at the stones. For information see www.celticheritagetrust.org.uk ** **21 Totnes Midsomer Festival.** Bands, dance, health & healing, kids area - all in the street and down by the river and it's free! 12pm onwards, Totnes Town, Devon. web: www.totnesmidsomerfestival.co.uk ** **23 Traditional celebration at Midsummer Tree,** Broadwater, Worthing, with local historian Chris Hare. Gather at Cricketers pub, Broadwater, from 9pm. Fancy dress encouraged - anything from skeletons to pagan Green Men. ** **23-26 Global Animal Rights Gathering** organised by Shac (www.shac.net). For information contact info@ar2006.info or see www.ar2006.info ** **24 Climate Gangsters Party** at American Embassy, Grosvenor Sq, London, 2-6pm. Join Campaign against Climate Change for a party and protest against the gangsters who are too busy making a buck to deal with climate change. 0207 833 9311 www.campaigncc.org ** **25 Hackney Refugee and Migrant Support Group** film double bill during Refugee Week at the Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland High Street, Dalston, London, E8. Featuring 'In This World' at 1.45pm about two Afghan refugees journey through Iran to Sangatte and London. Plus 'Gypo' - at 3.30pm, exploring issues facing Roma refugees in Kent (winner Br. Independent Film Award for production, 2005, Award winner, San Francisco Fimaline Festival) £7.50/£5.50 concessions. ** **25 - 'Asylum Monologues'**, a joint collaboration between Ice and Fire theatre and Actors for Refugees, at Amnesty International's Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA, 5pm, free but seating is limited. 0791 351 3567 actors_for_refugees@yahoo.co.uk ** **28 A Night of Conscience** - Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Kendall-Smith was given an 8 month sentence for refusing to serve in Iraq and made to pay £20,000 costs. To help him there's a celeb packed benefit gig with Tony Benn, Mark Thomas, film director Ken Loach, Walter Wolfgang, chair of CND Kate Hudson, and more. 7.30pm St. James Church, 197 Piccadilly, London, W1J 9LL. £15 for tickets and details see www.stopwar.org.uk ** **29 Working Alliance** - get together of rabble-rousers in Worthing. Upstairs at The Rest, Bath Place, Worthing. 8pm. www.eco-action.org/porkbolter ** **30 - 2nd July Workhouse Festival** - A 3 day music and fun filled festival with environmental undertones. Solar powered venues, six stages, healing area, green crafts, kids area, workshops and dance tent. With Zion Train, Freestyler DJs, Horace X, 3 Daft Monkeys, Swerly World and more. 6pm Friday to 6pm Sunday. Llanfyllin, Powys. £30 adult weekend, £10 conc. 07890 458561 www.workhousefestival.co.uk

They busted the free festivals, they pushed out the travellers, they cut back the dole, they made fucking everything illegal, and you can't get decent acid anymore. These days no festival happens without the Old Bill involved, and ones like this are just theme-parks for weekend hippies. But I digress - what was your original question?



Er... have you got a Rizla?



For full Party & Protest listings see www.schnews.org.uk/pap - regularly updated

JULY

1 East Anglia Social Forum in Norwich. 9:30am-5pm For location see www.easf.org.uk ** **4 Independence from America Party** outside US space communication base Feltwell (near USAF Lakenheath), 6pm. Peacemakers' Ball, cabaret and fireworks c/o the Pentagon at 10pm (directions: turn left off 1065 onto B1112, past Lakenheath village and the back of base, then look for domes). Contact Mell on 01986 892723. www.lakenheathaction.org ** **7-8 Romsey Beggars Fair**. A day of Music, Dance and Street Entertainment. They'd never be allowed to get away with this in Brighton. www.beggarsfair.com ** **7-9 Clogfest** "A celebration of the glorious tradition of English step-dance." Skipton, Yorkshire. www.clogfest.org ** **8 Rise 2006** a free anti-racist music festival with Graham Coxon, Buzzcocks, Roy Ayers, The Wailers, Kila Kela plus stalls etc. 12pm-8.30pm. Finsbury Park, London. 020 7983 6554 info@risefestival.org ** **8-9 Cornbury Festival** Pretentiously billed as: "One-of-a-kind: an eclectic and eccentric musical carnival - a dynamic summer festival disguised as a country fayre - a lovingly crafted, top notch, very English open air party, tailor-made for the whole family." £70 www.cornburyfestival.com ** **14-16 Hazards 2006** - gathering for trade union safety reps and activists discussing safety in the workplace. Organised by National Hazards Campaign and Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, at University Of Manchester. For details call 0161 636 7558 hazconf@gmhazards.co.uk www.gmhazards.org.uk ** **14-16 Glade**. Electronic Dance Music Festival. 9 Arenas, 3 Days open air diverse bonkersness. And no corporate sponsorship, to be held in Central England, 90 minutes from London. www.gladefestival.com ** **15-16 Rhythms of the World** Free festival of world music, Hitchin. 160 performances with over 700 performers on 10 stages. www.rotw.org.uk ** **15-29 Earth Activist Training**. A permaculture design course and more for activists: Learn the skills to transform a piece of land, a community and our political and economic systems. Ragman's Lane Farm, Gloucestershire. £100-£500, eat2006@riseup.net. www.earthactivisttraining.org ** **17-24 National Cruelty Free Week**. Did you know that products like lipsticks, shampoos, and window cleaners are still tested on animals? Most people have no idea that items they buy could have been dripped into the eyes of a restrained rabbit, or forced down the throat of a terrified beagle. www.buav.org/campaigns/ba/2006-02.html ** **19 The Horror of War Demo** with creative ways of showing bomb component manufacturers EDO MBM the true horror of war. 4-6pm, Outside EDO, Home Farm Road, Brighton. www.smashed.org.uk ** **21 International Protest Camp** in Iceland. A series of gigantic dams is already under construction at Kárahjúkar in the eastern highlands of Iceland, designated solely to generate energy for one massive ALCOA aluminium smelter to be built by war-profiteers Bechtel. The habitat of many rare and endangered plants and animals could be submerged, lost, destroyed. www.sav-ingiceland.org ** **22-23 Ashton Court Festival** Two day festival in Bristol, £9 per day. www.ashtoncourtfestival.com ** **21-23 Eastern Haze** - festival in Somerleyton, Suffolk with six stages featuring everything from Hawkwind to Eat Static to Nick Harper and all stops in-between. £40 incl. camping & parking, www.easternhaze.com 08700 600100 ** **22-23 Truck Festival** No corporate shite sponsorship, into its ninth year and it keeps growing, SchNEWS will be there with our marquee. Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Tickets sold out. www.truckfestival.org

G8 SUMMIT 2006

St. Petersburg, Russia: 15-18 July - The leaders of eight of the world's most powerful nations meet up again to discuss the carve up of global resources for the rich, while the rest of the world gets screwed. There's gonna be protests against it (as there are every year) if you're up for a "holiday" in Russia ** There will be a **Global Day Of Action** on the 14th of July in solidarity with those in Russia - look out for details ** If you can get there, protests will kick off with an **Action Day** in St.Petersburg, Russia. For more see <http://g8-2006.plentyfact.net> or (in Russian) <http://spb8.net/ru>

** **26-30 DIY Anarchist Convention** - Against The State: an activist and anarchist convention in Freiburg, Germany. Squatters, artists, cooks and truckers welcome! With workshops about direct action, diy culture, first aid, with bands and more. Plus a big Reclaim The Streets party on Sat 29th July. Contact d.i.y.against@gmx.de ** **27 Screening 'The End Of Suburbia'** the peak oil film. Electric Palace, High Street, Old Town, Hastings. 7.30pm, £4/£3 ** **29 July - 12th August - Trident Ploughshares - International Disarmament Camp**, Coulport, Scotland. 15 days of direct disarmament actions at Faslane and Coulport naval bases. At the Peaton Glen Wood campsite, half a mile from the Coulport base, by the shores of Loch Long. www.tridentploughshares.org/article983

CAMP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

August 26 - September 4: A camp to bring the movement of movements to tackle climate change together - with a mix of workshops, meetings, socialising, information sharing and action. It will be held in a location in the north of England at a site to be announced nearer the time. Everybody is welcome - from experienced campaigners to those new to activism. If you can help publicise the camp, distribute flyers and posters or host a talk or meeting, email networking@climatecamp.org.uk. If you can give a workshop, contact workshops@climatecamp.org.uk. Mailing address: Box 10, c/o Oxford Action Resource Centre, E.O.C.C., 44b Princes Street, Oxford OX4 1HU
* For more see www.climatecamp.org.uk

SQUATEVER YOU LIKE

In Bristol a group of artists and performers squatted a warehouse to put on an art exhibition and a cabaret show. The event was DiY, with everyone encouraged to contribute, which transformed the space into a surreal mish-mash of sculptures, paintings and performances.

Last Thursday (8th June), an angry looking sergeant walked through the doors bellowing "right you lot... you've got half an hour. Get out!" He became upset when people started talking about things like laws and rights and so more police were called. Three cars, two vans and five police on horses.

Eventually it turned out that the 'reason' for the eviction was illegal electricity extraction. The squatters promised to pay the bill from when they had entered the building and taken meter readings. Things calmed down a bit and then suddenly the plod all jumped in their cars and on their horses and left.

Where did they go? To stand around an unexploded Second World-War bomb in a shopping centre, 11 metres beneath the ground! After police evacuated the whole shopping centre and hung around watching the army digging for a couple of days, the bomb turned out to be a piece of reinforced concrete. The police got their overtime and meanwhile the squatters had an unmolested cultural event and lots of fun. At last, a SchNews item with a happy ending.

ebay - flogging it to whoever wants it the most

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	Iceland - island northwest of Europe - Has plenty of resource rich wilderness to flog off. Would suit damming.	Current Bid £0.99
	Tasmania - full of rainforest - suit logging. Comes with government in the pocket of big business.	Current Bid £1.29
	India - Kashmir . Biggest aluminium deposit in world. Has complex relations with indigenous people.	Current Bid £1.00

AUGUST

2-6 The Big Green Gathering "for people who care about health, the environment, sustainability, our children's future and life in general. It is a celebration of our natural world and our place within it." £95 in Somerset. www.big-green-gathering.com ** **4-6 Big Chill** Eastnor Park, Herefordshire. Lots of bands and DJs £120. www.bigchill.net ** **5 Brighton Pride** The biggest gay festival in the UK, watch out for Queeruptation's subvertising of the increasing corporatisation of Pride. Parade from Madeira Drive at 11am to Preston Park until 8pm. www.brightonpride.org ** **16-20 Earth First! Summer Gathering** in West Wales. For anyone interested in direct action for people and planet. This is not a festival but a chance to meet, discuss and plan. Three vegan meals for £4 a day. £15 to pay for running costs. With talks, stalls, workshops, kids space, teens space, camping areas. No dogs. If you can help with the gathering, give workshops, etc contact soon. The site location will be published on website one month before. www.earth-firstgathering.org.uk email efgathering@aktivix.org phone 0845 223 5254 ** **17-20 Northern Green Gathering** is back with a new site at Lincs/Yorks border. Featuring music, campaigns area, crafts, organic vegan food, kids area, healing area and more. £35, £5 kids www.nggonline.org.uk ** **19 August - 3 September: 4th Peoples' Global Action Conference in Europe**. The PGA is a tool and a diffuse structure coordinating groups and people sharing common struggles and practices, in accordance with various anticapitalist and anti-authoritarian principles. At venues around France see www.agp.org ** **25-27 The Carling Weekend**, two festivals in Leeds and Reading. Shit beer, security thugs, rip-off burger bars, oh and a lot of bands. ** **26 Creamfields** If it is shite and annoying as their annoying website, it'll be more like vomit than cream. www.cream.co.uk/creamsite/?&s=creamfields ** **27-28 Nottingham Carnival** You and two million dancing in the streets for free.

FASLANE TAT DOWN

Faslane Peace Camp, situated outside the gates of the Faslane Naval Base and its Trident nuclear submarines, has been a permanent protest camp since 1982, but is now to close down. The decision was made last weekend during the 24th birthday gathering, with closure planned for 25th birthday in June 2007. Activists reckon that the static camp is no longer the best tactic - mainly because of police surveillance and problems with residents - with plans to move towards a range of actions, some open, some not, linking up with the broader movement of other anti-authoritarian and peace groups. But the process of clearing the site, and discussing how to move forward will take the following year. The first event will be a clean-up bonfire on June 23rd, and then an 'Independence From The Peace Camp' weekend of clearing with discussions over the weekend of July 1-4th 2006. This will all culminate in a 25th birthday weekend gathering of tatting down and organising from June 9th 2007.

* For updates see www.faslane.co.nr

IF YOU'RE NOT PISSED OF YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *continued...*

sell off is part of a wider plan to break land up to build industrial parks and those much needed conference centres. "Really it's the whole policy that's the problem, because the South Somerset Council are selling off 45 farms as the tenancies expire", one activist told SchNEWS, "with the price of land and buildings farming is out of our reach now more than ever."

But some rural communities are beginning to create their own solutions - there are now nearly 300 farmers markets in the UK, compared to virtually none forty years ago and more and more people are becoming aware that agro-related illnesses like Mad Cows Disease are not the independent problems like the scientists presume, but symptoms of poorly functioning and designed food production system.

Check out www.genewatch.org for the latest on GM crop growing and biotechnology and the Land is Ours for a bit of history and details on recent campaigns - www.tlio.org.uk

WE KID YOU NOT

It's back to skool for the latest thought crime initiatives in Crackdown Britain. Why even bother waiting for people to commit crime before taking their fingerprints? Let's face it, with another 1,000 criminal offences created in the last six years and thousands more on the way, courtesy of the democracy busting Legislative And Regulatory Reform Bill (see SchNEWS 534), pretty soon everyone's going to be part of the criminal classes. And with this explosion in the numbers of criminals it makes sense to get 'em early.

At Primrose Hill primary school in north London they've been taking pupils' fingerprints - without parents consent - for a security system used in the school library. The Micro Librarian Systems' Junior Librarian has been marketed in the UK since 2002 and is estimated to have fingerprinted hundreds of thousands of British children.

Meanwhile an addition to the national curriculum from Scottish Special Branch will see officers encouraging teachers to grass on pupils who they think may be bunking off for a bit of crafty jihad behind the bike sheds. Christian and far right organisations need not fear though, because the newly established unit will only focus on "ethnic religious groupings". Teachers are being asked to help cops "identify any activities that could be considered to be extremist", which might include "a kid who has gone back to their parents' home in Pakistan and has returned with anti-Western feeling or stronger religious faith than they had shown before".

Where better than school to brain-wash the most impressionable part of the population into seeing political supervision and bio-metric identity verification as just another everyday feature of life in the UK?

SchNEWS In Brief

Cleaning staff at **Shannon airport** in the west of Ireland have reported seeing a man in shackles on board a US aircraft. The US military have been using this airport since at least the first Gulf war in 1990 as a stop-off and refueling point, despite Ireland's official position of neutrality. www.indymedia.ie** The bulldozing of Britain's biggest Travellers' village at **Dale Farm** (See SchNEWS 540) will be raised over the next two weeks at hearings in Washington by the Helsinki Commission and by the a United Nations meeting in Vancouver. At both events members will hear that Gypsies and Travellers are the most marginalized minority group in the UK and suffer constant harassment and discrimination and how Basildon council plans to spend nearly £3 million trashing the homes of 86 families. There'll be a rally on 1st August in Basildon from 11am, calling for the £3m destruction of the Farm to be halted. dale.farm@ntlworld.com for more info



FIGHT TRUTH DECAY

Your favourite weekly newsheet will be at this weekend's **Sunrise Celebration** with **SchMOVIES** and other films, info stalls and talks on a range of actions, including the **Smash EDO** campaign and the latest news from **Scottish Zapatista** solidarity groups. We will also be relentlessly flogging SchNEWS merchandise like the new **SchMOVIES 2005 DVD** and all our old annuals we can't get rid of. www.sunrisecelebration.com

CHEMICAL IMBALANCE

The twenty one year battle continues to bring justice for the survivors of the catastrophic chemical spill which afflicted the Indian city of Bhopal in 1984, exposing half a million to highly toxic gasses. The current death toll is 20,000, with 120,000 still suffering the affects. The company responsible was Union Carbide - now part of Dow Chemicals - and they have been trying to wash their hands of the problem ever since.

Yet while Dow are ducking and diving from a safe distance in the US, those in Bhopal still live with the aftermath of the accident, which was never cleaned up, in their backyard. The site of the abandoned pesticides factory still oozes a cocktail of carcinogenic and mutagenic toxins, which leach from the 5,000 tonnes of waste chemicals chucked into pits.

Naturally the \$48 billion Dow thinks somebody else, anybody else, should pay for the clean up. When nobody warmed to the idea that gas survivors' meagre compensation should be used for this purpose they suggested that maybe the Indian taxpayer should cough up instead. When that didn't work, along came Cherokee Investment Partners.

Cherokee makes its money by helping businesses avoid bills for cleaning up the environmental messes left by the world's biggest polluters. On its website, the company promises those saddled with a polluted land problem that they will be able to evade all financial and legal responsibility for any contamination. With a service like that, business is booming as polluters line up for shareholder friendly advice.

So how do Cherokee do it? Well there's the usual array of backhanders which encourage politicians to grant the company contracts in the first place. Then they buy up toxic land on the cheap, rake in public-funded subsidies and do whatever it takes (like just burning the nasties or chuck them into landfill) so it's ready to be used for yuppie loft apartments or golf courses and sold on for a huge profit. This 'venture capitalism' has made Cherokee into a multi-billion dollar multinational enterprise and they're coming soon to a cesspit near you.

Such pioneering work in setting dirty, hazardous industries free to pollute without compunction has won Cherokee many influential friends, but as their primary business is private, no one's really sure who exactly is investing in them. That is, until oily Chief Executive Officer, Tom Darden got into Bhopal. Tommy boy presents himself as a 'green philanthropist' and is a member of the same Anglican sect as the Bushes. Darden combines this with his mission, as director of Crown's Financial Ministries (CFM), to "teach God's financial principles to 300 million people by September 15, 2015", in order that they can reach "True Financial Freedom™" (no we don't make

this stuff up, and no we don't know what's with the date). CFM is an evangelical Christian organisation teaching financial principles based on the Bible, using Crown Biblical Financial Studies "to train people to handle God's money."

When Bhopal survivors questioned Cherokee's interest in the lethal site, Darden piously accused them of making money from it. One careless email later and the membership of his posse was laid bare: on the 'cc' list were officials from Tata, Citibank and the US State dept., all major players in a corporate committee, the US-India CEO forum, which is pressuring India to open its economy to profit hungry US investors. The same committee has urged a quick resolution of 'the Bhopal issue' to make India more attractive to US investors. Surprise, surprise - also lurking on the 'cc' list was one other member of the US-India CEO forum: The Dow Chemical Company.

Last week survivors held a demo in Bhopal to protest at the collusion between P S Dubey, the dodgy chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Cherokee; and also last week a Bhopal activist disrupted and commandeered a presentation featuring Dubey and Darden at Duke University, North Carolina, to confront the suits with the reality on the ground in Bhopal. For more see <http://bhopal.net>

...and finally...

Inspired no doubt by recent events at Titmore Woods (see SchNEWS 547), Hollywood's A-list are jumping on the direct action bandwagon and taking to the trees. Rent-a-mob super-stars aiming to protect a community farm slated for demolition included the more than heroic Joan "voice of a generation" Baez, Martin "West Wing nut" Sheen and the half-woman/half fish star of the 'iconic' 80s film *Splash*, Darryl Hannah. The slappable Leonardo diCaprio and Danny Glover (star of *Lethal Weapon 9*), were also in tow. The stars, together with the hundreds of non-famous people who actually farmed there, had been occupying a 40 foot tall walnut tree in a bid to block the bulldozers.

This being Hollywood, the A-list agitators were empowered by a soundtrack of conch blowing "Aztec" dancers hired to give proceedings an 'ethnic' feel. Heartstrings were mercilessly tugged in the closing scenes as Joan Baez belted out "We shall Overcome..some day". A brave Darryl Hannah, who had overcome vertigo for the demo, was lowered from the tree and with literally no visible external signs of irony gave the Black Panther clenched fist salute as she was gently lowered from the tree and led away to a chat show.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers don't get A-list celebs to yer protest camp - get A-list anarchists instead. Honest.

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