

# FAT CAT SLIM

A recent report which studied 41 local authorities involved in Private Finance Initiative schemes, has concluded that 150,000 jobs will be transferred to the private sector in the next 10 years. Job losses are estimated at 30,000.

*"The Private Finance Initiative means paying more for less."* Dr. Jean Shaoul, accountancy expert Manchester University.

Public services sold off to big business. Private firms in our schools. Worse pay and conditions for workers. Adverts on fire-engines. Who could possibly be behind such dastardly schemes? New Labour silly.

Welcome to the world of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), which in plain English means privatisation by the back door.

## FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE TUBE...

The London Underground is already the most expensive in Europe, and with plans for it to be sold to private companies, fares will spiral even higher. As with the fragmentation of British Rail, health & safety will be put at risk, services will be cut, and large scale redundancies and casualisation are on the cards.

## THEN THEY CAME FOR OUR SCHOOLCHILDREN.....

In Haringey four private companies have been short-listed under the PFI to take over schools, including Rentokil Initial (who in the past have been removed from one in three of its school cleaning contracts).

School buildings will effectively be privatised, as private companies will take control for up to 30 years, and they will decide how schools will be used outside of school hours, to make profits.

In Haringey this will mean the privatisation of cleaning, caretaking and repair and maintenance work, threatening jobs, pay and conditions. Despite widespread opposition, the Council is pushing ahead spending £250,000 just to prepare its bid.

If that's not enough New Labour have also come up with Education Action Zones, allowing big business to get involved in running education. In Sheffield the main sponsors are Midland bank and Yorkshire Water. Meanwhile in Surrey, the council have announced plans to privatise the teachers of one of its schools.

## THEN THEY ATTACKED OUR BRAVE FIREFIGHTERS....

*"It's privatisation through the back door. All companies work for profit and this is just not appropriate within a public service."* Fire Brigade Union spokesperson

Fire-fighters are on the brink of their first national strike since the seventies over plans to break up the national framework, which sets a minimum standard of working conditions around the country and replaces it with "local bargaining." Fire-fighters rightly see this as a first step towards privatisation. One union spokesperson commented *"We've seen what damage local bargaining has done to our public services, our railways and our ambulance service. First they carve up the workforce then they sell bits off and the public end up paying for a worse service."*

Just to show how keen they, the London Fire Brigade this month made a multi-million pound Private Finance Initiative deal to fund their fire-fighting fleet and equipment.

And there's more... London are also looking into the raising cash through private sponsorship, which could include advertising on the side of fire engines!

## NEXT IT WAS THE HOSPITALS

*"It's (the PFI) like taking out a mortgage from a loan shark to buy a house which you already own - and then discovering, 25 years down the line, that the property has been repossessed by the lender anyway".* Francis Wheen, journalist.

Dryburn hospital in Durham due to open in 2001 will be built, financed and owned by a private sector consortium, Consort Healthcare. In return for use of the hospital, the local health service trust will pay the consortium £7 million every year for the next 30 years. Consort will also provide most of the hospital's ancillary staff, at a cost of an extra £5 million a year.

Officially, PFI schemes are given the go-ahead only if they offer better value for money than other options. But a study by the union UNISON shows that the cost of the PFI scheme over 30 years will be over £22 million more than if the public sector had built and owned the hospital.

There will also be a reduction in services with only half the hospital beds originally planned and a 22 per cent cut in clinical staffing budget over the next two years

\* Workers at the University College Hospital in London recently went on a two week all out strike over privatisation plans.

## THEN THEY WENT FOR THE HOUSING BENEFIT DEPARTMENTS

Housing Benefit and Council Tax staff in Brighton and Hove are preparing to take strike action after the Council revealed it's plans to sell off their department to a private company called Capita. The announcement, made only three weeks ago, was followed by an immediate meeting where 180 people voted unanimously for a strike ballot to defend their jobs, and two mass pickets of the Town hall while the issue was debated left Councilors in no doubt as to what the mood was. The proposals, which will remove the entire Housing Benefit operation to Falmer, will mean an inevitable drop in the quality of the service: long delays in processing claims, no local service points, no flexibility when it comes to overpayment demands. Capita have a past history of incompetence (in one mistake 4,600 pensioners were accidentally sent a letter informing them that their housing benefit was being cut, along with an increased council tax demand!), lying about their efficiency rates -and redundancies.

The most interesting thing about the company is that Labour Council leader Lord Bassam lists a consultancy with Capita in the House of Lords Register of Interests! When news of the privatisation broke, Capita's shares rose 39p-more money for Bassam's chums.

The Council, worried that this is becoming a local election own-goal have decided to 'review' the decision-a stalling tactic if ever there was one. But with Unison deciding to introduce a voluntary levy on all it's Brighton and Hove members to support a prospective strike, the Council may have bitten off more than it can chew.

## LIFE AFTER PRIVITISATION

*"Strikes in the future are not just going to be won by the withdrawal of labour - they are going to be won by employing other methods. Having people like Reclaim The Streets (RTS) involved could go a long way to winning other disputes in the future. RTS get publicity and cause the bosses serious financial distress - and they can't be sacked."* Steve.

Steve Hedley was on strike with other railway maintenance workers and engineers over pay and conditions. Since privatisation the companies that bought British Rail have been making around £1million a day profit and Railtrack a similar amount. Meanwhile maintenance workers are taking home around £135 a week after tax for a 37-39 hour week.

During the dispute Steve was at Euston Station on a picket line when a scab van drove straight at the picket line. On its way past it was alleged that a wing mirror was cracked on the van and Steve was blamed. However two independent photographers and even Railtrack's own CCTV showed that Steve wasn't the person. Still, the Railtrack sub-contractors sacked him and even though the case was thrown out of court, the company have refused to give him his job back.

## SKY CHEFS DISPUTE

Last November 273 airline catering workers at Heathrow airport were sacked just three hours after going on an official one-day strike over worsening pay and conditions. People on holiday pay or sick that day were sacked.

The company LSG Lufthansa SkyChefs are the biggest airline catering company in the world serving 260 airlines with pre-tax profits of £2.2 million in 1997. Meanwhile sacked workers doing a 60 hour shift could expect a take-home pay of just £220 a week.

The strike, which has received virtually no press, is seen by many as a pointer to the future. If SkyChefs get away with it, then all their workers will eventually be forced to work under worse conditions for longer hours and less pay

There's a mass picket on Monday 3rd May 9 am - 1 pm at Fagg's Rd off the A30, south end of Heathrow airport. Assemble opposite the 'Green Man' pub (5 mins walk from Hatton Cross tube station.)

**THE STRIKE SUPPORT GROUP** aims to give financial aid to workers in struggle, give striking workers resources to print and publish their own leaflets etc., and to physically support pickets and other demonstrations of workers in dispute.

For a copy of their newsletter send SAE to 145 Imperial Ave., Victoria Rd., London, N16 8HL. Tel 0171 249 0041 They meet every Monday at the Cock Tavern, Phoenix Rd., London NW1 at 7.30 pm

**Reclaim the Streets** 0171 281 4621; [rts@gn.apc.org](mailto:rts@gn.apc.org)

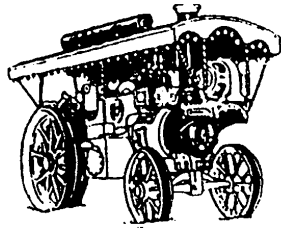
**Haringey Against Privatisation**, c/o PO Box 8446, London, N17 6NZ

**Campaign Against Tube Privatisation**  
47c Wadson St., Bethnal Green, London, E2 9DP- Tel 0181 981 8065

**Anarchist Trade Union Network** PO Box EMAB, 88 Abbey St., Derby DE22 3SQ

## MAY DAY/BELTANE

The celebration of Beltane heralds the start of the summer in the pagan calendar - signifying the death of winter and the return of the warm weather. *BEL-TENE*: 'A goodly fire'. Traditionally people jumped the fire together and alone to purify, to cleanse and to bring fertility. The *TEIN-EIGIN*, the sacred fire, was kindled after all the fires in the community had been put out. Beltane is the celebration of the sacred marriage. A festival for friends and lovers, for joining energies together and for honouring that union. It is a time to honour sex in its raw state as part of the cycle, nature and the expansive energy of this time. So get out into the fields, light a fire and indulge in some loved-up beltane celebrations.



## PROTEST CAMPS

**AVON RING ROAD** Trying to stop Bristol's answer to the M25 being built. People with experience of tunnelling would be most welcome, as would anyone else. Directions: from Bristol train station catch the 48 or 49 bus to the end of the route (Sainsburys), go down the hill and turn right. The camp is another minute's walk, and is opposite the security compound. Tel: 0797 999 0389.

**BIRMINGHAM NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD** Camps set up to try and stop England's first toll motorway. Directions: From the centre of Birmingham take the 105 or 105A bus to Roughley Terminus. Carry on walking in the direction the bus was going, past a beech wood on the left and past Turf Pits Lane. They could use materials for treehouses plus some tarpaulin. Tel: 07931 161761.

**LYMINGE FOREST** After battling against the Rank organisation for a couple of years (who want to build a massive leisure complex), the camp has almost won against the entertainment giants. Rank have lost interest, but there's a rumour that planning permission may be sold to Center Parcs.

The local council in Kent wants to sell the land, but will have to do so by August. Tel: 01303 257046.

**FASLANE PEACE CAMP** Still hassling the Trident base next door, after 16 years the camp is still going strong. Contact: 01436 820901.

**MANCHESTER** A camp has been set up to stop Manchester Airport PLC cutting down trees at Cedars Wood. A few days ago nearly 30 cops raided the camp without a warrant and arrested 5 people and nicked off with boltcroppers and tools (replacements most welcome!). More people are needed to keep the two camps going, local support is still strong. There is a stay of execution till October when the House of Lords will make their decision. A party is planned for June 21st. Tel: 07931 931850

## WOMENS PEACE CAMPS

**SELLAFIELD Womens Peace Camp.** 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds. LS7 3HB. Tel: 01132621534. Email (marked clearly for the peace camp) [cornerstone@gn.apc.org](mailto:cornerstone@gn.apc.org)

**ALDERMASTON Womens Peace Camp.** Contact Helen, 33 Heron Rd, Bristol. 0117 9393746

**MENWITH HILL Womens Peace Camp.** Outside Menwith Hill US NSA Spy Base, Kettlesing Head Layby, A59, Harrogate. HG3 2RA. Tel: 01943 468593

**GREENHAM COMMON WOMENS PEACE CAMP.** Yellow Gate, Greenham Common, Newbury, Berks. Tel: 01374 136728. Between 7-9.30pm only. Permanent camp outside main gate of Greenham Common. Organises information about and actions against, the production of trident at Alderminster and Burghfield.

# RECOMMENDED Festival Eye

New issue out in next couple of weeks. All the usual listings and reviews of fringe, mainstream, alternative festivals, camps, parties and protests. Send £2.50 + large SAE to BCM 2002, London, WC1N 3XX

[www.festivaleyec.com](http://www.festivaleyec.com)

## THE ECOLOGIST

Climate Crisis Special Issue. Essential magazine £3.50 + postage from Cissbury House, Furze View, Five Oaks Rd., Slinfold, W.Sussex, RH13 7RH

## undercurrents 10

The final edition of the "alternative news video" is out now featuring workers aid to Bosnia, pie attack, Big Brother awards, Adbusters, plus all yer global direct action news available for £15 from 16B Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG Tel 01865 243562 [www.undercurrents.org](http://www.undercurrents.org)

## JUNE 18th

At last the June 18th video is out....18 minutes of sizzling video to inspire you and your friends. The video is free IF you are going to show it to groups, at meetings etc. just send a stamped addressed jiffy bag with enough stamps for a video to Reclaim the Streets, PO box 9656, London N4 5JY

## REALLY FUCKIN' RECOMMENDED!

## The SchNEWS

### SURVIVAL GUIDE

- Out soon, featuring SchNEWS issues
- 151 - 200 + articles, photos, cartoons and
- a comprehensive contacts list of 500
- grassroots groups. Order your copies
- NNNNNNNNOOOOOOOWWWWWW
- £6 + SAE 93 pence worth of stamps

## FREE PARTY GUIDELINES

- Despite the best efforts of the authorities, people are still putting on free parties up and down the country. Here's a few do's and don'ts just in case you stumble wide-eyed across one.
  - \*Be prepared to be self sufficient. Facilities will be minimal.
  - \*Park sensibly, keep site roads clear.
  - \*Be friendly to local residents, rambblers etc. Smile you're at a free party!
  - \*Bury your shit!
  - \*Don't trash the site - take a bin bag
  - \*Fires - use dead not live wood (it don't burn in any case).
  - \*Make a donation - if someone passes a bucket round, don't be a mean git. It costs money to put on a free event.
  - \*Know your rights - Get yourself a BUST CARD, 10p from Release. Advice line 0171 729 9904
- Emergency Help Line 0171 6038654** *Enjoy yourself - and don't let the party poopers get yer down!*

## THE HAYMARKET MARTYRS

May 1886 and 80,000 workers and their families walk down Chicago's Michigan Avenue in the world's first ever May Day Parade. At the same time 340,000 workers in 12,000 factories across the US down tools to demand an eight hour day in order to spread work among the thousands made unemployed by new 'labour saving' machinery. The next day Chicago police attack peaceful strikers with guns and clubs, killing and wounding several. On May 3rd 6,000 striking lumberworkers march to the aid of strikers at the McCormick Harvester factory who have been locked out over a wage dispute. When pickets try to stop scabs from entering the plant, the cops attack again, opening fire killing four and wounding many others. Outraged at this a protest is called for the next day at the Haymarket Square.

The meeting was peaceful and a shower of rain soon sent away most of the crowd. However, with only a few hundred people remaining the police once again attacked - a bomb was thrown and exploded among the police who immediately opened fire. Several cops and many workers were killed.

It has never been discovered who threw the Haymarket bomb, but it was certainly none of the eight anarchists who were put on trial for it. Six of them were not ever there! Yet the trial with biased judge and hysterical press ensured a guilty verdict and condemned 5 of the 8 to death. Despite worldwide protests Parsons, Spies, Fischer and Engels were hanged on November 11th (Ling had committed suicide the previous day). Six years later the state governor released the survivors from jail, admitting that there had no evidence to link any of the 8 with the Haymarket bomb.

On 14th July 1889, on the 100th anniversary of the Bastille Day, an American delegate at the International Labour Congress in Paris proposed that May 1st be officially adopted as a workers holiday. This was unanimously approved and since then May Day has served as a date for international solidarity.



# ITS YER SCHNEWS PARTY AND PROTEST SUMMER GUIDE

## MAY.....

**Mon 3 LLANTRISANT FREE FESTIVAL** Mid Glamorgan, S.Wales; 0973 399220 ...**Sat 8th and Sun 9th STREETS OF BRIGHTON FESTIVAL** on-the-beach including The Firestarter Stage with Zion Train, Head-Mix collective, Max Pashm, the super-groove Jazz Skiffle Sensation, Kyras Tortoise and the phenomenal, unmissable, legendary Lucy Wild Blues (viva villcabamba sista!) Tel: 0181 986 9646; [www.continentaldrifts.uk.com/](http://www.continentaldrifts.uk.com/)...**Sat 8th PEACE IN THE BALKANS**, Stop the War Demo. Meet Embankment 12 noon. Tel 0171 275 0164...**Sat 8th HULL RECLAIM THE STREETS**. Meet, Pearsons Park, off Beverly Rd. 12 noon...**Sat 8 Undercurrents 10 & comedian Mark Thomas** at New Theatre Royal, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth 7pm £2 ...**11th-16th HAGUE APPEAL** for PEACE for the abolition of war. International Conference. Tel: 0181 347 6162. [www.haguepeace.org/](http://www.haguepeace.org/)...**Thurs 13th WORLD STARFISHMAN DAY**. Foreshadowed by the Hale-Bopp comet, starfishman left the womb of the ocean and came ashore at Whitby on May 13th '97... Celebrate by doing Starfishmanly things of your own devising, in your own way. **Thur 13-Tue 18 Home educators Festival**. Work shops and educational activities, Beach, Dorset; 0171 813 5907...**Fri 14th National Demo against Live Exports** from 9am, Meet Tesco car-park, whitfield. Tel: 01304 613904...**Fri 14th London Anarchist Forum** meets every Friday, 8pm, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. Tube Holborn. Various talks and discussions. Tel 0181 847 0203 ...**Sat 15 London Permaculture Gathering**, 11am-7pm, lunch 1.30pm, at the Bowlers Community Nursery, 81 Crouch Hill, London N8. Buses W7, 91, 41, 210. Tube: Archway, Finsbury Park £5-25 (sliding scale). Tel: 0171 281 3765...**Sat 15th FREEDOM FOR OCALAN! FREEDOM FOR KURDISTAN!** Demo. Sat 15th May, 1pm, Malet Street WC1. Tel: 0956 155 788...**21st-24th Action camp against Highway A20**. Nr Lubeck (N.Germany). Protesters travelling from Europe will be reimbursed for 50% of travel expenses (as long as you don't fly). Camp costs between 25 and 40 dm. Vegan/organic food, tree-climbing, canoeing, street theatre, RTS etc. Tel: (+49) 0451/7070646. Email: [jupluebeck@t-online.de](mailto:jupluebeck@t-online.de)...**Fri 21st Demo at biotech company Zeneca's AGM**. Tel: 0161 224 4846...**Sat 22 Festival 99** Devonshire Green, Sheffield; 0114 225 4158...**22 May - 20th June The Inter-Continental Caravan** will be in town. Around 500 activists from across the globe will be coming to Europe to bring the concerns of the South directly to the hear of the North. Telling us how free trade and economic globalisation is devastating the lives of the poor. Contact the ICC London Welcoming Committee, 39 Thornhill Square, London, N1 1BE Tel 07970 896736 [emailcc99uk@hotmail.com](mailto:emailcc99uk@hotmail.com)...**Sat 22nd Citizens Assembly for the Abolition of War**, Westminster Central Hall. Tel: 0181 347 6162...**Sat 22nd SEX MANIACS BALL and the 6th EROTIC OSCARS**. 10pm-4am, The Pleasure Rooms, 604 Highroad Tottenham. Contact Sexual Freedom Coalition 0171 460 1979 [www.sfc.org.uk](http://www.sfc.org.uk)...**Sat 22 Stanmer Park Organics community** open day sustainability, gardening, music. Bring a picnic 10 am onwards 01273 388673...**Sun 23 Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project** (behind Moulsecomb Railway Station, just off the Lewes Road) Open Day 12 noon till 4 pm 01273 628535...**28th-31st BLANDFORD FORUM FESTIVAL**, Stour Park, Dorset. Alabama 3 + Zion Train + Headmix + Rory McLeod etc. £5 a day...**28th-31st Animal Gathering Festival** at Greenacres Sanctuary, Marston Montgomery, Nr Uttoxeter, Derbyshire. Tel: 0171 278 3068

**Fri 28 - June 2nd Alternative to the EU Summit**, Cologne Details from Bundnis Köln 99, Kornerstraße 69, 50823 Köln, Tel 492219520008 [email\\_koeln99@gmx.net](mailto:email_koeln99@gmx.net)...**Sat 29th EUROPE-WIDE-MARCH**. Cologne. Against unemployment, job insecurity, Social Exclusion and racism. Tel: 0191 222 0299. Email: [EUROMUK@aol.com](mailto:EUROMUK@aol.com)...**Sat 29th ORGANIC FESTIVAL**, Arundel...**Sat 29th CAAT** day-school-planning action against DSEi arms fair (14-17 Sept) 10-5pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. Tel: 0171 281 0297...**Mon 31st KINGSTON GREEN FAIR**. Canbury Gardens, Kingston, Surrey. Tel: 0181 974 8883...**Mon 31st Anti Bloodsports demo**. Surrey County Show, Guildford, 10.30am-5.30pm. Tel: 0790 181 4936

## JUNE.....

**Tue 1st LONDON to STONEHENGE WALK** begins. Meet Battersea Park Peace Pagoda north onwards phone Willie X 0171 722 4781...**Fri 4th-Sun 6th COVENTRY FESTIVAL**...**Sat 5th STRAWBERRY FAYRE**, Mid Summer Common, Cambridge FREE!...**4th-6th LIVING LONDON FESTIVAL**, environmental music festie Battersea Park, [www.proteusweb.com/gp/](http://www.proteusweb.com/gp/)...**Tues 8th World Oceans Day**. Walks, talks, exhibitions and events worldwide. Tel: 0171 924 2355...**Tues 8th Protest naked** for the right to be naked in public outside 2pm Buckingham Palace. Contact: 208 Foleshill Rd. Coventry, CV1 4JH...**Thur 10 Possible Referendum** for a ban on genetically modified food. Under the 1972 Local Government Act if 10 local authority electors in a parish vote for a referendum then one has to be called. For a campaign pack ring 01226 762359...**Fri 11th National Goldfish Day**. For goldfish freaks everywhere, put your best fish forward and boogie on down...**Sat 12 National demonstration** against Hillgrove cat vivisection farm. Meet 12 noon at Hillgrove, Whitney, Oxfordshire 01386 833846 ...**Sat 12th-Sun 13th STOKE NEWINGTON CHURCH STREET FESTIVAL**...**12TH-20TH STOP THE ARMS TRADE WEEK**-An International Week of Action. Contact Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) Tel: 0171 281 0297 [www.gn.apc.org/caat](http://www.gn.apc.org/caat)...**14th-20th National Vegetarian Week**. Vegetarian Society, Tel: 0161 928 0793

## JUNE 18th INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST AND CARNIVAL

On the first day of the meeting of the G8 Summit in Cologne, Germany a global day of direct action is being planned, aimed at the heart of the global economy/financial banking districts. Actions are planned to take place in 35 countries across the world. In the UK people are taking their action to the City of London. Groups including London Animal Action, Campaign Against Arms Trade, Third World First, London Greenpeace/Mclibel and Reclaim The Streets are planning openly advertised action for people to get involved in. Autonomous groups around the are also planning actions to carry out on the day. For info n your local groups contact Reclaim The Streets. A booklet about how the City works and detailed map of the area is also available for a SAE from J18 info, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RG [www.j18.org](http://www.j18.org)

**19th -20th LEAMINGTON PEACE FESTIVAL**, Warwick (free!) 01926 421830...**18th -27th SPACE 1999-10 Days That Shook The Universe!!** A celebration of independent, community-based space exploration including \* games of 3-sided football\* All night parties/training for raves in space\* Workshops on how to become an autonomous astronaut\* Sex in space. The Association of Autonomous Astronauts are keen

to hear from those with access to venues, satellites, soundsystems, rocket technology Contact: Space 1999 c/o BM Box 3641, London WC1N 3XX. [www.deepdisc.com/aaa](http://www.deepdisc.com/aaa) ...**21st-26th Global Week of Action** against Quintiles Animal Tests. For info on events tel: 01562 745778. Email: [sqat@messages.to](mailto:sqat@messages.to)...**Mon 21st STONEHENGE SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION!!** The exclusion zone has been lifted but in anticipation of a renewal of the old festivities police say their operation will be "adjusted accordingly" **SUNSET 8.49pm** at the Stones -BST...**Tues 22nd SUNRISE** (nearest to solstice) 4.59am at the Stones-BST- [www.geocities.com/soho/9000/glastone.htm](http://www.geocities.com/soho/9000/glastone.htm)...**Fri 25th-Sun 27th GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL**, Pilton, Somerset

## JULY.....

**Fri 2 - Sun 4 Bracknell Festival** South Hill Park Tel 01344 484123...**Sun 4th FREE FESTIVAL OF GLOBAL RIGHTS** 12noon-10pm (Hackney Marshes)...**Thur 8- Sun 11 Larmer Tree Music Festival** Wilts; £50; 01722 415223 [www.larmertree.demon.co.uk](http://www.larmertree.demon.co.uk)...**Sat 10th BIG DAY OUT**, Milton Keynes...**10th-11th T IN THE PARK**, Glasgow...**15th-17th SEVEN REVELS**, Forest of Dean ...**17th-18th MUSIC IN THE SQUARE**, Portsmouth 01705 357593  
Sat 17 Derby Punx Picnic Bass Recreational Ground...**Sun 18th ASHTON COURT FREE FESTIVAL**, Bristol...**Fri 23 - Sun 25 Foothills, Wales**...**Sat 24th No Animal to Human Transplants Action Day**, Jesus Green, Cambridge. Tel: 0114 2530020 They want to break the world record for the biggest ever ring-a-roses (over 12,000 people) so come out to play!!...**Wed 28th-1st Aug Northern Green Gathering**, on an organic farm in West Yorkshire. £30 0113 2249885...**30th-8th Aug THE 4TH ANARCHIST SUMMERCAMP**. Near Hannover, Germany. Tel: 0531/82909. Email: [a-camp@gmx.de](mailto:a-camp@gmx.de)

## AUGUST.....

**1st-21st MOONSHADOW ECLIPSE FAMILY CAMP**, Cornwall...**6th-8th THE BIG CHILL 'ENCHANTED GARDEN 99'**, Salisbury Tel: 0181 372 9735; [www.bigchill.co.uk](http://www.bigchill.co.uk)...**6th-15th SUNSHADOW FESTIVAL**, Cornwall [www.klasol.demon.co.uk/svc99/sunshadow/ssMain.htm](http://www.klasol.demon.co.uk/svc99/sunshadow/ssMain.htm)...**6th - 12th LIZARD ECLIPSE FESTIVAL**, near Plymouth Devon ...**6th-12th MEGADOG SON-OF-A-BEACH FESTIVAL** [www.thepulse.co.uk/megadog/index.html](http://www.thepulse.co.uk/megadog/index.html)...**7th-14th CORNISH ECLIPSE STONE FESTIVAL**...**9th-12th TOTALITY!** Newquay Tel: 01637 871999 [www.totality.co.uk/](http://www.totality.co.uk/)...**10th-11th ECLIPSE PARTY**. + camping for one week. £25 [www.splintered.demon.co.uk/eclipse](http://www.splintered.demon.co.uk/eclipse)...**Wed 11th TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE...BOOM SHANKAR!!** Who turned the fuckin' lights out...**Wed 11 World Earth Healing Day** Tel 0181 806 3828 [email WEHD@freenet.co.uk](mailto:email WEHD@freenet.co.uk)...**Mon 13th ABBEY PARK FESTIVAL**, Leicester ...**21st - 22nd V99** Chelmsford [www.gigsandtours.com](http://www.gigsandtours.com)...**29th-30th NOTTINGHILL HILL CARNIVAL FREE**...**28th-30th EXODUS FREE FESTIVAL**, Luton. Don't miss this one.

## SEPTEMBER.....

**14th-17th Demonstrations against the Defence Systems Equipment International**, Chertsey and London Docklands arms fair. Campaign Against The Arms Trade 0171 281 0297  
1/1/00. **SATANIC ORGY**. Royston Parish Church. Please bring condoms and a partner Ruth Kettle Project.

# JUST LIKE THE SIXTIES

As SchNEWS went to press, students at Sussex University were still occupying the finance office of their administration building following the threatened expulsion of 89 students over non payment of fees. They said they would remain until their demands were met- that no student would be expelled for non payment and that there would be no repercussions on students involved in the occupation. University management responded by barricading a fire door and cutting off electricity to the occupied part of the building, although they later agreed it was a fire risk and re-connected it.

In Court yesterday morning, a rather senile old judge bored everyone with anecdotes about his involvement in the University choir. He then went on at great length about how much he loved the University before declaring he had no conflict of interest. He also granted the University possession before hearing the defense case, and told to them to be out by 2pm, despite the fact that the wrong papers were served, and he was obviously biased against the students (he refused to call them students, and instead preferred 'undergraduates'). Apparently the University's solicitors used to represent squatters and hippies in the 70s!

Some rather interesting memos from university management about the previous proposed occupations at Sussex in 1994 also surfaced, which showed that the Student Union at the time was in the pockets of management and was told to sabotage the occupation debate. The Union Officers were supposed "to take on the opposition at the EUGM and not be defensive". Nice to know they were sticking up for the interests of students who elected them. The university was also worried that there were 'sleepers' on the staff who would help the students, and that they had links with anarchists from Brighton, and that they were more of a problem than the SWP. How flattering!

\* Campaign for Free Education National Conference, Wed May 12, Sheffield Hallam University Union 11am - 5pm Debate + practical workshops. Contact CFE, PO Box 22615, London, N41 WT email cfe@gn.apc.org

## A BRIDGE TOO FAR

Simon Jones died when he was sent to do highly skilled work in Shoreham docks as a stevedore with no health and safety training. Within two hours he was dead. A year on and despite a high level direct action campaign no-one has been charged with his death.

So on Wednesday (Workers Memorial Day), fifty people including his family, gathered outside the Health and Safety Executive HQ in London to pay their respects with a minute's silence. Health and Safety have done nothing to bring Simon's killers to justice, so people decided to occupy Southwark Bridge for an hour, stopping the traffic by unfurling banners across the street and blowing whistles and shouting. Despite this direct action, when Simon's parents and a few of the group gained access to the director of the Executive, Jenny Bacon, she fobbed them off, telling Simon's aunt to "shush"! This high ranking government official denied receiving 5 letters sent by Simon's mum, and claimed that investigating 1 in 20 serious injuries in workplaces was acceptable due to budget restrictions. Jenny Bacon chose not to respond when asked what chance people would have of having their grievances heard, if they didn't occupy bridges in central London.

Simon Jones Memorial Campaign c/o on the fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, E.Sussex BN2 2DX 01273 685913

www.Simonjones.org.uk

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# SchNEWS in brief

Cheeky protestors from the No Opencast group have put in a planning application for a 20 acre opencast mine on the site of the **Millenium Dome!** There's gonna be a grand opening ceremony on May 9th 1.30 pm at Westcombe park Station (Charing Cross to Dartford line) Contact 0181 767 3142 \*\* John Tyndall, the leader of the **British National Party**, has been invited to address the Oxford Union (University Debating Society) on Monday 17th May. Protest to Oxford Union, Frewin Court, Oxford, OX1 3JB Tel(01865) 241353 E-mail:President (Theo Mills) [president@oxford-union.org](mailto:president@oxford-union.org) \*\* MayDay is the official opening of the **LOFT** (Library of Free Thought) in Penzance. It will be selling anarchist and alternative books, mags, postcards with meeting space. Contact LOFT, PO Box 19, Penzance, TR18 2YP Tel 01736 331236 \*\* A **'No War but the Class War'** discussion group has been set up in London for people from differing political backgrounds-anarchist, Trotskyist, libertarian Marxist etc., who oppose NATO intervention but want to maintain a socialist or working class perspective. Meet every Wed, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., London WC1. Holborn tube. Email: [escape6@hotmail.com](mailto:escape6@hotmail.com) \*\* **The Ecstasy.org website**, is being relaunched on Wed Feb 3rd. Hosting the first on-line edition of Nicholas Saunders last book on ecstasy: "Ecstasy Reconsidered"- the most comprehensive and authoritative work on the subject to date. For scientific research-user experiences and the interactive ecstasy testing database surf on into [www.ecstasy.org](http://www.ecstasy.org) For info. Tel: 01718369404 or email: [nicholas@ecstasy.org](mailto:nicholas@ecstasy.org) \*\* **London Anarchist Black Cross**, supporting class struggle prisoners, if you want to fight, inform and organise against the prison system then join 'em at 7.30pm, 1st and 3rd Tues of every month, Red Rose Pub, 129 Seven Sisters rd. N7 (tube Finsbury Park) email: [londonABC@hotmail.com](mailto:londonABC@hotmail.com) \*\* G.M.

## RIOT NOT DIET!

**FREE CAKE!** At the no-diet day celebrations, Thurs 6th May at 4pm in the Pavillion gardens (or Churchill Sq. if it's raining) Bring your bellies and bikinis and let it all hang out..bare your beauty-if you've got it, flaunt it! The diet industry is there to make money out of our insecurities, remember the saying "you can never be too rich or too thin"? Well who wants to be a capitalist bastard and waste their life obsessing about their weight? Learn to love your body as it really is. Babes and boyz welcome of all shapes and sizes, **WE'LL BE HAVIN'TT LARGE!**

## BELT UP

People who said the building of the Newbury Bypass would lead to the opening of greenbelt land had their worse fears confirmed on Wednesday, when planning permission was given to VODAFONE to build a massive new HQ on a greenfield site in the area.

One resident told SchNEWS "Vodaphones attitude to this town has been appalling, nothing less than blackmail, telling residents they would pull out of the town if they did not get planning permission."

Vodafone refused to contemplate moving to other sites such as vacated MoD site or Greenham Common (which they reckoned was a security risk because of the peace women there - all three of them.)

Funnily enough, Vodafone were supporters of the pro-bypass campaign.

During the six hour Council meeting it was estimated that the company had earned around half a million pounds.

# BIGGHAM BULLSHIT

**"It is hypocrisy for Sir Robin to accuse Med T.V. of incitement to violence when he is a director of a company selling arms to a security force which tortures and kills it's own people"**

Rachel Harford, CAAT.

Sir Robin Biggaham, a director of British Aerospace(BAe), would seem to be engaged in a 'serious conflict of interest' or blatant hypocrisy concerning his role as chairman of the Independent Television Commission(ITC). He is apparently unaware of the irony of the ITC decision to revoke the license of the Kurdish satellite station Med.T.V. for repeatedly flouting the regulations on incitement to violence and impartiality by sympathising with Turkey's Kurdish separatists. Strange, considering that BA has landed an \$18 million contract to start licensed production in Turkey of assault rifles and grenade launchers for the security forces whose reputation for human rights abuses have been repeatedly documented. So the senile old bastard is not prepared to tolerate the use of tv to encourage violence but sees no problem with his company selling arms to a security force which tortures and kills it's own people, an incident in keeping with their long-term tendency to sell arms to repressive regimes. Since the guns will be made locally in Ankara, BAe avoids having to apply for an export license-a handy little scam. The factory in Ankara is now exporting 500 machine guns to the Indonesian Police, friendly types these guys!

BA is also currently trying to buy a Roman Catholic Church in Wharton, Lancashire, so it can improve access to the factory where 16 Hawk jets are being built for Indonesia. BAe's Don MacLean kindly explained to protesters "sometimes you have to leave your conscience at the door" In other words, as long as the cash keeps rolling in they just don't give a shit. Tel: CAAT on 0171 2810297 web-site: [www.gn.apc.org/caat](http://www.gn.apc.org/caat)

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## ...and finally...

Spooky goings-on's at the new HQ for the Intelligence and Security Centre (ISC, an all-services agency established in 1996 to coordinate covert intelligence operations) Apparently the 850-year old Chicksands Priory near Bedford, is haunted by at least nine spirits, including a nun called Rosata who was entombed after being forced to watch her lover's execution. After several sightings, unexplained laughter and moving lights in unoccupied rooms, the MoD deployed surveillance equipment and seismic sensors but drew a blank. Head of the ISC, Brigadier Chris Holten, appreciates the irony of an intelligence agency being haunted by spooks. He believes the apparitions are recordings of "traumatic events imprinted in the fabric of the building". Permission has been obtained for a new investigation involving ISC personnel using high-tech pressure sensors, night vision recorders, infrared video, temperature and movement sensors, to prove Brig. Holten's conviction that there is a "spiritual element to the intelligence business".

## DISCLAIMER....

SchNEWS warns all readers to get their finger out and give the Private Finance Initiative a good kickin' otherwise what's left of our public services will go down the tube.Honest

P.S. Don't forget Reclaim The Streets Party this Saturday. Bus tickets from Brighton Peace Centre P.P.S. Tune into radio 4A this Sunday 10am onwards 106.6 fm-worth listening to..