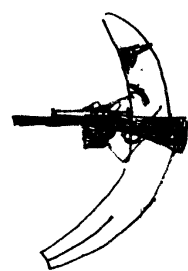


WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER COOL BANANA !

# SchNEWS

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## KILLER CORPUS GO BANANAS

*"Has the world gone mad or is it me?"*

Dave Brock- *Master of the Universe*

Late last year, the guardians of freedom and democracy felt compelled to mount a tactical trade offensive against small Caribbean farmers, as a golden thankyou to Carl H. Lindner, the Chief Execution Officer of Chiquita Brands International, who donated \$500,000 dollars to Democrat funds.

Only hours after receiving this philanthropic gesture the Clinton administration lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) charging the EU with having a 'discriminatory' approach to importing bananas. That is, the EU support the Caribbean economies which rely on banana exports for survival, in preference to the economies of the expansionist corporations which have controlled Central America's "banana republics" with an iron fist for decades.

The US is now threatening action against a range of European business from Italian light fittings to Scottish cashmere sweaters, in response to the \$520 million US banana giants Chiquita, Dole and Del Monte claim they 'lose due to unfair trade' each year. Chiquita alone is worth \$14 billion.

Like one of those baby fishies that just gets bigger and bigger by eating all the smaller baby fishies in the same creek who think it's harmless cos it looks the same as them, the US Killer Corps have gone to war on their allies.

The ACP banana trade is rooted in colonialism which has left Caribbean economies dependent on exports to Europe for survival

Now small Caribbean farmers are facing ruin because the Chiquita-Dole cartel, which own massive plantations in Latin America, effectively act as price setters.

*"Take a drive around the island and the decline is evident. Everybody you speak to will tell you that the banana industry is heading for the rocks. Just a few years ago there were 6500 banana growers, these days there are only between 3000 and 4000 in an atmosphere of total uncertainty"*

Windward Islands Farmer's Association.

The real costs of banana production are not included in the current retail price. Banana production in the Windwards is characterised by smallholders, who grow their fruit on family owned farms. The system is labour intensive, and use of agrochemicals is low. Despite the pressures, banana quality from the Islands is on the up. Bananas are Britain's most popular fruit and consumption is increasing. In a fair

world you would think there would be room for the smallholders. But Chiquita has 70% of the EU banana market and wants the lot.

*"The market is now governed solely by the classic supply and demand mechanism. Within the new system, only the most competitive producers will be able to supply the European market. Banana Link*

So let's look at the world of banana dollars and see if we like it.

●Transnational business methods in the 'banana republics' have followed a familiar pattern of eviction, exploitation and negligence.

●In Guatemala, a union officer organising Chiquita plantation workers was shot dead in 1994 while other trade unionists received death threats.

●In Honduras, in 1996, an entire village of 600 people in a banana plantations was bulldozed by troops. Chiquita said the land was no longer suitable, and people must be evicted so it could be sold - then they leased it to a former employee who continued with slashed labour costs. Chiquita was later revealed to have bought food and fuel for the army unit carrying out the clearances.

●And last week Chiquita laid off 6000 workers in Honduras and Guatemala only 120 days in the wake of a hurricane. They have received no financial assistance for the last two months. The company is trying to get unions to agree to lower wages and reduced social benefits.

'Banana dollar' production requires massive capital investments in the form of roads, irrigation and drainage. Plantations have an unhappy history of low-wages, limited worker's rights, poor working conditions and high levels of agrochemical use.

Frequent applications of the pesticide DBCP (banned in the countries which produced it) together with inadequate protection, has led to more than 20,000 cases of male sterility amongst workers. Both Chiquita and Dole are involved in legal cases brought by those affected. For every ton of bananas shipped, two tons of waste are left behind while an average Costa Rican consumes an incredible 4kg of pesticides a year, eight times the world average. Chiquita's track record is one of aggression, intimidation and brutality in pursuit of massive profits

SchNews ain't 'avin it and maybe you ain't either, so this weeks alternative is to discriminate like fuck against Chiquita and support fair trade bananas by buying those labelled Windward Islands (5 Isles bananas) We do not recommend readers find out where Chiquita CEO Lindner lives, buy a Chiquita banana, tie up the slimeball, and shove said banana, now coated in a powerful fixative up the tosser's rectum.

**World Development Movement,**  
25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR  
0171 737 6215 - [www.oneworld.org/wdm](http://www.oneworld.org/wdm)  
**Banana Link**  
38-40 Exchange St, Norwich NR2 1XA

**DOUBLE BILLING**  
**SPECTACULAR**  
**Thursday 18th March**  
**REBEL ALLIANCE**

7 pm sharp upstairs at  
**Hobgoblin Pub, London Road**  
Followed by **SchNEWS**  
BENEFIT  
**EXODUS COLLECTIVE**  
**GROUND ZERO**

@ New Madeira Hotel, 19-23 Marine Parade (along the seafront).  
8 - 9.30 pm SchNEWS live! & talk and film from the Exodus Collective then music till 2 am  
**Just £3**  
Transport is hopefully being sorted to get people from the Alliance to Maderia Hotel

### PARK PRANKS

The protest camp at Ashton Court Park in Bristol is calling it a day. For nearly a year protestors have tried to stop the expansion of Durnford Quarry into the park. With the meadow 'translocated' and blasting imminent, it was time to say goodbye, but not without the last few laughs.

Ashton Court was given to the people of Bristol in 1959 with the condition that nothing be done that 'would detract from its value as a recreation ground or prejudice the enjoyment of the people'. Realising that turning the park into an open quarry and destroying the habitats of rare orchids and other wildlife might just 'prejudice their enjoyment' of it, two protestors absailed into the quarry and occupied a ledge above a load of explosives that were due to be detonated five minutes later. They were evicted by police after 32 hours and are in court at the end of the month. Meanwhile the quarry manager had his lawn translocated onto his driveway - and a daffodil planted on the roof of his car. Translocation means digging up everything and placing the land elsewhere. Surprise, surprise, it never works but it makes for good greenwash!

# RIGHT TO STAND on roadside victory

All at SchNEWS towers can sleep soundly tonight, safe in the knowledge that we are free to stand on the verge next to the road-side and not fear arrest. The Lord Chancellor decided last Thursday to uphold the quashing of the conviction of two people who were hanging out round Stonehenge one summer solstice, and nicked under the trespassory assembly section of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA). The clause was originally intended to make assemblies of 20 or more people a criminal offence, but the ruling could make this unworkable.

However, before you get carried away with all these new rights, and run out there to stand on your nearest road-side, beware! You can only do so if you have a "reasonable purpose", or the "activity in question does not amount to a public or private nuisance and does not obstruct the highway by unreasonably impeding the primary right of the public to pass and repass" (got that) Rest assured, we can continue to protest peacefully, while our lungs fill up with carbon monoxide.

# RIGHT TO WALK in the countryside shocker

While you're recovering from the shock of discovering that you can stand on the verge of the A303, there's more! Jump for joy, Michael "Swampy" Meacher, this week announced a right to roam across 4 million acres of open land in the UK. It is surely only a matter of time before all land in the UK is collectivised, and we live in anarchist communes, eating root vegetables, sharing stories of the revolution.

However, don't get too excited, as there's no timetable for legislation, and it could get amended beyond all recognition by House of Commons committees, or by those well known guardians of the freedom to access, the House of Lords. Richard Moysie from Land Is Ours told SchNEWS "It's a start, but not entirely satisfactory".

Meanwhile the Local Access Forums could end up a bureaucratic nightmare over-seen by the Countryside Agency, which as we pointed out in last weeks SchNEWS is headed by landed gentry bod and former president of the Country Landowners Association, Ewan, (just like putting an alcoholic in charge of a pub) Cameron.

**\*Mass Trespass** Sunday March 21st Meet Brighton Station 10 am sharp. Six miles walk. No dogs. £5 travel costs. Tel 01273 620815

**\*Sat April 3rd land occupation** somewhere in the south of England, to celebrate 350th anniversary of Diggers occupation of St. George's Hill.

The Land Is Ours, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX41RQ Tel 01865 722016  
www.oneworld.org/tlio

## SECURITY GUARDS ROB LOCAL SHOPS

As SchNEWS went to press, the eviction at Crystal Palace entered its tenth day with people still down the tunnels trying to stop a massive leisure complex being built in the park (see SchNEWS 203). While Bromley Council moan about "professional protestors... preventing those in the surrounding area who are unemployed and unskilled from the opportunities that will..." blah, yawn, they stay stony silent about the fact that some private security guards from Pilgrim Security have been nicked during the eviction after robbing the local off-licence and petrol station.

There's a massive party planned this Saturday (13th) Meet 12 noon at the Palace Paarde. Contact the Campaign 0181 693 8200

# Subscribe!

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

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

Help! We need people to DTP the next SchNEWS book. Urgent!!!

# SchNEWS in brief

We kid you not – after last weeks SchNEWS revelation that **McDonalds** gives cash to the Tidy Britain Group comes this little gem. Operation Eyesore is a new campaign "designed to encourage improvement in London's most tired and neglected areas." People can nominate their favourite blots on the landscape by picking up leaflets from...any central London McDeadly. \*\*McDogshit is planning to build a giant 1,000 diner restaurant which will dominate the approach to the **Millenium Dome**. When Tony Blair was asked why the so-called showcase of British culture should be sponsored by "a great big American fast food corporation, which would probably try to reduce it to a large McDome and fries?" he replied that the project needed all the sponsors it could get. \*\*\* The **Erotic Oscars** male and female striptease artists semi-finals are on 31st March at Improv, 161 Tottenham Court Rd., London, W1P . £10/6 conc. Money raised will go to the Leydig Trust – helping disabled people find partners \*\*\* SchNEWS has unconfirmed reports from Topshop that they are withdrawing their **kipper tie** range after they were found to contain genetically modified organisms \*\*\* There's a '**Kitsch Bitch**' exhibition at The Last Chance Saloon all this month featuring freaks, monsters and a host of fanatics and revolutionaires 88 Lower Marsh, Waterloo, London, SE1 7AB (Waterloo tube) Ring 0171 7717466 for opening times \*\*\* **Lyminge Forest** in Kent, has now been occupied for two years to stop the RANK corporation destroying 500 acres of green belt land for a leisure complex. There will be a gathering on Sunday 21st March from 12 noon looking to create a **NO SINGLE ISSUE SITE**, uniting different campaigns and creative stuff. Contact Jani on 0171 231 0181 or 9797025 3931 \*\*\* Yesterday saw the first ever conviction of a milk fur-farmer for animal cruelty. The farmer who had all his milk released by the ALF recently was fined a pathetic £5,000. If you want to really rub it in there's a demo outside his Windmill Mink Farm, Shaftesbury Rd, Child Okeford, Dorset on Sunday 21st March 11.30 am e-mail: caft@caft.demon.co.uk \*\*\* On Saturday 20th March there's another day of action **Hillgrove Farm**, against cat-breeders for vivisection, meeting at the main gates 12 noon. There are also skills days for animal rights campaigners in Brighton and Birmingham on Sunday 28th March – advice on running an effective campaign, using hidden cameras, and how to deal with all those friendly coppers. For more info call 0121 632 6460. \*\*\* On the same theme, two activists charged with '**conspiracy to commit criminal damage**' after a genetic crop site was trashed will be in Plymouth Crown Court on Monday 29th March and request 'loud and colourful support'. \*\*\* **The End is Nigh** West London Anarchists and Radicals are organising a 'not yer normal' benefit night on Friday 19th March at the Venture Centre, 103A Wornington Rd, (Westbourne Park tube) 8 – 11pm. \*\*The prison service may have to pay up to £1 million in compensation to higher waged inmates who were charged for board and lodging under a policy introduced by the last Tory government. \*\*

Following on from last year's Mayday event in Bradford, there will be a three day **Easter Rising** in Glasgow on April 2nd-4th for discussing global capitalism, multinationals, consumerism, and (more excitingly) how to oppose it all. Contact CI [autonomy] on 0141 810 3001 or e-mail radfest@yahoo.com \*\* Free Range Activism Network is running a day workshop on **landfills**, how they work, how they get built, and the risks to the environment and human health they present. 11am to 4.00pm, Sat. 20th March at The Stewponey pub, Stourton, nr. Stourbridge. Contact Chris Smart on 01384 877020 email mobbsey@gn.apc.org

# RUSSIAN REVOLUTION DEJA VU

A Workers' Collective Committee has taken over a machine-building plant in Yasnogorsk, a town of 20,000 people near Moscow. The 4,200 workers are battling the Communist Party local authority and the (Yeltsinite) privatization program for the plant. In 1990, the factory was turned into a joint stock company in which the workers held a majority of shares. Last September the workers and shareholders of the plant dismissed the Administration at a general meeting. When the "owners" of the plant refused to recognize the results, the workers seized control. A Soviet-style Workers Collective was set up and now oversees admin, production, selling, all finances, distribution of wages and the town as a whole. Last December 10,000 people from Yasnogorsk marched to block the railway line into Moscow to support demands for the release from prison of the worker-elected directors of the factory and to stop the privatization move. It was only the mobilization of special police forces which prevented the workers from paralyzing one of the main railways in Russia. The Yasnogorsk workers say, "This is our revolution" and are appealing for international solidarity in the fight against the trend towards private property and global capitalism.

## RIP

Once again the message from Colombia is 'Don't fuck with the oil barons.' Two years ago the U'wa people won a law suit to stop US firm Occidental Petroleum (working with Shell of course) from drilling in their lands. They had threatened mass suicide believing that if oil ('the blood of the earth') was extracted it would mean the end of the tribe. Helping them with their legal battle and deeply committed to the Uwa people, was Terence Freitas who along with Ingrid Washinawatok and Lahe'ena'e Gay were kidnapped last week on their way to the reserve. Their bodies were found bound, blindfolded and bullet ridden. No one has yet claimed responsibility for their deaths.

SchNEWS dedicates this weeks issue to them. \* Berito KuwarU'wa from the tribe will open the Earth Centre near Doncaster on March 28th. Contact 01709 512000

## ...and finally...

Heard the one about Hunt Liaison Police officer from Wiltshire who got together with his mates from the Countryside Alliance and Master of Fox Hounds Association and produced, after 'lengthy consultation' a code of conduct for hunt protestors "which everyone agreed was the way forward". Apart of course Hunt Sabs and the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS), who seem to have been overlooked in the 'lengthy consultation' process. The code includes gems like

*"Do not attempt to interfere with the hunt, engage in any form of sabotage be it direct action or subtle tactics (ie use of whips, horns, sprays, shouting/yelling or the use of your vehicle in any manner to obstruct/cause nuisance to the hunt".*

*"In the interests of safety should an injured fox be required to be dug out and humanely destroyed a 50 metre exclusion zone will be in force."*

Which would just about make hunt sabbing totally ineffective... Talking of coppers, the first hard evidence (if any was needed) that foxes suffer stress and exhaustion from being hunted came early in February, when a fox being chased by a hunt, sought refuge down a rabbit hole. 'Copper' the fox was eventually rescued by sabs and taken to a vet and is now recovering. SchNEWS wishes 'copper' well - tho' we think the idea of sending 'Get well soon cards' a little odd. Wouldn't it prefer a nice juicy....

disclaimer "Cone on punk, make my day!"

