



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER TALKIN' RUBBISH!

SchNEWS

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Issue 308/309

SITA'S A PARROT

"This unelected, unaccountable multinational is holding the City to ransom."

Gary Smith, GMB Official

Within a week of Labour winning the election with the promise of privatising our public services, refuse collectors in their flagship city of Brighton are getting a taste of what Blair and co have in store – sackings, attacks on working conditions and profiteering as services get poorer. Or to put it another way...

After one of the largest votes of no confidence in politicians since 1918, Blair, his town-hall-cronies-by-the-sea and their mates in multinational companies are getting a taste of what they can expect when they take on public workers and our basic services – strike action, occupation and direct action in resistance to corporations' slow destruction of our public services.

Brighton's refuse workers went to work this Monday to find that SITA – the French multinational with the contract to clear Brighton's rubbish – had imposed increased workloads, that the workers knew would be impossible to deliver. One typical run would involve one driver and two others sweeping a major part of the sea front, an entire estate and a bit more for luck. As one refuse worker told SchNEWS, "What would you do if you went into work and were told you had to clean 18 miles of streets a day?"

What 11 workers did was refuse to do these impossible rounds – and they were promptly suspended. When the rest of the 160-strong GMB workforce protested against this, SITA's management sacked the lot. It was the last straw - the workforce occupied the depot. They demanded that SITA, who have cost local people an extra £1.8m a year since they took over Brighton's street cleaning, get the sack and that they get back to the job of cleaning streets - instead of increasing some company's stock market value.

SITA brought in bin lorries to a nearby industrial park where they tried to get employment agency workers to scab against the strike. It didn't work. In an unusual political alliance, local Green Party councillors emerged as the only politicians in touch with the widespread local disgust at SITA's profiteering, while supporters of the Free Party – fresh from cheerful annihilation at the polls – persuaded employment agency workers that if they scabbed they wouldn't be welcome anymore at Brighton free parties. Party politics, Jim, but not as we know it. One local activist called "Jamie" got up at 5am to lock onto one of the trucks for five hours, preventing the rest from moving. As one striker put it, "This fellow is crazy but what he has done is much appreciated".

Faced with a determined strikeforce occupying its depot with enormous local support, SITA's bullying started to crack. Employment agencies started refusing to have anything to do with them. SITA workers in neighbouring areas suddenly developed strange, short-term illnesses when asked to scab. The local council held hours of secret meetings with SITA but couldn't come up with a way to beat the strike.

By Thursday evening, SITA and the council had caved in. All the workers were reinstated, getting full pay for the time they were on strike. SITA were given 11 weeks notice that their contract was being terminated – and they could forget their new work practices in the meantime.

GMB official Gary Smith told SchNEWS, "SITA deliberately provoked this dispute by trying to lock members out. Unfortunately for them, the workers decided to lock themselves in. We had enormous public support from the local unemployed centre, direct action people and loads of different communities who are fed up with their services being run for profit. We should take inspiration from this fight, because it shows that when people get together we can stop privatisation in its tracks."

SITA on it

We all know that recycling is the only good thing to do with our waste, but currently in this country we only manage a meagre 8% while other European countries recycle over half. In Canberra, Australia, they're aiming for zero waste production by 2005. Recycling makes not only environmental but also economic sense. It would reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and creates jobs- in Germany more people are employed in recycling than in steel and telecommunications. But building up a recycling scheme takes time and for short term, quick buck companies like SITA it is a simple inconvenience- cos' time is money.

Luckily not all organisations have the same approach as SITA. There are over 200 community recycling groups in this country who are constantly challenging attitudes to waste. Of the seven Beacon awards for innovation in waste management, 5 were awarded to councils who involved community recyclers. The town with the highest recycling levels in the country – Bath, has (you guessed it) community recyclers involved. Here in Brighton, the Magpie recycling co-operative has been operating for 10 years. From providing Brighton's first recycling bin in the Hanover Centre, they now provide domestic recycling for 5000 homes (using converted milk floats) and 400

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For making a mess of the carpet!

17 people were arrested and charged with 'public violence against the floor and carpeting' during a 'bloodbath' inside the Dutch parliament building.

The demonstrators aided with bottles of ketchup and chilli sauce, were protesting against plans to let America use Dutch airbases in their so called war on drugs in Colombia (see SchNEWS 273).

For the full story check out www.squat.net/cineak

businesses and pubs. They also run a furniture recycling scheme.

Bottled it

Despite the excellent record of the co-ops and community groups, they rarely get awarded the big municipal waste contracts. One of the main reasons is the way contracts are awarded – only companies with a large turnover are deemed "responsible" enough to handle a large contract. In Brighton this has meant that SITA won the contract to be in control of everything to do with waste- clean the streets, collect waste, and recycle it. From their short term view recycling doesn't make financial sense. They're bidding to run Sussex's proposed incinerators, and they'll have needed to set aside some rubbish to burn. Companies have sussed that there's no way they can loose with incinerator's cos they can sue the council if they don't get enough waste to burn. This will severely hold back recycling for the lifespan of the incinerator.

SITA on my face

SITA's failure to provide a good service is an important kick in the teeth to the privatisation of public services. The GMB, the union representing the sacked binmen are keen to explore the possibility in setting up a workers co-op to take over Brighton's waste contract. This will be owned by the workers and run for the benefit of the people of Brighton. If this did happen they would be the first co-op running an entire municipal refuse service in this country. As one Magpie worker told SchNEWS "The possibility of a workers' co-op running the contract instead of one big waste company opens up some very exciting opportunities to create a social enterprise with some very different approaches to our waste strategy."

This whole scenario is nothing new. In France when it became evident that multinationals were more interesting in recycling taxpayer's money than people's waste, local referendums were held and they were kicked out in favour of the original community groups.

* Magpie 01273 688022

* Community Recycling Network www.crn.org.uk

PARTY & PROTEST - JUNE & JULY

JUNE

18 Actions at Ministry of Defence national purchasing centre in Bristol. North of Bristol, at Filton Abbey Wood. Action called by campaigners against depleted uranium, inviting everyone to picket, climb, lock on, ... as long as it's non-violent, imagination is the limit. Poss. accommodation in Bristol info: www.access.lowtech.org/collectableanorak ** **18 Sheffield Environmental Action present a public meeting on the Zapatistas.** With Mexican and British activists. Arthur Anderson Room, Students Union, Red Deer pub, Pitt St. 8pm. www.sheffieldmayday.ukf.net ** **18 Elephants - Do they have a future? Coexistence not Conservation.** Talk by Bill Jordan, Vice Chair of the RSPCA and founder of Care for the Wild. APE, The Bathouse, Gwydir St. Cambridge, 8pm. ** **18 Phone Blockade of Dow Chemicals** - part of the campaign to close down **Huntingdon Life Sciences** (01462 457 272/01235 772 900/01642 374 000/01553 692 100/0208 917 5000) Let them know what you think of this supplier of animals to the vivisection trade. www.shac.net ** **18 Campaign Against Criminalising Communities meeting/Campaigning for the repeal of the Terrorism Act** and for the recognition of the 21 banned groups (SchNEWS 305) 6.45pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. 020-72501315 ** **19 Support Political prisoners in Burma.** Room Z229, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2. 6.30pm Bo Kyi, is an ex-Burmese political prisoner who has set up Assistance Association for Political Prisoners 07931 753138. www.freeburmacoalition.org ** **19 Resistance at work meeting.** Safety above all - stop so called accidents at work. Speakers include UCATT and Building Worker Group. 7.30pm, Wood Green Labour Club, Stuart Cres. N22. Haringey Solidarity Group <http://hsg.cupboard.org> ** **19 McLibel: Anniversary of 1997 High Court Victory** McLibel Support Campaign. 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. 020 77131269. Adopt-A-Store Network: 0115 958 5666 ** **19 Act Together** (a coalition of women opposed to Iraqi sanctions), is targeting women in 'decision making' positions and displaying books that were returned by customs. maysoon@oxymoronfilms.demon.co.uk ** **19 Speak Out Against Racism - Defend Asylum Seekers** and commemorate the anniversary of the deaths of the 58 Chinese people Vigil: 5.30 - 6.30pm Public Meeting: 7-8pm, Upper Hall, Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, London SW1. 020 72479907 / 07879 612234. ** **20 Online-demonstration against the deportation business.** More than 40,000 people a year are being deported from Germany, most of these by plane, they are often fettered, gagged and drugged. Amir Ageeb from Sudan died from mistreatment by German border police while being deported on a Lufthansa plane in 1999. This is a call to block website of Lufthansa Airlines, in which flights can be booked; enough hits and this webpage can be blocked: online-demo@gmx.net ** **20 Vivisection in the 21st Century** @ University of London Union, Malet St., London WC1. Tickets in advance from the Vivisection Information Network, PO Box 223, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 5ZU 07950 570324 ** **21 "The proposed Hastings bypass and its link to International Capitalism"** The Carlisle Pub, 24 Pelham Street/Carlisle Parade, Hastings, 8pm ** **21 In protest of George W. Bush's energy policies** and lack of emphasis on efficiency, conservation and alternative fuels, there will be a voluntary rolling blackout on the first day of Summer across the planet 7 pm - 10 pm in every time zone. But will it be dark in the UK by 10pm? ** **21**

THE WOMBLES present "for your Solstice Special Treat something strange and beautiful" with The Big Striptease, and more - The Swan, Tottenham. 7-11.30pm £3/£2 unwaged. 0789 0360640 www.womblection.mrnice.net ** **20-24 Healing Field Gathering.** 0177 955 6690 www.healingfield.btinternet.co.uk ** **21 Summer Solstice** 8.33am, access to Stonehenge for sunrise. 07748 954954 ** **21 Cardiff Drop the Debt** - Meal and info evening. Jubilee Wales 01286 882359 ** **22-8 July. Sussed'n'Able** Permaculture Design Course. email resi@tesco.net or call 01248-490578. ** **23 Alternative Glastonbury.** 24 hour extravaganza with Firestarter Stage TBC. 020 85093353 www.continentaldrifts.uk.com ** **23 Public Service Announcement** Benefit night punk/reggae/ska/djs 7.30pm-1am, Chat's Palace (Arts and Community Centre), 42-44 Brooksby's Walk, Homerton, Hackney E9. Benefit for RTS, PGA, IndyMedia and No Borders. 020 8533 0227 publica@tarakan.demon.co.uk ** **23 Covence Campaign National Summer Demo** in Harrogate. "Pills That Kill" will focus on human casualties of animal tested drugs. Tel: 07960 900401 ** **23 National demo against Huntingdon Life Sciences** Meet Parker's Piece, Cambridge, 12 noon. Contact SHAC 0845 4580630 www.shac.net ** **23 Justice for Jimmy Ingram** - 9 years in gaol for a crime he didn't commit. 1-2pm outside HMP Maidstone, County Rd. Contact PO Box 781, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7FB ** **23 March Against Racism and Brutality** by Haringey and Hackney police. 12 noon, Tottenham police station, march to Wood Green Library. marchagainstracism@yahoo.co.uk ** **23 - July 9 International conference on 'Non-violence in the context of war and armed conflict'** at Wustrow, Germany. Info: kurve-wustrow@oln.comlink.apc.org ** **22-24 June 12th National Hazards Conference** at UMIST Sackville Street, Manchester. 0161 953 407. ** **24 European Sun Day** www.sundayeurope.com ** **25-27 Meeting of the World Bank, Barcelona.** CANCELLED (SchNEWS 306) - but actions will still be continuing www.j15.org ** **25 Day Of Action Against Novartis** june25@shacusa.net ** **25 -1 July National Vegetarian Week** 0161 9252000 ** **25-26 Starbucks Days of Action** pressure them to stop using GM and start using fair trade. Everywhere. Contact: www.organicconsumers.org/starbucks ** **26 Leicester Radical Alliance meeting.** The Secular Hall, Humberstone Gate, Leicester 7.30pm <http://radical.members.beeb.net> ** **26 Mass trespass to protect the peat bogs of Hatfield moor.** www.cornerstone.ukf.net/crc/ ** **27 LX Cool Fes-**

tival, Lisbon, Portugal. ** **27 Rock around the blockade will be taking its Boycott Bacardi Campaign** to cities all across Britain - Glasgow Campaign Launch 7.30 pm, Glasgow Caledonian University Hamish Wood Building, Rm.W323. 07899 810735 pmallonfrfi@yahoo.co.uk ** **29-1 July Anti-Sanctions Conference** Gathering in solidarity with the people of Iraq, Fri eve till 3pm Sun, Kingsley Hall, Powis Road, London E2. www.viwuk.freemove.co.uk or www.casi.org.uk ** **29-1 July Winchester Hat Fair.** For all you summer fete massive Tel: 01962 849841 www.hatfair.co.uk ** **30 Statewatching the new Europe:** Uni of London SU, Malet St., London. Statewatch 020 88021882 www.statewatch.org ** **30 Mardi Gras, Finsbury Park, London.** 1-10pm £15. Sponsored by Eurostar, Virgin and Ford! www.londonmardigras.com ** **30 Forget Mardi Gras, La Di-Dah!** Pisstake of the commercialisation of the Mardi Gras festival. 3pm till dusk in Finsbury Park. Contact anarquist@chickmailchickmail.com ** **30 Skateboard festival at Clissold Park, London** 0208 3566415 www.stokenewingtonfestival.co.uk ** **30 National Day of Action against the Fur Trade in London** Meet 11am Trafalgar Square. 0845 4584775 ** **30 Palestine: the New Apartheid - Building the Solidarity Movement,** 11am-4.30pm at University of London Union, Mallet St, London.

For all your latest parties and protests check out the SchNEWS website - updated every week.

JULY

1 "Wherever You Are" Action by The Freedom To Be Yourself naked crew. 2pm. www.geocities.com/thehumanmind ** **1 Falmouth Big Green Fair** 01326 375158 ** **1 Metropolis Festival - Rotterdam** ** **1-3 Protests** against the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Right-Wing-Populist Austrian Government, Salzburg, Austria. www.antiwef.org ** **2 Red Rambles Cromford Canal to Scarthin Promenade** 0177827513 <http://members.tripod.co.uk/ainema/index-2.html> ** **4 Menwith Hill - Independence from America day - at Menwith Hill Spy Base.** (SchNEWS 307) Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, 01943 466405 www.caab.org.uk ** **6 Dour Festival, Belgium** - sounds fun! ** **6-8 Larmer Tree Festival,** Victorian Gardens, Cranborne Chase. off A354 near Blandford. 40 artists, free campsite 01722 45223 www.larmertree.demon.co.uk ** **6-8 Organic Food and Wine Festival** West Hall, Alexandra Palace, London. 020 8746 2832 www.organicfoodwinefestival.co.uk ** **6-8 Willow Festival** Six stages and 120 bands - FREE. May be some camping www.willowfestival.co.uk ** **6-9 'Camping is Fun' at Aldermaston atomic weapons establishment.** Contact: 0708 553 778 or email aldermastonwpc@hotmail.com ** **7 March to have British Sign Language recognised as an official language** (SchNEWS 301). 12 noon, Uni of London Union, Malet St, London (Euston Sq tube) www.fdp.org.uk ** **7 WOMBLES Wimbledon Picnic** Bring the whole padded family, food, drink, musical instruments... Meet @ Wimbledon Tube @ 2pm. Call 07960 973 847 www.womblection.mrnice.net ** **7 Peace Messenger Fair** Noon-7pm Hove Lawns, Brighton seafont. 01273 676957 email danny@dharmony.freemove.co.uk ** **7 Pole Pole Festival, Ghent, Belgium** ** **7 Northern Anarchist Network summer conference,** Hebden



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Bridge 10.30am -5.30pm. Contact 0161 707 9652
www.perso.libertysurf.co.uk/northernanarchistnet/
 index ** **7-8 T in the Park** Tel: 0115 912 9190
www.tinthepark.com ** **8 Ambient Green Picnic, Shalford Park, Guildford.**
www.ambientpicnic.co.uk ** **8 Lewisham Peoples Day** www.lewisham.gov.uk ** **9 Mad Pride Day of Action - Bollocks to Compulsory Treatment Orders.** 8am Picket the AGM of Royal College of Psychiatrists and more. Contact 07958-907357 or PO Box. 4144, Worthing BN14 7NZ
www.madpride.net ** **9-11 Exploring Cyber Society II - Dissent and Deviance in the Information Age.** University of Northumbria, Newcastle.
www.unn.ac.uk/corporate/cybersociety ** **10 Book launch "Trident on Trial"** 7.30pm, Conway Hall, London, with Tony Benn and Roy Bailey www.tridentploughshares.org ** **11 International Day of Action against ExxonMobil (ESSO)** - picket their petrol stations,

refineries or offices. This lot are President Bush's biggest supporters encouraging him to increase global warming. www.globalwarming.isbad.net ** **12-13 Renewable Energy Fair,** Stroud Town Centre, Gloucestershire. Contact Energy 21 on 01453 752277 www.energy21.org.uk ** **13-22 Anti-racist, Anti-sexist Summer Camp** Bremen, Germany www.summertimecamp.squat.net and www.ainfos.ca ** **13-14 Berlin Love Parade** ** **13-15 Essential Music Festival.** Hackney Marshes, London. Dance Saturday, Roots Sunday. £35 a day. www.essentialfestival.com ** **13-15 Roots, Hoots & Boots Festival** at Bradninch, Devon. Tel: 01392 881304DB / 01392 881916JC.



Email: dik-banovich@bigfoot.com ** **14 Global Boycott of Procter & Gamble Day.** www.uncaged.co.uk/ 0114-253-0020 ** **14-15 Bristol Community Festival, Hengrove Park.** Finest free event in the West Country. Tel: 0117 904 2275 www.digitalbristol.org/members/bcf/index.htm ** **14-22 Foot and Mouth. A festival of Resistance and Revolution.** As in Foot it round Edinburgh on the 14th and Mouth off letting people know about the festival on 21/22. Free. www.mouthoff.org.uk ** **14 Vauxhall Music Festival,** Spring Gardens, London. 020 7793 026 email vstphc@aol.com ** **14 London Permaculture Gathering,** Islington. Starting 11am with a guided tour of the city's forest gardens. 020 7281 3765 ** **14-15 Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival,** nr Dorchester, Dorset. Tel: 0117 947 0521. Email: southwest@tuc.org.uk

14-21 Climate Change Talks, Bonn, Germany. From the 16th delegates from all over the world will converge in Bonn to carry on the farce of the Kyoto 'climate talks'- the most corporate-friendly environmental treaty in history (SchNEWS 285). Some of the events planned: 16 Critical mass bike demonstration, 17-18 workshops and planning, 19 Global day of direct action - if you can't make it to Bonn do something in your area, 21 Friends of the Earth mass action: building of huge lifeboat-Noah's ark 27 Final action. For info about travel to Bonn and accommodation contact Rising tide coalition - 01132629365 www.risingtide.org.uk Friends of the Earth 020 7490 0881 www.foe.co.uk

15 Russian Protest Camp Lockheed Martin, is planning to build a factory to process old heavy rocket fuel in Votkinsk with a population of 100,000, because they were refused a plot in the Nevada desert! Autonomous Action of Moscow, dikobrazi@lists.tao.ca ** **15 Summer Garden Fayre** at the HDRA organic gardens, Coventry. Guided tours, kids entertainment, organic advice desk. £3/kids free 024 7630 3517 www.hdra.org.uk ** **16 Torquay Festival** ** **16 - August 4 Faslane to Flyingdales** CND fund-raising walk with public meetings along the route Tel 020 7700 4524 ** **18 The New Rulers of the World - a special ITV report by John Pilger.** ** **18-22 Protest camp against Campsfield Detention Centre and the G8.** Contact g8campsfield@hotmail.com or call 07900 653990. www.closecampsfield.org.uk ** **19 "Bollocks to Compulsory Treatment Orders"- Mad Pride Benefit** at Freebutt, Richmond Tce, Brighton. Feat. Fish Brothers & more. 8-30pm £3.50/3 Contact 01903-210351 ** **20-22 Sheep Music, Presteigne, Wales. Local music event** ** **20-22 Big Chill Festival** Larmer Tree Gdns, Wilts (nr Bournemouth & Salisbury), contact 0207 688 8080, www.bigchill.net ** **20-22 Trowbridge Village Pump Festival,** Wilts. Tel: 01225 769132. Email: alan.briars@virgin.net ** **21 "Respect" festival,** Finsbury Park, London 12 noon onwards. FREE. Run DMC, Courtney Pine, FM dance stage and lots more. To promote anti racism and celebrate cultural diversity. www.respectfestival.org.uk ** **21 Leicester Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride.** From Wellington St to Victoria Park. Dress: if you want. ** **21 Love Parade, Newcastle** ** **21-23 Lakeside Festival** All night, Rother County Park.

21 - 23 G8 Summit, Genoa. The G8 is a group of the most powerful countries in the world. Their leaders are meeting (again) to discuss economic policies which will create huge gaps between rich and poor countries, threaten the global environment and generally promote nasty things. Of course, no summit would be complete without mass demonstrations. Wild rumours are spreading - all Italian borders will be closed, one part of the city will be cut off from the other, train stations, airports and the main motorways will be shut down, commandos will be 'assisting' police on the streets, marines will be patrolling the water where the delegates will meet aboard luxury cruisers anchored in Genoa bay, and George Bush decoys will be on hand to distract would-be assassins and those pesky anarchists. Yeah sure, more info www.genoa-g8.org brightoncollective@hushmail.com for transport from Brighton.

21-22 Festival of Resistance and Revolution, Studio 24, 24 Carlton Rd, Edinburgh 11am-5pm. To co-incide with the G8 Summit in Genoa. Talks, workshops, films, football etc. www.mouthoff.org.uk ** **21-22 Dartford Free Festival.** Feat. Headmix Collective + DJ's & lots more. Tel: 020 8509 3353 www.continentaldrift.uk.com ** **21-22 Bradford Mela** Largest Asian event outside of India. Cutting edge of Asian Underground, dance and Alternative. ** **25-29 ACE - African Celtic Experience Festival,** Blaennant, Carmathenshire. African drumming; dance the night away in Club Ska; mellow family atmosphere geared towards children. 5 day ticket is £78 (waged), £58 (unwaged) £7 (children) 01994 484708 ** **26 Bladelse festival,** Bladel, The Netherlands ** **26-29 Cambridge folk festival** Featuring Suzanne Vega, The Levellers, Richard Thomson Band, Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings and others. £56 (concs available) + camping. 01223 457245 www.cam-folkfest.co.uk ** **27-29 WOMAD Festival,** Rivermead, Reading, Berks Tel: 01225 744494 www.womad.org ** **27-August 5 Anti-imperialist Camp 2001,** Italy www.antimperialista.com ** **27- 11 August Tri-**

dent Ploughshares 4th Annual Summer Disarmament Camp Peaton Wood, Coulport. Info/briefing pack: 01324 880744 or 07775 711054 www.tridentploughshares.org ** **27-29 Renewable Energy Summer School,** Wales. The Old College, Uni of Wales, Aberystwyth. Fee: £35 (Concession: £25) Green Dragon Energy: 01974-821564 or dragonrg@talk21.com ** **28 The 16th Sex Maniacs' Fairy Tale Ball,** London, UK. www.sex-maniacs-ball.com ** **28 Campaign against Climate Change, March against Bush.** www.Stopesso.com ** **28-1 August Tribe of Doris,** The Leela Centre, nr Gillingham in Dorset. Global dance/sing/play heaven. £140/£12.50 kids 0117 907 3118 www.tribeofdorid.com ** **28-5 August Lammas Full Moon Celebration Camp,** Herefordshire 07787 190162 ** **29 Festival for the Homeless,** Milton Keynes Bowl. £85.00 For the Big Issue Foundation and Drum Housing Project. ** **30-5 August One World Summer Festival,** Gaunts House, Dorset. 300+ workshops. 01273 249770 www.macrobios.com **1-5 August Earth First Summer Gathering,** for everone involved or interested in ecological direct action. This year's gathering is on a beautiful site in the foothills of the Peak District. Share skills, learn what's been happening, fun activities - rock climbing, nature walks, games. Plus entertainment (sorry, no sound systems!). Cost £10 donation to cover costs. Accommodation is camping only, No dogs, no cameras. Details 0845-4589595. www.ecoaction.org/gathering



Party Briefs

*For a complete list of festivals get **Festival Eye**, now available for £3 (cheques to Festival Eye) + A4 addressed envelope from Distribution @ Festival Eye, BCM 2002, London, WC1N 3XX.

* Brighton sound system **Ground Zero** were in court this week to face the music after the Woodingdean party on the Downs a couple of weeks back when two cop cars were turned over (SchNEWS 305) In the end they got their system back but were fined £500 with £75 costs - so watch out for benefit gigs and remember to dig deep. Meanwhile Sussex police are reportedly £70,000 out of pocket, for the cost of trial and wrecked cars, while all free parties around the City are paying by having parties stopped.

* Brighton Soundsystems unite and unplug for the Solstice gathering **Burning Of The Rigs** on the beach/Madiera Drive, Brighton. 21 June 8pm, with acoustic sounds from Marmoset, members of Headmix plus fire performers, drums and more. All performers welcome. After party in Concorde 2 - free party DJ'S Take Control - 11pm-3am.

*DSG have released the POTWOW EP from the Studio 284 stable. So if you know any POTWOWs (prisoners of the war on weed), you'll be happy to know that a percentage of all sales goes to the cause. Details 01273-572277, studio284@junglelink.co.uk

More Crap Arrests

Last October, 20 young men toolled up with baseball bats, knives and other weapons entered Broomfield School and viciously attacked a 14 year old black student, who was hospitalised. Later that day students from the same school saw the attackers on the bus, and 'did the right thing' by telling the police, who then kindly laid into the students and arrested 3 of them instead of the attackers!! The three are in court 25th June, Lordship Lane Magistrates Court, London. More info Movement for Justice 07957 696636

FEELING CROSS

The first votes of election day were cast not in a ballot box, but in a field of genetically modified (GM) Oilseed Rape. In the early hours campaigners cut an 'X' shaped swathe through the controversial GM crop currently growing at Munloch on the Black Isle, Inverness.

All over the country GM crops continue to be mysteriously trashed. Six out of 13 oil seed rape trials have been destroyed by night-time pixies and mother-nature has destroyed another two. The remaining five sites may not provide enough data for pharmaceutical giant Aventis to introduce the crop as a commercial variety, possibly delaying this by a year. SchNEWS spoke to one of the pixies who told us "Opinion polls have shown time and again that the public doesn't want these crops polluting the environment. Government and businesses won't listen, so the only thing to do is destroy the crops". It's not just in Britain that pixies are active, in Belgium three trials have recently been destroyed.

In fact it looks like things may only get worse for Aventis and their mates, as the 'Justice system' appears to be unable to make most charges against GM protesters stick. Many charges are dropped and even if they go to court, juries often find them not guilty of criminal damage. This week seven GM campaigners were cleared by magistrates for aggravated trespass. They successfully argued that as no other people were present in the field the action was not "aggravated". Soon the authorities are gonna run out of laws they can use - hopefully leading to a decriminalisation of crop trashing.

*For a list of all UK test sites including which ones have been destroyed, visit www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites. If there's a test site near you, contact GEN on 020 76900626. For a guide to night-time gardening, contact TOGG on 01803 840098

*Protest March against GM crops being grown in Wivenhoe, Essex. Meet noon, 23rd June, Wivenhoe station. mclarke@essex.ac.uk

Inside SchNEWS

This week American environmental activist Jeffrey Luers (a.k.a. Free) was sentenced to 22 years, 8 months in jail in Eugene, Oregon. Accused of attempted arson over a year ago, Free admitted setting fire to several Sport Utility Vehicles at Romania Chevrolet, saying during the trial he did so out of frustration over the environmental destruction that cars (especially gas-guzzling SUVs) wreak. But in his statement to the court, Free also emphasised the care he took to ensure that no one would be injured in the fires, "It cannot be said that I am unfeeling or uncaring. My heart is filled with love and compassion. I fight to protect life... not to take it. Forty-thousand species go extinct each year, yet we continue to pollute and exploit the natural world... All I ask is that you believe the sincerity of my words, and that you believe that my actions, whether or not you believe them to be misguided, stem from the love I have in my heart." An appeal is underway, but activists everywhere are still shocked by the severity of the sentence - 22 years is longer than many murderers and rapists receive. Craig Marshall (a.k.a. Critter), who was arrested with Free, accepted a 5 1/2-year sentence for his role in the fire as part of a plea bargain last November. Send letters for both Free and Critter to: c/o the Legal Defense Committee at FCLDC, P.O. Box 50263, Eugene, OR 97404, USA. For more info visit www.efn.org/~eugpeace/freecritter

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SchNEWS in brief

The **Wombats** (White Overall Mobile Buffer Against Truncheon Strikes) have arrived! These are the down-under cousins of the Wombles formed in response to police violence at the S11 protests last year. wombats@disinfo.net ** All good Wombles should read **Bodyhammer: Tactics and Self-Defence for the Modern Protester**. 22 pages about shields, helmets, body armour and self-defence tactics for street protests. Download it at www.devo.com/sarin/shieldbook.pdf ** **RIP Old Mick** former resident of Claremont Road. A brave and fierce East End man with a great love of the mother. A teacher, storyteller, schemer and visionary who, when his geezer gave up was ready to go into the next big mission with eyes shining. ** **Slovakian anarchists** held their second street party in Bratislava to protest against the massive road building programme, while the once-impressive public transport network rapidly deteriorates www.streetparty.sk ** www.ruralfutures.org is a website for a discussion of rural issues that tries to get away from the "angry farmers and foxhunters" characterisation of the countryside. ** Oldham East Labour MP **Phil Woolas** wants all claimants to sign on the electoral register or lose all benefits, he's also in favour of DNA testing the whole country! To protest at this nine people visited the local Labour Party HQ and eight were nicked to prevent a breach of the peace - making criticisms and asking awkward questions apparently isn't peaceful. ** **The Map of Activities on Transport Europe** is now accompanied by an updated booklet called 'Freeway for a free market?' a guide to 'whatever you would want to know about the European transport situation'. From: Car busters, Kratka 26, 100 00 Praha 10, Czech Republic. email: carbusters@ecn.cz ** **Liberty** has written to the Metropolitan Police threatening legal action on behalf of hundreds of people unlawfully detained by the police at the May Day protests ** In **South Korea** 55,000 workers from 126 unions are on 'indefinite strike' including airline pilots who have stopped most airline's flights, and hospital workers. Protestor blockades managed to stop cops taking 14 union leaders of South Korean Air into custody. Workers are demanding that their 44-hour, six-day week be reduced and that working conditions for temporary workers improve.

Mersey-less Treatment

Ten refugees from Liverpool are on hunger strike in protest over their barbaric treatment within the British asylum system. The protest has been sparked by a combination of delays in the asylum process and appalling conditions in the flats where the group live, owned by a private company contracted by the government - Landmark Liverpool Ltd. Press reports last year showed residents living in damp, overcrowded, filthy accommodation. Residents have reported that the landlady threatened to have them 'sent back' if they complained to the press. "We came to this country to seek refuge from persecution," said one of the refugees, "instead we have been treated like animals." E-mail messages of support to: landmark_hungerstrike@hotmail.com or call 07801 554918 for more details.

* At the end of June, the government will be opening a new asylum-seekers detention centre at Harmondsworth. This new prison will house 550 refugees - how hospitable! Picket 30th June, noon-2pm, Colnbrook bypass (A4 north of Heathrow). Close Down Harmondsworth Campaign 07960 309457.

* In Bedford Yarlswood Detention Centre is about to hold 900 refugees. There's a meeting on the 7 July at 22 Chaucer Road, Bedford. Tel 07767-414714 eginn@arrowuk.com

Talk Ain't Cheap

"The police and its thug friends have made a complete mockery of every value and principle that this nation has been struggling to establish in the last three years, along with the sacrifices that have gone with this struggle. With a single stroke, the raid in Sawangan has simply turned back the clock on the nation."

Jakarta Post Editorial.

Last Friday a conference near Jakarta, Indonesia, on "fighting neo-liberalism in the Asia-Pacific region" was violently broken up by 100 armed police plus a posse of machete-wielding right-wing militia thugs. Police took 40 participants into custody for 24 hours without charge, removed passports, and threatened fines and deportation. This left the militia free to attack the remaining Indonesian participants, injuring several and hospitalising two, one critically, as well as stealing conference computers, and personal belongings of delegates.

When the delegates - including many Australians - were released without charge, and passports returned, the Director General for Immigration claimed that the police 'acted on their own', and declared the visas and conference legitimate. The Australian government - maintaining a 32 year 'special relationship' with dodgy Indonesian regimes, fobbed the fiasco off as a "visa misunderstanding".

Budiman Sudjatmiko, organiser of the conference, must have had a sense of deja-vu: the former student radical, sentenced to 13 years jail for subversion in 1996 under the Suharto regime, was only released in 1999. Local police still treat him as a 'communist threat' and last month his parents' home was bombed. The timing of this vicious attack raises the possibility of police collusion with the gangs, and a re-emergence of the sort of alliance between right-wing terror groups and the military which featured in East Timor.

www.asiet.org.au

INTERFERENCE INTERFERED WITH

On Election Day Interference FM broadcast to Bristol for a few hours before being busted. Members of the Radio-communication Agency spotted the transmitter on the roof of a house and arrived with lots of police. This is the second time that Interference has been busted, while other pirate radios have an easier life often broadcasting for many days. The reason Interference was busted was since the morning it was spitting rage on the waves about the election and encouraging citizens not to vote. The confiscation of transmitter and stereo has been a big blow for this collective. Show solidarity and send contributions to Interference FM, Box 6, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5LR.

...and finally...

New York cops bit off a bit more than they bargained for when they raided a medical marijuana club, and arrested two people for selling pot. Feeling a bit chuffed with themselves after a good days work, and finding themselves a bit peckish, they gobbled down 50 cookies that they'd confiscated. "By the end of the evening they were all red eyed and giggly" said one of the defendants. A week later all the charges against the two were dropped - looks like they may have got themselves some new customers. www.hightimes.com

disclaimer

SchNEWS doesn't SITA on the fence when it comes to literally rubbish puns. Bin there, dump that. Honest.