



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER G8 SLATING...

SchNEWS

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G8 SUMMIT
6-8 JULY 2005

GLENEAGLES
SCOTLAND

SHUT IT DOWN

G8 WAY TO HELL

"The G-8 prescribes neo-liberal policies that accelerate the concentration of wealth, attack workers' rights, jeopardise employment, lower living conditions for the vast majority of the population, disrespect cultural differences, and harm the environment."

Dissent Network

Last week the leaders of the eight richest countries of the world (G8) got together for the annual knees up to sort out the world's problems, this time at the opulent Sea Island, a private luxury resort in Georgia, USA. While SchNEWS realises the world's in a mess, asking these gangsters to sort it out is like asking a Michael Jackson to do your babysitting...

In fact just across the sea in nearby Brunswick, the contrast to the world of the have's and have-nots could not have been more sharp. The mainly black and poor area of Brunswick is home to Hercules Chemical and Georgia Pacific, making it one of the most toxic areas in Georgia, with the air outside Hercules so polluted that one of the nearby schools has no windows. There's massive unemployment with blocks of empty shopfronts, dilapidated housing, and streets that aren't even paved.

In fact the only thing Brunswick and Sea Island do share is the smell and exposure to the toxins released by the chemical plants. But thanks to the G8 roadshow being in town, the plants were temporarily shut down and the workers laid off. We can't expect such important people to endure the discomfort and risk for a few days, that the people of Brunswick are forced to live with every day of their lives now can we?

During the summer, a local elementary school in the richest country in the world, has to offer a free lunch providing perhaps the only nutritious meal that some of the local children will receive during the long, hot, Georgia summer. However, the kids had to go without for a week, as the school was instead used to feed the thousands of cops and soldiers on standby to protect the rich and powerful.

MENAGE A HUIT

The idea for the annual G8 summit was the idea of France in the mid-1970s to help the world's richest economies deal informally with big crises, but as one commentator said "Its list of memorable achievements is almost zero. Recent summits have been noticeable only because of the length of their vacuous final communiqués, the distance at which the political leaders have been kept from the public and the outrageous cost of organising the meetings." As the protests against such get-togethers have become, shall we say, more vocal so these costs have soared as the repression racket has been stepped up while the summits have taken place in ever more remote settings. Still, none of this has swayed the G8 from its relentless march towards corporate coloni-

sation of the planet, using globalisation and free trade as a smokescreen for economic blackmail, corruption, state terrorism and warfare.

Georgian Governor and Mayor Sonny Perdue took the highly unusual steps of declaring a state of emergency in six coastal counties before the summit had even begun citing "potential danger...from unlawful assemblages, threats of violence and otherwise", giving police powers to arrest people and disperse crowds. Avenger surface-to-air missile batteries were scattered throughout backed by checkpoints, small tanks and uniformed soldiers. This 20,000-strong force of occupiers, stood on every street corner or flew overhead in helicopters, in scenes what one protestor remarked "was more reminiscent of Gaza than Georgia.

Still as Governor Perdue put it "If we had to err, we were going to err on the side of safety...When you host the leaders of the free world, there's no room for mistakes. A show of force can be a deterrent."

The cops and corporate media had also been busy warning of the invading army of protestors ready to raze the city to the ground. In the end the over the top tactics worked with the demonstrations small in number. As one demonstrator put it "Many locals confessed to us that they were scared of the police propaganda or just didn't see how any of this had anything to do with them. The irony of hearing this in a pollution-ridden public housing neighborhood while the wealthiest men in the whole world met to decide the fate of working people worldwide just 15 minutes away was not lost on us."

All this costing around \$37 million, which SchNEWS reckons would've been better spent on cleaning up Brunswick's environment. Instead officials say their success at squelching potential terrorism and violent protests has persuaded law enforcement agencies across the country to make the Georgia experience a blueprint for "national security special events". And if the people start complaining about travel restrictions or the army on every street corner, then a gentle reminder of the threat of terrorism (or even a spell in jail) should scare them back into line.

G is for Greed

So just what did the G8 discuss? Well debt was high on the agenda with the Bush regime generously calling for Iraq's estimated foreign debt of around \$120 billion to be wiped out. This of course has nothing to do with American not being owed any of this debt and the Bush regime being anxious that rather than oil revenue being used to pay foreign creditors, it should instead be used to finance reconstruction and other infrastructure projects, for which US firms have been given the most lucrative contracts! This Iraqi debt relief however wouldn't be extended to the most impoverished countries of Africa

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For quoting a Clash song..!

Mike Devine, from a Clash tribute band, was arrested earlier this month after a text message he sent was intercepted. The text, a lyric from Clash song "Tommy Gun", contained the words "jetliner" and "hostages" and was, apparently, sent to the wrong number. The recipient then informed police who sent Special Branch to arrest Devine in his office before interrogating him. He was later released without charge. So how exactly did the message get intercepted? One "terrorism expert" stated the bloody obvious that it clearly shows that spy-base GCHQ is "monitoring all vocal and textual mobile phone traffic."

who received no such concessions.

So forget the war on poverty these powerful nations are far too busy making money out of war to care about that. Between 1997 and 2001 at least two-thirds of all arms sales came from five of the G8 members - America, Russia, France, Britain and Germany, busy arming some of the world's worst human rights abusers. As Oxfam commented "If the same amount of money and the same political will committed to the war on Iraq were put into aid, trade, and debt relief, it would end the suffering of millions of people. For the cost of just two stealth bomber planes, 48 million children in Africa, who have never had the chance to learn to read or write, could attend school for a year."

* Next year the G8 will be in Scotland at the Gleneagles hotel in Perthshire from 6th-8th July. People in the UK are already organising protests, under the umbrella group Dissent. Some of these groups have already been busy during last weeks summit including Nottingham where they organised a 'critical mass' bike ride around the city, pestered the local McDonalds and blocked the Oil Terminal at Colwick; while in Worthing they opened a new anti-G8 social centre with a Festival of Resistance. www.dissent.org.uk/

* Next Saturday will see the beginning of the trials of 29 Italian policemen and officers who face charges related to the brutal night time raid on the Diaz school in Genoa, Italy during the anti-G8 demonstrations there in 2001 (see SchNEWS 314/5)

* At the same time in Switzerland the court case against four people from the Aubonne Bridge action at last years G8 Summit in Evian (see SchNEWS 408/9) will begin. Two climbers were cut from the climbing rope by police, falling over 20 metres onto a riverbed and sustaining very serious injuries. While the policeman who cut the ropes remains on duty, ironically, the four protesters, have all been charged with blocking the traffic and endangering human life!
www.aubonnebridge.net

It's yer SchNEWS Summer Party and Protest Guide

JULY

1-4 Green Anarchy in the UK. Gathering of the tribes "We have called this gathering to give green anarchists in the UK and elsewhere a great opportunity to get together and share thoughts and ideas about how to fight the megamachine, that is civilization, and learn primitive skills." Bilston Glen Anti-Bypass Protest Site, near Edinburgh 07747606558 www.bilstonglen-abs.org.uk ** **1-9 Annual Ecotopia Biketour** will ride from Vienna to The Netherlands with a stop-over at the Towards Carfree Cities IV conference in Berlin. www.thebiketour.net ** **2 The Latin Splash Festival II**, Clapham Common London. 5-11pm. www.true-vision.net/latinsplash ** **2-4 Out There Bracknell Festival**, South Hill Park. Music includes Ozomatli and Lemon Jelly plus circus, theatre and multimedia, workshops and kids events. £50 for the weekend : 01344 484123 www.outtherefestival.co.uk ** **3 McLibel Trial Anniversary.** Celebrate the 10 years of campaign successes, following the start of the McLibel Trial. Read the story of the trial at www.mcspotlight.org ** **3 Boycott Caterkiller in Brighton** (see SchNEWS 454) Meet 12 noon at junction of North Road/Kensington Gdns (Look out for the Caterkiller bulldozer!) They will be visiting several local shops that sell Caterkiller goods, asking shoppers not to buy them and persuading the shops to stop selling them. www.bigcampaign.org www.brightonpalestinecampaign.org/Boycott_Caterpillar.asp ** **4 Independence from America** protest at Menwith Hill, the US Spybase (see SchNEWS 410) www.caab.org ** **4 Brighton Sunny Day** "A festival of renewable energy and sustainability. Now in its third year, this community-based event covers a broad range of issues from energy efficiency to recycling. Exhibitors will include solar hot water installers and electric bikes." 12 noon to 5 pm The Level. Free www.brightonsunnyday.org.uk ** **4 Peace Makes Ball!** 4.30pm at Lakenheath US nuclear airbase, Suffolk. Part of the Independence FROM America Day! Come to party, wear your ballgown bring a picnic! 01508 550446 www.motherearth.org/lakenheathaction/ ** **9-10 Romsey Beggars Fair.** Music, dance and street entertainment. Free / donations. www.beggarsfair.com ** **9-11 Clogfest in Skipton and Gargrave**, North Yorkshire. A celebration of the glorious tradition of English step-dance! www.clogfest.demon.co.uk ** **9-11 Priddy Folk Fayre**, Priddy, Somerset. "The friendliest folk festival in England" 01749 675562. www.priddyfolk.org ** **9-11 Introduction to Renewable Energy**, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. £35/£25 cons. 01654-761570 www.greenenergy.org.uk ** **9-17 No Border Camp, Imatra, Finland.** The camp will gather people interested in migration and free movement, with movies, music, and an art exhibition. "And of course lots of hanging around with nice people." tapio.laakso@iki.fi / +358 50 325 0074 ** **10 "Whose Rules Rule? 60 glorious or notorious years"** Conference organised by the World Development Movement. On the 60th anniversary of the IMF and World Bank, they take a look back at their blotted past and considers their future. Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London. Free. 0800 328 2153 www.wdm.org.uk ** **10 Save Titnore Woods** protest is being held in Worthing town centre, meet 2pm at Montague Place (near Woolworth's). The campaigners are trying to get a big spectacular together as it's the last chance before the council makes a decision on the development. www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/index.html ** **10 Fordstock, Harbertonford, South Devon.** "just a couple of stages in a field by the village, lovely atmosphere very mellow man, worth a look if down that way." Under a fiver to get in www.fordstock.org ** **10-11 Rhythms of the World** "The UK's largest free festival of world music - indoor & outdoor stages, world food, craft stalls, music, dance, street art and children's activities. The annual festival is held in mid-July each year." Hitchin, Hertfordshire 01462 454649 www.rhythmsoftheworld.com ** **12-13 Judicial Review Appeal of the police's use of anti-terrorism searches against peace protesters at last summer's DSE arms fair.** www.fairfordcoachaction.org.uk/44 ** **14-18 Somerset Buddhafield Gathering.** 07768 200797 www.buddhafield.com/budffest.html ** **14-18 Larmer Tree Festival**, on the Dorset/Wiltshire border. Over 50 bands will play in the heart of the remote and peaceful Cranborne Chase. £ 85 for 3 days. 01725 552300 www.larmertree.co.uk/2004 ** **10-24 Earth Activist Training Camp**, Ragmans Lane Farm, Gloucestershire earthactuk@123mail.org ** **16-18 Guilfest** Bands include Blondie, Simple Minds and UB40 (what year is it?) 01483 536270 www.guilfest.co.uk ** **16-18 3rd Anarchist Youth Network Summer Gathering.** If you want to participate call 07866 933927. www.anarchymag.org ** **16-18 Glade festival**, near Reading, Berkshire. Bands like Squarepusher, AFX, Eat Static, Hybrid, loads of psy-trance plus some house and breaks. £70. www.gladefestival.com/intro.htm ** **16-18 Festival at the Edge**, in Much Wenlock, Shropshire. Story telling festival, workshops. £40. 01939 236626. www.festivalattheedge.org ** **17 Respect Festival** Free anti-racist and multicultural festival for London. 020 7983 6554. www.london.gov.uk/respect/contact.htm ** **17-18 Ashton Court Festival**, Bristol. Everything from hip hop to poetry. £5 per day. 0117 904 2275. www.ashtoncourtfestival.com ** **19-24 Towards Carfree Cities** Berlin, Germany www.worldcarfree.net/conference ** **22-25 Trowbridge Village Pump Festival**, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Folk/Roots music. 01225 769132. www.trowbridgefestival.co.uk ** **23 London Anarchist Forum** with Gottfried Heuer. 8pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., WC1. Free. 020

7242 8032 www.conwayhall.org.uk ** **23 Tour of the EU in Brussels.** Join Corporate Europe Get to see all those corporate lobbyists and their access to the corridors of power. www.corporateeurope.org/lobbyocracy.html ** **23-24 Wakestock Abersoch**, Llyn Peninsula, North Wales "Europes largest wakeboard music festival" including Goldielookinchain, Norman Jay, Soul II Soul etc £35 for the weekend. 01758 710000 www.wakestock.co.uk ** **23-24 The Wickerman Festival.** Between Dundrennan and Auchencraig, Scotland. Spiritualized, Levellers Acoustic etc + dance tents and special area for children's. Day ticket: £30. www.thewickermanfestival.co.uk ** **23-26 Turaya Gathering**, Dorset. Brand new four day music and arts festival in association with Onu sounds, Ninja Tune, Real World etc. Ticket only event - only 1,500 available. www.conscious-events.info ** **23-25 WOMAD** (the World Of Music Arts And Dance Festival), Reading. 0118 939 0930 www.womad.org ** **23-27 Healing Field Gathering**, near Shepton. From £32. www.healingfield.btinternet.co.uk ** **24-25 Truck Festival.** Hill Farm, Steventon, Oxfordshire. "There is no cut throat capitalism here, no huge entry fees. It's a nice day out in the country side with a few beers and a plethora of bands." (and SchNEWS will be their) www.truckrecords.com ** **23-29 Peoples Global Action European conference**, Resnik, Rakovica, industrial zone around Belgrade www.pgaconference.org www.agp.org ** **29 till 1 Aug Cambridge Folk Festival** www.cam-folkfest.co.uk ** **30 till 1 Aug Big Chill**, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire. "A multimedia festival, club event, record label and lifestyle dedicated to transforming the spirit of our times." - A festival for thirtysomething Observer readers. www.bigchill.net ** **30 till 6 Aug Sidmouth 50th International Festival**, Devon. For all you folk music massive beards. 01629 827010 www.sidmouthfestival.com ** **No Big Green Gathering this year** - apparently the land got so churned up with all the bad weather at last years festival it needs more time to recover, or is that just the organisers! www.big-green-gathering.com

AUGUST

1 Ambient Green Picnic, Shalford Park, Guildford. 4 main music arenas: the Live Stage, Acoustic Stage, Slave2Vinyl Dance Tent and Itsy Bitsy Ambient Cafe, as well as a host of family entertainment and information on local and environmental issues. £3 donation www.ambientpicnic.co.uk ** **4-8 The Earth First! Summer Gathering.** Eco-action camp - a place to share skills and ideas on direct action for people & planet. At a top secret double undercover location in the East Midlands. 0845 355 0111 www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk ** **4-8 Funky Raw Food Festival**, near a beach on an organic farm in Cornwall. - No summer barbecues then! 02392 611607 ** **5-8 Earthwise Festival 2004** a family festival promoting all aspects of environmental awareness on a farm by the sea in Dorset 0845 330 4340 www.earthwise-uk.com ** **7 Brighton and Hove Pride Parade and Festival.** Free You certainly won't be 'the only gay in the village' in Brighton this weekend. 90,000 turned up last year making it the biggest gay fest in the UK 01273 775939 www.brightonpride.org ** **8-14 The One World Summer Festival.** Witley, Surrey. Holistic health, macrobiotics, arts & crafts, music & dance. 01273 279439 www.macrobios.com ** **9-15 National Allotments Week** A week to promote the awareness and availability of allotments both locally and nationally and to show the public and the local authorities the strength of support and interest for the heritage of allotment culture. <http://nationalallotmentsweek.netfirms.com/> ** **9-23 Ecotopia.** This year happening in the Netherlands with the theme food and farming. www.eyfa.org/ecotopia2004intro ** **12-14 Cropredy Folk Festival.** www.faircrop.co.uk ** **12-15 August The Bulldog Bash** 'Europe's premier biker event' for only £40 with music from everything from Chuck Berry to dance music, wrestling to topless bike washing. Shapere County Raceway, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire www.bulldogbash.co.uk/ ** **12-15 Annual Resurgence Summer Camp**, Gloucestershire 0870 460 1198, www.greenandaway.org ** **13-15 Shambala Festival**, Devon. Several live music stages; low key DJ venues; cinema; spiritual, dance and skills workshops, kids activities, circus performance, talks, sauna, cafes and lots of unexpected supprises! www.shambalafestival.org ** **21-22 Beautiful Days Festival**, Escot Park, Devon. Organised by The Levellers who say last year's was "Hailed as the best festival of 2003". Bands include the Stranglers, Misty in Roots and Alabama 3. £65 01392 425309 www.beautifuldays.org ** **22-28 International Seminar on Renewable Energies and Social Change** Asturias, Spain www.escanda.org ** **23 Carry On Up The Clyde, The Big Blockade.** 7.30am. By blocking all the entrances to the base denounce what happens on the Faslane naval base, only thirty miles from Glasgow, and home to 4 Trident submarines that carry the UK's very own weapons of mass destruction. 08454588361 www.tridentploughshares.org/coulport/index.php ** **24-30 WIT Music Festival for Women and Girls** held in beautiful rural surroundings near Lampeter in West Wales. 01559 363882 www.womenintune.org.uk ** **26-29 Boom Festival, Portugal.** If you love boom-boom trance.... www.boomfestival.org ** **27 Small World Solar Powered Summer Gathering** www.smallworldsolarstage.org ** **27-30 Bridgnorth Folk Festival**, Shropshire. 01746 768813 www.bridgnorthfolkfest.co.uk ** **27-29 Leeds and Reading Festivals.** Sponsored by piss weak beer Carling, run by those tossers at the Mean Fiddler, who've got their greasy mitts into Glastonbury. We'd rather be sick thru our eyes. 020 8963 0940 www.leedsfestival.com ** **28-30 The Off The Tracks Festival.** Eclectic

roots global trance dance fusion. Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel, Isley Walton, Castle Donington, Nr JCT. 24 M1. 01332 384518 / 833673 www.offthetracks.co.uk ** **29 Join the virtual march on the White House** and send a message to the rogue regime that you do not support their stance on Iraq, the so called war on terrorism, environmental and defence issues. www.livemarch.com/marchHome.jsp?marchID=19 ** **29 Bath Carnival Against Militarism Street Party** - meet at Bath Abbey Courtyard at midday, and bring music, banners, and pirate costumes! Info: shavenyak_99@yahoo.com ** **Northern Green Gathering** 5 day camp in late August, near Pontefract, Yorkshire. www.nggonline.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

1-5 Permaculture NetTogether. Celebrating 21 years of permaculture in Britain. A unique opportunity to explore practical sustainability. The event is in two parts: Design School (1st - 3rd Sept) Leading practitioners teach permaculture ethics, principles and design. Convergence21 (3rd - 5th) Activists gather for networking, workshops and celebration. All held on eco camping grounds at Braziers Park. Oxfordshire 0845 4581805 www.permaculture.org.uk ** **3-5 Wilderness Gathering** - "the Bushcraft and Wilderness skills gathering." www.wildernessgathering.co.uk ** **3-5 Bunkfest**, Wallingford. "Music, dance, steam and beer"! Bands include Chumbawumba, Hank Wangford 07743 330494 www.bunkfest.co.uk ** **4 BASS (Brighton Alliance of Sound Systems) Greenfield Event** This will be a family event dedicated to raising awareness of the many local community campaign and environmental projects in Brighton and Hove. The Level, Brighton 12pm-6pm. info@bass23.org ** **5 September Northampton Green Festival** noon to 6pm. www.greenfestival.org.uk ** **12 Festival of Life** Celebrating Sustainable, Compassionate, Raw/Living-Food and Holistic Lifestyles. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London. 10am - 9 pm £4/£2 (concs)/Free (under 16's). 0870 7344888 www.festivaloflife.net ** **17-19 Knockengoroch Autumn Festival** twice yearly Celtic/ Roots/World music festivals in the hills of Scotland's Southern Uplands. www.geocities.com/goduha

* FOR MORE PARTY AND PROTEST DATES CHECK OUT

Festival Eye - out now. The most comprehensive UK festival listings magazine. For £3.50 or £5.50 inc.postage (cheques payable to Festival Eye) from Festival Eye, BCM 2002, London WC1N 3XX. www.festivaleyeye.com

Guilfin's Something For the Weekend - a weekly info-burst, keeping you up to date with the latest festival, party, gigs dates, and all the upcoming campaigns. www.guilfin.net

For festivals in the UK www.festivals.co.uk

To find about rock festivals in Europe check out www.thefestivalzone.com
For a comprehensive listing of folk, roots and world music festivals in the UK and Europe check out www.frootsmag.com/content/festivals

For a list of seriously hippy rainbow gathering type festivals send an SAE to Campscene Directory, 3 Rainbows, Stoodleigh, Devon, EX16 9QQ www.campscene-directory.co.uk

For actions around the world check out www.protest.net

For courses and events about sustainable lifestyles (everything from composting to fruit tree grafting to pond building) contact the Permaculture Association, London, WC1N 3XX 0845 458 4150 www.permaculture.org.uk

And don't forget the SchNEWS party and protest guide - updated every bloody week. www.schnews.org.uk/pap/guide.htm

FOR TRUCK'S SAKE!

While the leaders of the G8 talk about the benefits of globalisation and 'free trade agreements, the finer details of what this actually means to people usually don't get so much press.

Earlier this month the US Supreme Court made a ruling allowing Mexican trucks to enter U.S. roads - even if they break America's more stringent emissions standards

The court said that thanks to the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the U.S. had no right to exclude Mexican trucks. Analysts estimate that more than 30,000 Mexican trucks could enter the U.S. this summer and by 2010, Mexican trucks will emit twice the particulate matter and nitrogen oxides as their American counterparts. The ruling will increase pollution and smog in southern states already suffering from poor air quality, as well as keeping ineffective Mexican environmental policies that jeopardize the health of their people.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (see SchNEWS 200) was signed between Mexico, Canada and the States in 1994 and was another one of those free trade deals that we were told would benefit everyone. Except that the only people it has benefited has been surprise, surprise multinational corporations. Just check out Chapter 11 of NAFTA which allows corporations to sue if they think certain environmental law raise unfair barriers to trade and affect its profits! So if the US banned polluting Mexican vehicles from its roads, it could be sued by the Mexican companies for loss of profits!

As John W. Warnock, a Canadian political economist and author of 'The Other Mexico: The North American Triangle Completed' puts it "It should be remembered that these trade agreements have very little to do with trade. Even before they were signed we had almost complete free trade. The new agreements are primarily about private investment rights."

"Neoliberalism and NAFTA have been good for the rich in Mexico and the large corporations...Mexicans know that their country is falling behind the United States and Canada in every area. Aside from incomes, spending is very low on education, health, agriculture and rural development, and research. It is not surprising to find that most people, including academics, do not believe that so-called 'free trade' has been good for their country."

As Kevin Danaher from Global Exchange put it "The free market ideology is this bullshit that they put out there to pry open Third World countries and

to keep people here stupid and think, "Oh, get the government out of the way. Let capital decide how the world will be run." Well, duh. If you let capital decide how the world is going to run, they'll cut down every tree, they'll kill every fish, they'll push our wages down to zero, they'll pollute the shit out of everything, because all they care about is making money."

* Read 'Shafted: Free Trade and America's Working Poor' where farmers, fishermen, garment workers etc. describe the ruin that free trade agreements have unleashed on them. To order copies www.foodfirst.org

* As the recent Organization of American States meeting in Quito, Ecuador protesters marched through the city to protest against Plan Colombia and the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement, as well as demand the resignation of President Lucio Gutierrez. Leonidas Iza from the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador said he wanted the delegates to "see there is hunger, there is deep poverty, and there is corruption" in Ecuador.

TALIBANISH

Due to a lack of news getting through to that far corner of the earth-Avon and Somerset, the police force in their wisdom have failed to react to hordes of testosterone up males pouring out on to the streets of every major town beating each other to death and drowning each other in puke. They have also not heard of the carnage, torture of innocent people, mutilation of children and the on going mass slaughter of civilians that is being carried out throughout the world by our government in a misguided notion of 'freedom'.

At least someone in this country is getting real, all these paranoid MPs harping on about the threat of terrorism, gun crimes and inner city violence; bloody 'lefties' scaremongering over racial attacks, Islamophobia and deaths in police custody, when the real threat to our freedom and livelihood is carried out according to Superintendent Adrian Coombs of the Avon and Somerset police, by people dancing - bastards! There also seems a worry that these 'dancy' people, who apparently stay up all night in their drug crazed stupors, are secretly plotting the overthrow of our democratically rejected government and have more friends that the police themselves. Old Coombsy baby, not to be outdone who stresses that he can dance with the best of them - it's just that no one has asked him - believes that previous laws which stated that there needed to be at least a hundred people gathered in an open space for the old 'bacon troupe' to take action, has now been changed to just twenty, even if that's inside a dodgy old warehouse. This is good news for all those sad people out there who have birthday parties and less than twenty people turn up. 'It's the law mate, I would have invited more, you know how it is?'

Yet, this is only half of it. Old Superintendent Adrian Coombs, which could be abbreviated as 'SAC' if only, has had a rethink, and thought that those sad people with less than twenty friends may also be, not only smiling in the face of the law, but actually having the audacity to have a good time. And Public Assembly is no longer 20 people, but can be comprised of just two people! Two people! What kind of party's that! Maybe the sought Coombsy would invite his mates too. 'Yeah, you know, I would come, it's just that I've got to watch some mate dry-sorry!' And of course it would be against the law. The next policeman's Ball, lets all turn up and arrest the bastards.

The force is believed to be one of the first in the country to adopt the new legislation under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 making Avon and Somerset a non smiling zone. This is England's answer to China's 'One Child Policy' the 'One Mate Policy' of Somerset, you are only allowed another mate under exceptional circumstances, and the circumstances are, you have to reek of bacon. Operational planning head, (if only the party scene had one of them) Super Coombsy, stated,

"In the past we've had a situation where officers realised they could do little until a rave had been going on for some time, meaning serious disruption to both local people and officers."

See what you are doing out there, hiding in your derelict warehouses in the midst of some rundown industrial estate, you are forcing the Somerset police, who are busily sorting out serious crime in their tea rooms, to come out in the middle of the night when all 'decent' taxpaying types are in bed, and with sirens blaring, turn the devil worshipper's music off and make those drug induced, drunk individuals drive home. This is about on par with throwing thousands of testosterone up males onto the street at the same time. It is no wonder that these same people came up with the idea of invading Iraq to stop uprisings being put down by force and innocent people being tortured. Can you see a pattern developing here?

Lucky for us the Somerset police will now be able to stop those past outrageous incidents of loved up individuals dancing in fields and smiling away in dusty old empty warehouses. Or will they? Lets face it we've all been here before, but be aware those party putter oners as this new legislation applies inside as well and anyone who is moved on faces arrest if they try to start up another gathering within 24 hours. So to recap, you can only have a party if you are alone, not playing music, and you are not inside or outside-no problem!

* Despite the best efforts of the authorities, free parties still happen up and down the country every week. Go to <http://www.partyvibe.com/freeparties.htm> for a list of phone numbers and websites.

SchNEWS @ Glastonbury

Green Futures Field (From 12 noon)

Workshops include:

Thursday: GM Crops, How to produce a newsheet, and Earthships

Friday: Bio Diesel, Climate Change and Rainforest Depletion

Saturday: GM Crops, How to produce a newsheet and Rainforests

Sunday: Bio Diesel, Climate Change, and Earthships

Plus SchNEWS live (SchLIVE). **Check the SchNEWS tent for more details**

Plus: SchNEWS Films Premieres over the weekend

Or pop along to the tent for free info, laughs and all the usual SchNEWS SchNANIGANS!

Shell's Kitchen

Despite Prime Minister Blair telling the G8 that climate change is one of the biggest issues Britain, scared of the threat of fuel protests over the increasing cost of oil, has been putting pressure on OPEC to increase oil production. However, once again the true cost of oil measured in massive environmental degradation for those living near extraction sites, has once again been underlined by a new report from Friends of the Earth. The report on Shell, has chronicled how "substantial levels of crude oil" have been found in mangrove forests and lakes in Nigeria, oil spillages have occurred close to communities and contaminated their water pumps, and has never been cleaned up. "We saw pipes clearly corroded and spilling. They were all over the place," said Brian Shaad, FoE's parliamentary campaigner. "Communities repeatedly say their grievances are dealt with by security forces rather than the company itself".

A leaked section of the report alleges that Shell failed to act on promises made by former chairman Philip Watts, to clean up the South African Petroleum Refinery, the largest crude oil plant in the country.

It claims Sapref, jointly owned by Shell and BP, dumps 19 tonnes of sulphur dioxide a day into the air, six times the amount emitted by modern refineries.

In 1995, 9 environmental activists campaigning against the environmental destruction of the Niger Delta by Shell Oil, were executed for their activities, Shell said the verdict was not its concern, and Watts later stated that he was "quite proud" of Shell's activities in Nigeria (SchNEWS 49). This from a company whose greenwash adverts gush "our core values of honesty, integrity and respect for people define who we are". (says it all really).

Recently the United Nations has been trying to pass laws that would try to keep corporations in order (SchNEWS 453). Of course, these attempts to legislate against disregard for human life in the name of profits, have been opposed by business lobby groups such as the International Chamber of Commerce, backed by, surprise surprise, Shell.

Delta Blues

SchNEWS recently received an email from Christian S. Yorgure, of National Union of Ogoni Students International. He told us of how Shell has now served a subpoena on his organisation but that this "is a ruse...to make the public believe that that they are using legal means to challenge accusations. No! Shell pays agents who do dirty jobs; they use high government and community officials who are easily swayed with money.

"The Ogoni people have suffered terrible environmental hazards for over 3 decades of oil exploration and drilling activities in their homeland without compensation. The Ogoni people made history by successfully protesting the evil of the giant multinational; a campaign that embarrassed Shell. In reaction, Shell used the then military power in Nigeria to commit mayhem on the indigenous Ogoni people. The massacre of thousands of the Ogoni people of Nigeria in 1993, and a trial which is believed to have been sponsored by Shell that led to the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni Human and Environmental Rights Activist in 1995, does not seem enough. Shell's war against the undaunted Ogonis looms on.

It was about 10 pm on June 1, 2004 that I received a call from the Secretariat of the National Union of Ogoni Students International (NUOS Int'l) detailing an encounter with an agent of Shell who only introduced himself as a detective. According to the NUOS' Secretary, the detective presented himself in an unruly manner and refused to answer any questions as he served a copy of the subpoena.

As the Ogoni Class action against Shell gathers momentum, the company who has not been able

to penetrate the undaunted youths behind the suit, have chosen to thread a sinister path; hounding down the Ogonis who truly believe and lead the campaign against Shell. NUOS Int'l is a righteous voice echoing the sufferings of the entire Ogoni people. They have organized many seminars both in Europe and the United States. In 2001, NUOS Int'l protested against the World Environmental Center's Seventeenth Annual Gold medal Award for International Corporate Achievement to the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies. To doubt the sinister culture of Shell is an exhibition of gross ignorance; and to continue to invest in Shell in my opinion makes you a murderer.

It is unfortunate to realize that people can still be fooled by Shell despite the much publicized atrocities committed the world over but particularly, in under-developed countries. The revealing accounts of Dr. John Huang, who was Shell's geologist for almost 30 years and the Affidavit of Alfred Ernest Donovan, who has had a business relationship with Shell for over 40 years, are appropriate references illustrating Shell's unethical practices. These testimonies corroborate the fact that Shell's true business practice is to lie, cheat, and kill.

As published in the Financial Times of June 09, 2004 under the heading "Deep well of troubles in Nigeria" Shell reiterated its determination to remain in Nigeria. However, the Ogoni people who are well aware of the tactics of Shell have vowed to keep them out of their land. The members of NUOS Int'l are determined to go the length with Shell intellectually and legally. "Shell must restore the flora and fauna in Ogoni; Shell must clean up Ogoni and pay enough compensation for several thousands of lives lost as a result of their involvement in the area since 1959", said a member of NUOS "Not even the subpoena served by a sinister operative can deter us; we must demand our rights legitimately", another member said during a group discussion."

* To find out more about Shells unsavoury activities see

<http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/publications/shell.html>

* London Rising Tide, a direct action grassroots group has joined forces with artists to express anger over the role of BP in climate change and human rights abuses around the world. Artwork can be viewed till Monday 21st June at 50 Chalk Farm Road NW1. 07969 786770 www.risingtide.org.uk

What's Binging On?

There's a new Occupied Social Centre Open in Brighton at the Old Bingo Hall, 193 Portland Road Hove. Events this weekend include on

Friday 18th:

5pm Talk and film on climate change by Rising Tide

7pm: West Papuan refugee and tribal leader gives a talk on the tribal struggle for freedom in West Papua

9pm "Learning from Ladakh" film [Development threatens a whole way of life in this north indian province]

10.30pm "Hoyaansiqats!" film [the natural and modern clash in a beautiful and horrifying collage] Plus vegan food, tunes, arts, chill-out, infos

Sat 19

4pm: zine workshop [intro to zines & how to make a zine the wonderful world of self publishing]

6pm: talk and film about attempts to organise grassroots movements in zimbabwe

8pm: "The Weather Underground" film [impressive documentation with loads of interviews of former members of one of americas most notorious armed group]

10pm: "Surplus" film [against consumer culture with John Zerzan]

To find out what's happening in your area go to

www.schnews.org.uk/pap/yourarea.htm

SchNEWS in brief

Plans are underway to set up an **autonomous social centre** and info shop in **Newcastle-Upon-Tyne**. It aims to house a cafe, a film club, political art space, a newcastle indymedia, a radical book shop and anything else you wanna put your energy into. To get involved e-mail: whydonyou@post.com. ** A campaign is underway to oppose plans for a **superquarry** in some of the best countryside in the **Vale of Glamorgan**. Sadly, like at Blackwood, dormice are again under threat from the forces of destruction, as are badgers and otters - to join local residents in campaigning against the quarry, look up: www.stopthesuperquarry.co.uk/ *** In **San Francisco** about 200 people protested against **GM food** and the annual Biotechnology Industry Organisation convention. There were about 30 arrests and police also confiscated rotten fruit and vegetables. www.indybay.org ** The **Iraqi Occupation authorities** have awarded a \$ 293 million contract to the Aegis Defense Services, creating the **world's largest private army**. It is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Tim Spicer, who has been investigated for illegally smuggling arms and planning military offensives to support mining, oil, and gas operations around the world ** **Environmental campaigners** have set up a camp near the **Stansted airport** in Essex to protest against its expansion. The airport's owners have begun offering compensation to people affected, but protestors say they plan to stay until expansion plans are dropped. 01279 870558 www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

B.A.S.S. Summer SOLSTICE PARADE -8.45 from **Black Rock car park** (near Marina). Samba Band, DJ's, percussion, performers and Brightons very own replica Stonehenge!

DISSENT!

Dissent is a network of groups and individuals planning actions and taking direct action against the 2005 G8 summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, and what it represents. What actions happen against it are up to those who get involved; unlike the G8 there is no leaders telling people what to do, it is up for all those involved to have an equal say.

Demonstrations against the G8 have a history of being pretty spectacular. In 1999 while the G8 were meeting in Cologne the City of London was famously shut down for the day with the J18 Carnival Against Capital. In 2001 when they met in a fortress in Genoa, Italy, 300,000 people faced paramilitary police on the streets outside, resulting in the destruction of large parts of the city and the murder of one protester by the police.

Dissent is organising a diverse range of events to make people aware of next years G8 summit in the UK and the growing movement which opposes it.

To find out more www.dissent.org.uk

...and finally...

While Neo-Labour have been busy telling us to get off our fat arses, do a bit of exercise and watch what we eat, seventeen senior MPs flew out to Portugal on Sunday enjoying a Euro 2004 freebie - courtesy of health conscious burger giants McDonald's. The junket comes just days after MPs called for the Football Association to drop McDonor's as a sponsor.

After watching England's first game, they joined Portuguese dignitaries for a reception of sherry, champagne and canapes before a four-course dinner that included starters of melon or swordfish, main courses of roasted stone bass with spinach or leg of lamb followed by cheese or the traditional Lisbon almond dessert Toucinho. SchNEWS scribes just wanna know if they can have fries with that!

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers. if you're looking for a quickie we've got a long column full of hard facts to tickle your G-8 spot with...Honest!

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