



### WHO WILL DIE THIS WINTER??

Energy firm Centrica, owners of British Gas, recently announced a massive 35% price increase to take effect immediately. A day or so later they announced a profit of almost one billion pounds for the six months to June 30<sup>th</sup>. This was £100 million higher than the city financial spivs were expecting, this did not however, cause them to revue their price increase. So while the city spivs were rubbing their sweaty palms in greedy glee, the rest of us are probably sweating while thinking of our next gas bill, of course you will not be sweating come the winter when you cannot afford to heat your home. British Gas managing director, Phil. Bentley, stated, "We very much regret that we have had to make this decision at a time when many household budgets are already under pressure" I wonder, how cold will his house be this winter and how much pressure is his household budget under?

Every winter in Scotland there is an large increase in deaths among pensioners, mainly from cold related health problems. Pensioners and others on low income in this country cannot heat their homes properly during the winter and have to make that third world choice, "to eat or to heat".

The recent fuel price increases will push even larger numbers of vulnerable pensioners and low income families further into the pit of fuel poverty. Many will die and others will suffer health problems that will stay with them the rest of their life.

Look around you, see the old and the low income families, try to visualise the ones that wont make it through the winter. Try to think of how they will die, their life slowly ebbing, their dignity disintegrating as the temperature falls and the dampness bites. As one of the richest nations on the planet are we prepared to see our friends and neighbours die in poverty because of the greed of shareholders? Are we prepared to stand by and feed the rich parasites at the expense of those around us? Or will try to change things so that we see to the needs of all our friends and neighbours, put an end to such indignities as death from fuel poverty and put all the natural resources in the hands of the people?

ann arky would be interested to hear how you will cope with this massive increase in gas prices and what you think should be done. [annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk](mailto:annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk)

### JUST CHANGE YOUR MIND!!

The corporate world could buy the Green Party, the Socialist Party and any other party as easily as it already owns the Conservative, Liberal and Labour parties. but this is not some preordained, set in tablets of stone theology or force of nature. The planet and all the life on it is screwed up primarily due to decisions made by humans. If different choices had been made in the past, it's very likely we'd have had different outcomes. If we start making different decisions now, there just might be enough time to create new outcomes. It's not about party politics or religion or terrorism or any other fairy tale, it's about human beings changing their minds, changing how they socially interact with each other and rejecting all the bullshit that has nearly destroyed us and almost every other living on this planet. Paraphrased from Mickey Z

"Free Enterprise really means rich people get richer. They have the freedom to exploit and psychologically rape their fellow human beings in the process.... Capitalism is destroying the earth." **Helen Caldicott**



"According to our calculations, we can make it if we become a six-income family."

## **ANN ARKY'S VIEW ON RELIGION.**

"The bible is the WORD of God" who said so? Did he tell you personally or is it a matter of somebody else telling you that is the case? If he is so great and he can tell all the people his words, why does he need the bible, does he think if he told us personally we wouldn't believe him but we might believe it if it is written down? Written down by somebody else, I don't think heaven has a printing press!! What if you can't read, you'll have to take somebody else's word for it.? How do you know which people have been sent to preach his word? Is it because they told you so, or because when they arrive God tells you personally that this is one of his guys?



### **THE HYPOCRITES ARE AT IT AGAIN.**

Once again we are getting reforms to the welfare system and as usual they are announced as the greatest shake up of the welfare system since Beveridge.

Basically what the new reforms will do is create a greater pool of low wage labour for the corporate world as it heads into recession. Those on benefit will have to report daily and be forced to do humiliating and demeaning community work for their benefit, work that is at present handed out to criminals as an option to prison. The alternative for them will be to take any low paid job no matter how unsuitable in type or location. Who gains? Obviously the employers as more and more people are forced into crap jobs with crap wages and conditions.

Single mothers will be forced to abandon their children when the kids reach the age of 7 as they too are forced onto the cheap labour market. So much for family values and family life.

The sick and the vulnerable at present on incapacity benefit will be forced to face more frequent inquisition, "assessment" panels in an attempt to get them on to that every increase cheap labour pool. What chance will someone on incapacity benefit have of pleading their case in front of an individual who is under pressure to meet their target of getting people off benefit and in to work? What this will do to the most vulnerable in our community will be criminal.

Apart from this being fascist in its control of peoples lives, it brands those on benefit as scroungers to be pushed and bullied onto the cheap labour market for the benefit of the corporate world.

The man pushing these "reforms" through is James Purnell, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. A man, who as an MP, is repeatedly among the highest of expense claimers amidst "The Honourable Gentlemen", with more than £100,000 expenses claimed last year on top of his £120,000 salary, and yet he brands those on less than £100 a week as scroungers. This same man has benefited throughout his entire life from public subsidy, His education at Balliol College was by public subsidy, it was the public purse that paid for him to be employed as advisor to Tony Blair, and of course it was the public purse that funded him as a councillor and as an MP.

Those on incapacity benefit are going to be persecuted despite the fact that the percentage of MPs making fraudulent expense claims is in all possibility higher than the percentage of false incapacity benefit claims. All this while MPs who make repeated "questionable" expense claims for thousands of pounds receive no more than a finger wagging.

Do we need these parasitical hypocrites that go by the title of "The Honourable Gentlemen" from the Westminster Palace of Corruption.? Or could we devise a more fair and more accountable system by which we control our own lives? A system based on free association, voluntary co-operation, mutual aid and sustainability. It's there, it just needs the will of the people to start and set it in motion.

## **AN INTERVIEW WITH SAUL ALINSKY**

Another thing you've got to remember about Capone is that he didn't spring out of a vacuum. The Capone gang was actually a public utility; it supplied what the people wanted and demanded. The man in the street wanted girls: Capone gave him girls. He wanted booze during Prohibition: Capone gave him booze. He wanted to bet on a horse: Capone let him bet. It all operated according to the old laws of supply and demand, and if there weren't people who wanted the services provided by the gangsters, the gangsters wouldn't be in business. Everybody owned stock in the Capone mob; in a way, he was a public benefactor. I remember one time when he arrived at his box seat in Dyche Stadium for a Northwestern football game on Boy Scout Day and 8000 scouts got up in the stands and screamed in cadence, "Yea, yea, Big Al. Yea, yea, Big Al." Capone didn't create the corruption, he just grew fat on it, as did the political parties, the police and the overall municipal economy.

Saul Alinsky; American political activist early 1900s



**MORE CORPORATE MURDERS.**

To cause somebody's death by knowingly putting them in danger without taking all due care possible, is murder in my mind.

Scottish Coal has been charged with four health and safety offences over the deaths of two miners in Ayrshire. It was accused of failing to ensure a safe system of working at Pennyvenie open cast mine near Dalmellington.

Colin Ferguson, 37, from Prestwick, and Brian French, 48, from Kelloholm, died there last February when their Land Rover was crushed by a tipper truck.

Scottish Coal denied the charges with subsidiary Castlebridge Plant. The case at Ayr Sheriff Court was continued.

It is alleged both companies allowed smaller vehicles to operate near larger trucks with reduced vision and without warning systems, such as radar or closed circuit TV in place, to prevent collisions.

They were also charged with failing to provide the dead men with suitable means of communicating with operators of other vehicles.



**A LEAFLET.**

A leaflet handed to me recently in town contained the following;

Must you spend hundreds of thousands to learn your religion?

Do you harass, defame, and sue anyone that is critical of your religion?

Is the purpose of your religion to make money for its leaders?

Does your religion make you abandon friends and family if they do not convert?

**If you have answered Yes to all of these questions, Scientology is the "religion" for you.**

**Get Informed. <http://xenu.net>**

Google Lisa McPherson

I did, I was shocked, take a look and I'm sure you also will be shocked. Don't give them room to grow, challenge them, expose them for what they are, a rich and dangerous CULT.

**EX BRITISH AMBASSADOR CRAIG MURRAY SEZ.**

If it wasn't for the border crossings, an eight hour drive from the Eastern border of Uzbekistan would take you into China. There you would be among the Uighurs, a people culturally and linguistically extremely close to the Uzbeks. Like the Tibetans, the Uighurs are culturally, religiously and ethnically oppressed by the highly racist Chinese state. But the Uighurs are Muslims and they do not get the press coverage of the Tibetans, even though their oppression has been still more systematic and brutal. Over a million Uighurs have been displaced by the Chinese state in the last three years alone. Thousands are murdered - either executed or disappeared - every year.

The War on Terror has enabled Russia, China, Karimov and other Central Asian leaders to characterise any manifestation of a desire for freedom in the region as Islamic terrorism and extremism.

One good thing about the Olympics going to Beijing is that the western media has run a few articles on the plight of the Uighurs, of whose existence I suspect few western reporters knew a couple of weeks ago. It is entirely predictable that the Chinese government is responding by organising "terrorist incidents" to try to blacken the Uighurs as part of Al Qaida. Do not be taken in by this rubbish.

Now our honest Western governments would never organise "terrorist incidents" for some ulterior motive-- would they??

**WE DON'T WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT, WE WANT FULL LIVES!!**

In a sane society, the elimination of all these absurd jobs (not only those that produce or market ridiculous and unnecessary commodities, but the far larger number directly or indirectly involved in promoting and protecting the whole commodity system) would reduce necessary tasks to such a trivial level (probably less than 10 hours per week) that they could easily be taken care of voluntarily and cooperatively, eliminating the need for the whole apparatus of economic incentives and state enforcement. <http://www.bopsecrets.org/recent/index.htm>

## **ONE VIEW ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS.**

Given that environmental degradation principally hurts the working class and is felt as an attack on living conditions, the environment is a terrain of struggle as legitimate and as vital as the workplace or community. There are examples of this from China to Glasgow. "Environment" problems disproportionately kill working class people and bring them into to conflict with existing power structures, the same way that a strike for better conditions would. Just because it isn't an explicit call for socialism doesn't mean that the politics aren't there. Anarchist / anti-capitalist environmentalism is more consistent and attractive than the newspaper-selling variety and folk spending time around the Climate Camp will likely become aware of this. Not everyone will be won to good politics by arguments tailored for workplace or community-based campaigning. Making the case for anarchism in / via the environmental movement will speak to some that wouldn't look at an IWW leaflet. With climate change an approaching threat, it becomes a way of reaching people through the things they are concerned about and that effect them directly. Dismissing it as liberal middle class nonsense is as wrong as someone knocking IWW prop as workerist. It's the same issue (peoples conditions) approached in a different way (is my boss or the factory across the road that's the most pressing problem?) for a different set of concerns (you may not work but may have kids growing up stunted by fumes). Class struggle anarchists for too long have been claiming to have the solution to environmental problems while slating / looking down on the environmental movement. Yes there's some shit politics there if you look, but no more than in a union or a community council.

Send us your view: [annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk](mailto:annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk)

### **PRISON DATA.**

72% of males and 70% of females sentenced to prison suffer from two or more mental health problems.

72% of those who take their own life in prison have a history of a mental disorder.

Around 85% of prisoners aged 16-20 show signs of personality disorders and 10% psychotic illnesses.

Boys 15-17 in prison are 18 times more likely to take their own life than those in the community.

Around 1/3 of all women prisoners lose their homes and possessions while in prison.

Approximately 50% of all prisoners do not have the skills required by 96% of jobs.

Around 30% of people released from prison have no where to live.

The average cost of each prison place built since 2000 is £99,839. It costs over £40,000 a year to keep a person in prison. A prisoner's average wage is £8 per week.

Are prisons an answer to the problems of those detained or are prisons where we dump those with mental health problems? Tell [annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk](mailto:annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk) your views.



### **THEY CAGE PROTESTORS, DON'T THEY??**

The media would have us get all excited about what our great leaders say, what the Chancellor said to the chief of the CBI or more to the point what the CBI told the Chancellor to do. However we should not to too involved in the chorus coming from the tower of Babel. True democracy and what concerns the ordinary people comes from the street to community forums, the state knows this and sees the street protest as a threat and more and more will try to stifle that threat.

What happens in America often finds its way over here, so a little Denver secret that has recently been revealed should be of interest to us. In preparation for the Democratic National Convention to be held in Denver shortly the local officials have been busying themselves with building a secret detention centre in an old warehouse. They have built dozens of metal cages "made out of chain link fence material and topped by rolls of barbed wire," each measuring "about 5 yards by 5 yards." According to one source it is meant to have a holding capacity of 1,200 detainees. There appears to be no toilet or washing facilities, no water and no access to a telephone.

This is what the state thinks of protests and protestors, ever more harsh and indiscriminate repression. Perhaps we should be having a wee look at some of those old warehouses in our own neighbourhood..



# MALICIOUS MISCHIEF

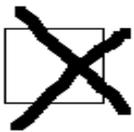
## GLASGOW VOTERS NOT TAKEN FOR GRANTED SHOCKER

In a rare change of plan, a Glasgow East-end constituency recently returned a Scottish Nationalist member of parliament. The turnout decided that most of themselves weren't content with a reluctant bourgeoisie from the Southside as their representative in London, and instead went for a local chap who already works for them as a member of Glasgow City Council.

Before and after the election, media representatives from across the UK flocked to Glasgow East as perhaps never before. With few exceptions, they sent back copy describing horrific wastelands of poverty and violence; even local correspondents were guilty of this. Developing issues were sidelined in favour of sad old stereotypes.

Inexplicably feart of unforthcoming lawsuits, none of the newspapers published the emergent details of the outgoing Labour MP's tribulations; however, they were common currency on the street, thanks to word-of-mouth (doubtless aided by non-Labour activists). Almost immediately prior to the election, the Glasgow Herald finally broke ranks and reported that resigning MP David Marshall, who had claimed 'health grounds' for retiring, had allowed his daughter to register two businesses as operating from the same premises as his constituency office, for which he had claimed enormous expenses\*. It's likely that the rapidly-diminishing Herald only did this in order to pre-empt being 'scooped' by another Scottish newspaper and thereby losing further local prestige.

Several weeks earlier, the racist hate-rag Sunday Mail had performed an uncharacteristic public service by revealing this information and claiming it had been verified by 'senior Labour officials'. Although the Mail is known to be unafraid of using tenuous information, the intervening time found the Sun and Daily Telegraph also printing similar stories. There was more than enough material for wir ain jornos to verify and further the investigation. But no: the Scotsman belongs to the alien Blairite Barclay brothers, the Herald is in the process of sacking everyone, and the Press and Journal didn't care.



**None of the above**

Approximately one thousand, mostly imported, party apparatchiks of various hues stormed the streets for several weeks beforehand, using military jargon and market research software. Anyone unworldly enough to describe themselves as 'undecided' was subjected to a barrage of telephone calls and mail-drops. Community groups, bowling greens, and local businesses were invaded, thoroughly patronised, then abandoned until the next token visitation. Transport arrangements were made by naive political parties on behalf of canny voters.

Following the election result, much was made of the 'SNP vote as attack on Gordon Brown' angle. A number of statistical dreamworlds were constructed, extrapolating this local vote across the country and fantasising results. Bullish predictions were made for the next general election, which pundits claim will return a record number of successful Nationalist candidates to a parliament which they generally shouldn't, on principle, vote in. There was talk of 'earthquakes' and 'shockwaves', of 'triumph' and 'humiliation'. Suitably rewarded for deigning to pay attention to a wretched bit of the provinces like Glasgow East, the media decamped to London to resume the usual service.

Now the balance of power in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom has shifted, by 0.16%, and the government majority has slipped by one. Having demonstrated almost equal ease with both Labour and Conservative governments over the last century, the Establishment won't mind. In fact, the Nationalists have demonstrated a subsidy-throwing, tax-slashing, donation-sooking

attitude to business which nearly puts the rest to shame already. The dividend-drawers might well be rubbing their hands gleefully at the (still fairly distant) prospect of a fledgling independent nation willing to be as accommodating as possible to their ends.

The fact is that, amidst all of the frothing and fervour of the usual horse-race politics, almost two-thirds of the franchisees couldn't see sufficient merit in any of the candidates to justify a few seconds' work putting a cross in a box. This growing constituency of the disillusioned is glossed over by the media, who can't understand it, and ignored by the politicians, who'd happily take a seat on the basis of a solitary vote, but its sheer numerical scale should give them pause. If you take abstention as an 'anti-vote', then the winner of every election for some years now, without exception, has been 'no government'. There are millions who refuse to participate in the black comedy that is liberal democracy; let's hope they can find their way into the universe of alternative political expression.

\*To ensure parity of disdain, we'll mention that local SNP councillor Jahangir Hanif was recently suspended for allowing *his* daughter to have a shot of a Kalashnikov assault rifle - when she was five years old.

## UK NOW 50% GM-FREE

One of the two UK trials of genetically-modified crops taking place this year has been successfully sabotaged by direct-action campaigners.

A Leeds University trial of 'cyst-resistant' potatoes was physically attacked, rendering the results unfit for scientific consideration. The experiment's overseer, Professor Howard Atkinson, denied that the 400-plant trial was sufficiently large to threaten the wider environment, apparently in ignorance of the virtually limitless pollination possibilities of any single flowering plant. In a frankly terrifying statement needing no further comment, he was quoted as saying: 'We demand the academic freedom to gain knowledge, and a society that doesn't allow scientists to do that has got a problem.'

Traditionally, rotation of naturally cyst-resistant potato strains has served to eliminate contamination. Apart from the homogenisation of potato supply, the motivation behind this expensive trial is unclear.

The other current trial approved by government is at a high-security facility in Cambridge, featuring 24-hour patrols and a perimeter fence, growing 'blight-resistant' GM potatoes, and costing four times as much as the U-Leeds test. This study, conducted by the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), has become far more expensive following a partially-successful raid on the facility last year. Bio-security, meanwhile, remains priceless.

Environment ministers are meeting in September to further plans for a full-time secure GM crop facility at the NIAB. Other proposals on their agenda include the removal of GM test sites from the public record; the full implications of this suggestion remain speculative. Will local farmers and landowners also be kept in the dark, or bound by the Official Secrets Act? Will the nature of the trials altogether be withheld, or merely the location? Will the anonymity of trial sites be extended to published results, resulting in the omission of scientific data?

We will soon know, once the government has completed this stage of its ongoing effort to force genetically modified foodstuffs upon unwilling British farmers and the public. Coming soon, from the same people who brought you Agent Orange and the Terminator Gene: your staple diet.

## EXCLUSIVE: IRAN NOT COMPOSED OF HOLOCAUST-DENYING NUCLEAR TERRORISTS!

That's right people: whilst the mainstream media debates the pros and cons of a pre-emptive, potentially nuclear, strike against Iran's as-yet-unproven 'WMD production facilities', we can exclusively reveal that the population of Iran are not anti-Semitic jihadists bent on pushing Israel into the sea.

Despite widespread coverage referring solely to the undeniably insane President Ahmadinejad and his shadowy cabal of hardcore clerical overseers, with occasional reference to a downtrodden

burkha-clad female population, simple observation reveals that Iran is in fact a complex society composed predominantly of hard-working people who love their children and have views spanning the entire political spectrum.

In the most recent (2005) presidential election, approximately two-thirds of the vote was in favour of 'reformist' candidates keen to integrate Iran economically with Western and Asian blocs and liberalise it socially; a further sixth of the vote went to a candidate from a conservative, military background. In the subsequent run-off, Ahmadinejad benefited from this conservative vote, and won by two-to-one against the most prominent reform candidate, former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Given that the previous incumbency of Rafsanjani, a free-market fundamentalist, was marked by 49% inflation, it is testimony to anti-clerical feeling in Iran that he was able to gain such support. By contrast, Ahmadinejad came to power on a manifesto promising massive state investment to improve the lives of Iranians.

On a turnout of just under 60%, Ahmadinejad therefore gained the vote of about a quarter of the franchised population of the country, despite running against a candidate with such woeful baggage. More than four out of ten eligible Iranians couldn't be bothered with either a radical free-market conservative or a state-socialist religionist.

The recently-reintroduced death penalty and a torrent of human rights abuses have served as little deterrent to a range of dissenters, ranging from feminists to students to business. The prospect and fact of sadistic repression illustrates the passion and commitment of the anti-government movement in Iran. Some examples of brave public action include:

-In April 2004, several hundred female activists protested near the state broadcaster's headquarters, opposing the transmission of a programme they felt encouraged polygamy and female subjugation.

-In September the same year, student activists began to provide online transcriptions of banned newspapers and magazines.

-In the week prior to the election which returned Ahmadinejad as President in June 2005, scores of women faced riot police on the streets of Tehran to demand changes to the constitution, which requires wearing of the veil and screens presidential candidacy by gender.

-On the anniversary of the pre-election protest, several hundred protesters, male and female, were violently dispersed by police from Tehran's main square, where they had gathered to demand legal parity for women.

-Last year, students fought with government supporters after interrupting a speech by President Ahmadinejad. The fighting was followed by a mass protest against the jailing of three students who were isolated as ringleaders, tortured, and charged with publishing articles insulting to Islam.

-Also last year, pre-emptive police raids on trades union activists failed to deter a 7,000 strong march on Parliament by teachers objecting to the administration's economic policy.

-Roughly one hundred tea-shop owners protested Parliament last December over the ban on smoking water-pipes in public places.

-Enforced closure of the Chitgar public park didn't stop over a thousand workers and their families from celebrating International Workers' Day this year on May 1; they simply relocated to Jahan-Nama Park for their picnic.

-Last month, Tehran was filled with smoke as activists torched a dozen petrol stations in protest at new fuel rationing imposed by the government.

As it goes, none of the above protests featured the burning of the American (or other Western power's) flag, or anti-Zionist rhetoric. Rather, they affirmed the commitment of the Iranian people to the overthrow or limitation of their theocracy, and illustrated their concern for democracy, feminism, and freedom of action.

At time of press, no American presidential candidate, European island vassal state, or Israeli government had withdrawn their promise to exterminate such people indiscriminately with atomic bombs.

## NEW ANARCHA-FEMINIST GROUP IN GLASGOW

Feminism is based on the idea that women and men are equal and should be treated equally. Anarcha-feminism is a movement towards women's equality based on anarchist principles. Anarcha-feminists believe that equality for women means equality for **all** women. Having a small minority of women in positions of power does not guarantee a better deal for most women. Throughout history, governments and states have been responsible for some of the worst atrocities against women. This is why anarcha-feminists see the state as an extension of patriarchy - the dominant form of social organization where men have power over women.

The best way to secure equality for all women is to eliminate authority and hierarchies whenever possible, including governments. That's why anarcha-feminists believe in anarchy as a way of structuring our societies. Anarchy means a system of direct democracy, without rulers or leaders but based on principles of self-determination and mutual aid.

Anarcha-feminism focuses particularly on gender oppression, not because it is most important, but because it affects so many people and needs to be addressed. Gender oppression includes patriarchy, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, body image issues and sexual violence. It is important, however, to recognise the links between different kinds of oppression. In order to fight the oppression and exploitation of women we must fight the oppression of all people, whether because of gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality or disability and also the exploitation of the Earth.

A few of us are starting an anarcha-feminist group in Glasgow and we'll meet regularly from September onwards to talk about issues affecting us as women and as anarchists. All women are welcome! It doesn't matter if you consider yourself to be a feminist or anarchist or are just interested to find out more - come along and have a chat. Some things we'll be talking about include:

-Our experiences of being women of different ages, races and from different backgrounds

-Violence against women

-Feminist healthcare

-Anarchist women past and present

-Women in the prison system



We won't just be talking though - we'll be getting organized and fighting back (as well as eating lots of cake)!!

For more info please contact: [jain@riseup.net](mailto:jain@riseup.net)



## CLIMATE CAMP COMES TO CONCLUSION

The Camp for Climate Action at Kingsnorth in Kent came to an end August 9th, following a week of discussions, workshops, and police violence and intimidation. The final day was marked by a two-thousand-strong march on the coal-fired Kingsnorth power station, in an attempt to disrupt the plant's operation. Supplementing the march was a flotilla of approximately two dozen themed craft, which attempted to negotiate the River Medway and carry out an amphibious assault on the E-On facility.

Although activities at the camp attempted to cover a wide range of ecological issues, the main theme presented to the media for the week was current government plans to commission at least two experimental 'clean coal' power stations, one of which is to be based at the Kingsnorth site. Developing unproven technology, these new plants would continue to consume coal and taxpayers' money at a phenomenal rate, sustaining the morbid fossil fuel industry and diverting resources which could be better spent deploying and refining existing renewable-energy technologies.



Westminster's final call on this will be before the watching eyes of the world; expect an affirmative to be followed by a wave of similar projects abroadwise. Much of the favour this scheme has found with government stems from the imagined future marketability of the science it develops.

Following on from successful camps in 2006 and 2007 (at another power station and an airport respectively), Climate Camp 2008 discussed this and other issues at a week-long forum in a sustainable-living environment. Powered by solar panels and wind turbines, the camp featured vegan food and compost toilets; people brought their kids; it was a nice scene, by all accounts.

Unfortunately the campers were outnumbered by an interventionist police presence at the beginning; by the end of the week, numbers approached a 1:1 ratio. Not content with seizing camp tools and infrastructure as things got underway, the police graduated to mass incursions on the camp. Initially carrying out searches, these intruders eventually came suited-up and ready to break heads. Pictures and footage of the not-easily-explicable police actions at the camp demonstrate a fantastic level of brutality. By the end, one hundred non-violent protesters had been arrested.

Early in the week, the forces of law and order attempted to misappropriate vehicles parked at the gate of the camp, claiming that these constituted a hazard in case of the camp having to be evacuated (contrary to the advice of local fire brigade officials). Confronted by angry campers, the police withdrew on this occasion; however it set the scene for the rest of the week, with frequent stand-offs between police and campers occurring at the gates for the duration. Staged at seemingly random times of day and night, and supplemented by low-flying helicopters and universal searches on would-be campers, these confrontations sapped the energy of the campers and served effectively to disrupt proceedings.

On the day of action itself, colour-coded teams set about the work of infiltrating the power station, whilst a march composed of the remainder of the camp plus locals and non-militant sympathisers headed off for the main gate, where they staged a protest lasting approximately an hour before obediently dispersing on police instruction (save 19 who remained, and were quickly arrested).

The efforts beside the march fared variously well; most of the Rebel Raft Regatta were detained (note: not 'rescued') by police boats en route, although at least one craft successfully negotiated the waterway before being picked up on the target shore. An indeterminate number from the ground force were able to penetrate both security fences before armoured police set about them, resulting in four arrests within the perimeter of the plant. Weather conditions thwarted the mooted aerial invasion, for the time being at least.

The camp managed to serve a number of ends under pressure. They provided the forum and skill-sharing opportunity which they intended; achieved some media coverage of a highly pertinent issue; and created the nucleus of a permanent direct-action group dedicated to opposing the morbid fossil plans for Kingsnorth. We hope suchlike will continue for as long as there's work to be done.

## IN BRIEF

**NICE people don't like Big Pharma** – NHS overseer, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, has described drug companies' motives as 'perverse' and claimed that current drugs for serious conditions such as kidney cancer were being priced at up to ten times the cost of production in order to sustain inflated salaries for senior management. Responding to criticism of NICE's drug spending policy, chairman Sir Michael Rawlins also highlighted the fact that drug companies, which commonly blame research costs for high prices, actually spend approximately twice as much on marketing as on research and development. He *could* have added that much of the research which is completed consists of incremental changes to a drug (for example, to include a painkiller, or change it from a pill to liquid form) which serve no purpose except allowing further patent applications to be submitted and thereby delaying the manufacture of cheaper generics – but he didn't.

**Back to the future** – As the Russian army drags its heels about getting back out of Georgia, other local nations are picking sides in an old-school showdown between NATO and the Russian Federation. Ukraine and Poland have both put their necks on the block and volunteered to be part of the 'not-Star Wars' missile defence system (which is designed to counter the last generation of ballistic missiles and is therefore already obsolete, except for the purpose of winding up Russians and Iranians). Meanwhile Russia is apparently reissuing the Bomb to its Baltic naval forces. Don't panic though – the superpowers are just threatening the nuclear extermination of millions of people on four minutes' notice again.

**It's good to be obedient** – Having spent decades encouraging us to buy now and pay later on their irresponsible consumer credit offers, the banks have turned 180 and started another social engineering campaign to convince us to give back some of the money they lost on junk loans over the last year. 'Research' conducted by the Yorkshire Bank (a National Australia Group brand) apparently shows that people are more likely to save for an item than they were twelve months ago, and then uses leading and subjective questions to show that this gives more overall satisfaction than using credit. So people crushed under never-before seen levels of consumer debt are gradually using less new lines of credit? Next week: how holding your glass upside-down makes your drink less enjoyable.

**Finance 2** – Whilst the banks' marketeers suggest that vanishing credit lines are down to consumer choice, their legal departments are filling up the courts with repossession orders for defaulted mortgage payments. So far applications for such orders are up 24% in the last three months compared to the same period a year ago. Apparently the usurers are just as creative in responding to a financial crisis as they were during the last one, and are demonstrating all the compassion and humanity we should have learned to expect.

**And finally** – In a gratuitous example of how healthy American culture is these days, Harrold Independent School District in Northern Texas has recently approved a policy allowing teachers at its educational facilities to carry concealed handguns to work. Yes, even the PE teachers will be permitted to bring in their favourite 'shooter'. Incidence of running in the corridors and gum-chewing in class is expected to plummet.

# EVENTS

All featured events are free entry unless noted otherwise.

## AUGUST

**Saturday 23 11am-9pm. Stalls until 8pm.**

**Radical Independent Book Fair, @**

Centre for Contemporary Arts, 350 Sauchiehall St., Glasgow – The **RIB** is an excellent opportunity to see some films, find out about some campaigns, and join some discussions, as well as offering an excellent selection of radical / independent / counter-culture literature. Events this summer include a look back at 60s radicalism, a forum hosted by the Anarchist Federation, and the launch of a book investigating the politics of genocide. More info at: [www.ribproject.org](http://www.ribproject.org)

## SEPTEMBER

**Date TBC**

**Glasgow Anarcha-Feminists**, see article on page 6 for more details.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Subversives' Social**, early evening, venue **TBC** - You don't have to be an anarchist to come along, you just have to be interested in making Glasgow and the wider world a better place to live in. Further details available soon on:

[www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk](http://www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk)

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Stop the War Coalition vs The Labour Party Conference.**

All day, meet 12:30 @ All Saints, Cavendish Street Manchester, M15 - Protest against the ongoing occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan: No Borders Network and the Anarchist Federation are assembling a "Freedom of Movement" bloc to participate. Buses leave Glasgow at 0800, ticket price TBC see:

[www.stopwwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwwar.org.uk), [www.afed.org.uk](http://www.afed.org.uk) and [www.noborders.org.uk](http://www.noborders.org.uk) or speak to Glasgow Anarchist stall for more info.

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Glasgow Anarchists' Saturday Stall 1200-1500 @** Buchanan Street, Glasgow (near Borders Books)

On offer; freesheets, leaflets, badges, newspapers, magazines, literature, information and lots of friendly chat. [www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk](http://www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk)

## ANARCHY ONLINE

[www.radicalglasgow.me.uk](http://www.radicalglasgow.me.uk)

Local radical resource and home of the Anarchist Critic.

[www.iwwscotland.org](http://www.iwwscotland.org)

Revolutionary trade union run by its membership.

[www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com](http://www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com)

Libertarian socialist organisation building strength in communities and workplaces.

[www.libcom.org](http://www.libcom.org)

Anarchist/libertarian communist news and resource site.

[www.classwaruk.org](http://www.classwaruk.org)

Militant anarchist group, publishers of the newspaper of the same name.

[www.freedompress.org.uk](http://www.freedompress.org.uk)

The oldest British anarchist newspaper, going strong since 1886.

[www.anarchistfaq.org](http://www.anarchistfaq.org)

Infoshop.org's Anarchist FAQ, details what anarchism is and why you should help it come about.

[www.solfed.org.uk](http://www.solfed.org.uk)

The Solidarity Federation, British section of the International Workers' Association.

[www.katesharpleylibrary.net](http://www.katesharpleylibrary.net)

Library of Anarchist history.

[www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk)

Free alternative news site.

[www.citystrolls](http://www.citystrolls)

Think of your City and make it happen.

[www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk](http://www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk)

Our website.

**Speak out:**

Your news, views and ideas are welcome, what's on your mind, what gets up your nose about today's society, write and let us know at [annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk](mailto:annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk)

**Quote:** "Life is an adventure of our own design, intersected by fate and a series of lucky and unlucky accidents." **Patti Smith.**

