

END OF TERRORISM STOP & SEARCH

Government back down in use of the unlawful section 44 legislation

Police have been finally forced to discontinue the controversial anti-Terrorism stop and search power after the European courts deemed it illegal and in violation of the right to privacy. Section 44 of the Terrorism Act, brought in by New Labour in 2000 as part of their war on terror and widening campaign of state control, gave police *carte blanche* powers to stop and search anybody within an authorised area without grounds for suspicion or the need for justification. This arbitrary approach to policing gave no legal safeguards against misuse, something the European courts re-enforced in its landmark ruling earlier this year.

In a surprise statement to Parliament on Thursday 8th July, the Home Secretary Teresa May announced police would cease using section 44, telling the assembled politicians "Officers will no longer be able to search individuals using section 44 powers; instead, they will have to rely on section 43 powers, which require officers to reasonably suspect the person to be a terrorist".

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LENS CAP MINERS ALL OUT!



The 126th Durham Miners Gala on Saturday 10th July saw proud ex-miners take to the streets for the biggest working class gathering of the year. Hundreds of thousands of people paraded through the heart of the old mining community, banners aloft, to the sound of traditional brass bands.

ANARCHISTS VERSUS EDL

Yorkshire anarchist anti-fascists had some unwelcome visitors in the form of members of the notoriously active English Defence League (EDL), at their first Anti-fascist Action Coalition meeting in Leeds on 3rd July. Organised by Leeds Anarchist Federation the public meeting was advertised as a preparation to the EDL's planned demonstration in Bradford on 28th August. The original call-out, as well as encouraging "independent proletarian anti-fascists in the region to work together", also echoed the rhetoric of the left by inviting people to "Bash the EDL".

According to Leeds AF, five EDL members turned up to the meeting claiming to be Wakefield anti-fascists. When they properly identified themselves they insisted they didn't want a fight and they were just there to

explain that they weren't racist. After a brief exchange they were asked to leave and after a few repetitions of 'But just let me finish...', they did.

This inconvenient encounter does show a worrying trend with the EDL growing in confidence enough to actively confront public meetings held against them. Already they have attended meetings organised by Unite Against Fascism and ex-Respect MP George Galloway.

Despite the growing fears that the far-right are returning 'to the streets' all the indicators show those coming to meetings are not far right but more likely from football hooligan firms.

Clearly lessons need to be learned if the EDL continue to target anarchist meetings in this way, not only about the tactical approaches of the EDL but also our collective response to it.

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

SEA ICE: According to the National Snow and Ice Data Centre, June had the lowest recorded average Arctic sea ice extent since records began in 1979.

The extent averaged 10.87 million square kilometres (4.20 million square miles) for the month of June, 1.29 million square kilometres (498,000 square miles) below the 1979 to 2000 average and 190,000 square kilometres (73,000 square miles) below the previous record low for the month of 11.06 million square kilometres (4.27 million square miles), set in 2006.

In June, ice extent declined by 88,000 square kilometres (34,000 square miles) per day, more than 50% greater than the average rate of 53,000 square kilometres (20,000 square miles) per day. This rate of decline is the fastest measured for June.

MILITARY: This week sees the appointment of a new Chief of the Defence Staff.

Sir David Richards KCB, CBE, DSO, ADC (we don't know what they stand for but they sound posh), currently head of the Army, is going to be the new man in charge and with such jolly quotes as "Afghanistan flows through my veins" we can only wish him the best of British, or is that Afghan, luck. Sadly this means goodbye to Sir Jock Stirrup, his jollily named predecessor.

Meanwhile, back to the occupation of Afghanistan. In June 102 coalition troops were killed and by 12th July another 30 have already died.

JUDGE: A senior circuit judge has resigned after claims about his private life.

Judge Gerald Price QC was suspended last year following allegations in a newspaper about the judge and a male prostitute.

The Office for Judicial Complaints said Judge Price has now resigned following an investigation into allegations about his conduct.

The Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice had already informed him that his behaviour merited removal from office.

WORLD CUP: The excellent World Football Elo ratings website has been down for most of the tournament.

We blame FIFA, doubtless in an attempt to promote their own weird and politically motivated ranking system.

However, as it is based on the widely understood principles of the system Dr Elo for Chess the results can be replicated.

Unsurprisingly Spain have emerged as top rated on 2,140 the second highest of any World Cup winning side after Brazil (2,152) in 1962.

TIPS: For the nags we recommend the proletarian dobbie 'Workforce' to run off with the prize money of the rich at the King George and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot on 24th July. Readers are advised not to check on previous predictions in this column.

LENS CAP SABOTMOUSE



It looks like the humble *Muscardinus avellanrius*, or Hazel Dormouse to you and me, may delay or even halt the building of the new 1,500-place prison at Runwell. It appears that the Biodiversity Action Plan for the Ministry of Justice's planning application discounted the possible presence of the Dormouse on the site because there was no hazel there. But hazel is not an exclusive food source for the mice and Essex Wildlife Trust is now calling on Chelmsford Borough Council's planning committee meeting to delay planning permission whilst a proper survey for the endangered species is carried out.

Marxism 2010

I am writing this note while sitting in a geotechnical engineering conference, some sort of subversion I guess. What I am aiming to share here is the experience of the weekend at Marxism 2010. It is not bad to know about my background in the first place; I am not European (coming from a developing country) but have lived in London for the last four years. I don't consider myself a communist, marxist or an anarchist, but I am very sympathetic towards the libertarian left. I have not been involved in activism in this country and my expectations from Marxism was to hear more about the system and the struggles ahead from experts in the field. I was also looking forward to meet people and to share ideas with them.

I knew that programme was organised by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) but I was not expecting their full hegemony on every talk. My first disappointment came with the first talk which was on 'Police'. The speaker was a young member of SWP with no particular knowledge on the topic and all he did was repeating the party line propaganda about the police accompanied with few quotations from Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. The talk was empty from any profound and extensive analysis of policing in a more general terms and the understanding of control and

power. More disappointing was the comments and 'questions' which were repeating the same party line themes to which there was no challenge whatsoever. I left the talk without feeling anything had been added to my knowledge.

This talk was to be repeated again and again during the next three days, no matter if the talk was on foreign policy, women's liberation, anarchism or art; simple reductionist old style class analysis was accompanied by quotations from Trotsky, Lenin and Engels. All, long, repetitive and non-challenging.

This boring format was complimented by the strong self belief of the participants; people too sure of everything, knowing all the answers to all matters in the existence, I was expecting a more sceptical and down to earth attitude towards our complex life. Their membership marketing was also very annoying and I couldn't see any difference with people trying to sell you perfume in the shops.

Although the whole experience was disappointing and it was waste of time and money, I have been to couple of decent talks in the fringe. The talk organised by Communist Party of Great Britain on Iran was quite insightful. The meeting of National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts was not bad either.



A crowd rallies in support of Rob Williams, who was sacked from Linamar for his solidarity work on behalf of the Visteon workers

Militant factory to close

Workers who fought for others jobs now set to lose theirs

Workers at the Swansea factory who, along with the anarchists, rallied in support of the sacked Visteon workers last year look like they will be following suit with the closure of the South Wales manufacturing plant and the loss of all existing jobs.

Linamar plans to close the factory which produces high precision car components, with the loss of 208 jobs.

This comes two years after they took over the plant from Ford-Visteon with a commitment to invest in its future. Within a year it had already halved the workforce and is now set to cut all links with Wales and move production elsewhere.

Before the announcement bosses at Linamar had reassured workers that they had secured new engine work from Ford supplying its

massive engineering plant in nearby Bridgend. Angry workers now believe that Linamar, the second biggest auto-parts company in Canada, was only interested in securing the work from Ford, work which is to be transferred to the German plant.

The factory itself has had a long history of militant strike action. Originally built in 1960 for fridge manufacturer Prestcold, the plant was acquired by Ford in the mid-1960s before being transferred to Visteon, a car parts manufacturer spun out as a separate company with UK factories in Enfield, Basildon and Belfast.

It was with the closure of these Visteon sites early in 2009, and the sacking of the entire UK workforce, that Linamar workers rallied in support, with union convenor and militant trade unionist Rob Williams being sacked for his solidarity work on behalf of the Visteon workers.

On hearing the news of his dismissal the Linamar workers immediately downed tools

and walked off the job threatening an 'all-out' indefinite strike forcing management to back down and reinstate Williams.

Workers feared Williams's dismissal was a deliberate act to undermine the confidence of the workforce in an attempt to ease the closure the factory. Around 140 workers have been made redundant in the previous six months.

As one union representative said at the time, "Visteon farmed out Swansea to Linamar because they were worried the workforce would not take mass lay-offs lying down. Linamar sweetened the pill with big redundancy settlements for the first lot to go. Now it looks like they want to go in for the kill."

Production will cease by the end of the year after a 90-day 'consultation period' between management and unions. It is unclear how the workers will respond, and if Linamar will honour its pension commitments to the workers the way Visteon failed to do.

End of terrorism stop and search

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The reason for the government's change was due to a case brought before the European Court of Human Rights by two activists who were stopped and searched under section 44 while on their way to an anti-arms fair demo in Docklands, East London, in 2003.

As reported previously in *Freedom*, Pennie Quinton (who is to become a regular columnist for *Freedom*) and Kevin Gillan, a photographer, took their case to Strasbourg after challenging the use of terror legislation by police to target political demonstrations.

Political activists have long been subject to attention by police under section 44, and without the need to justify their actions the police were able to use the law as a form of

harassment. It was this the European courts recognised in ruling in favour of Quinton and Gillan, concluding that "the risks of the discriminatory use of the powers" were "a very real consideration".

There have been 400,000 people stopped and searched under section 44 in the last two years alone, with no indication of its effectiveness in the 'fight against terrorism'. Indeed Lord Carlile's annual report on operation terrorism legislation declared: "There is little or no evidence that the use of section 44 has the potential to prevent an act of terrorism as compared with other statutory powers of stop and search" and went further in commenting on the Quinton/

Gillan ruling, saying: "In my view, section 44 is being used far too often on a random basis without any reasoning behind its use".

On the surface this seems like an impressive climb-down by the state, highlighting no doubt the new caring and sharing coalition government in action, but as anarchists we need to look carefully and ask what the motivations behind such a seemingly generous act are. Certainly in future political activists won't be targeted in the same way through the powers of the Terrorism Act, but there continues to be an arsenal of legalisation at the police's disposal they can use against those who continue to question the authority of the state.

ANALYSIS

The real World Cup

Now that the spectacle of the beautiful game of bribery, corruption and exploitation is over, the FIFA 'family' will be heading home with their millions, leaving the South African state to cope with losses made from the empty seats at World Cup matches. At the end of the not-so-stylish Spain versus Holland final, the commentators calmly suggested that Sepp Blatter and co now have the responsibility to follow through with legacy promises. Yet, as with the Olympics, promises of positive legacy are only made to distract people from the real situation. South Africa has delivered to millions of global televisions, but a smooth public relations operation does not translate into benefits for the people.

Building new stadia especially for the World Cup has nothing to do with legacy. What will they be used for now? They couldn't even be filled during the World Cup; they will never be filled afterwards. Indeed, more money is made for FIFA by building new, or an excess of stadia, through overrun and the gaining of contracts. As Danny Jordaan, chief executive of the World Cup 2010 organising committee, admitted in an interview with the *Financial Times* on 8th June, "It's better for us to build brand new stadiums". But it's nothing to do with South Africa's future potential to host other international money-making events, rather about making money now for the FIFA 'family'. Jordaan said that they want "reconciliation, nation-building; we want

We invite all the football fans and journalists who are in Durban for the World Cup to come to Kennedy Road and to see for themselves the human cost of misdirecting resources into stadiums and so on in a country where the poor are still suffering. We are dying while you are celebrating and we are dying because of the way in which you are celebrating. This tournament should have been organised in such a way that we could all celebrate together – Abahlali baseMjondolo Press Statement, 4th July 2010

social cohesion". That probably means they want a receptive nation where they can return to for future corporate adventures, perhaps enforced by the further implementation of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa. Continuing the wave of corporate social investment, whilst clamping down on resistance: very cohesive.

In contrast to the account in the feature article of the last edition of *Freedom*, I think talk of the World Cup bringing any advantages



or unity to the people of South Africa is, at best, naïve. There have of course been successes: for FIFA and their allies. Despite the recession, pre-sold television rights and sponsorship made this the most profitable World Cup ever for FIFA, with new brands prepared to throw money at FIFA. New markets have been opened up on a number of levels, with wealthy, mainly white, middle classes in South Africa being introduced to football. FIFA has walked away with an estimated £2.5bn in tax-free profit.

The situation on the ground is one where public health is a disaster, with thousands of people dying from AIDS, only half of black families with a flushing toilet and 43% living on about £1.50 a day. Meanwhile, education is in chaos and racial divisions are still a massive problem. The World Cup extravaganza did more than simply ignore these problems, but it made them worse and distracted people from them by giving the impression that South Africa is somehow now a 'capable' nation. Yes, it has hosted perhaps the biggest global 'public' event, but it still perpetuates the biggest gap between rich and poor people in the world. Being a willing partner in corporate globalisation is not a sign of success.

Between late May and until 15th July, all protests and marches were declared illegal in South Africa: hard won constitutional rights suspended for the benefit of a smooth running corporate party. In the lead up to the World Cup, people have been violently displaced and there has been widespread resistance, such as countless wildcat strikes mainly in the construction industries. All this despite longstanding problems of police brutality,

such as the 2004 torture of Landless Peoples Movement activists and police general Bheki Cele's 2008 'shoot to kill' order. During the event, there have been strikes by thousands of stewards, which lead to all stewards being fired (including those who weren't on strike) and their jobs being done by police instead. Police responded violently to these strikes with tear-gas, rubber bullets and percussive grenades, with some strikers being severely injured. Stewards had ignored forms they were asked to sign to give an undertaking that they would not withdraw their labour again during the World Cup. World Cup chief Danny Jordaan said: "This is an employer, employee wage dispute. We find it unacceptable for them to disrupt match day proceedings."

It is positive that people throughout the host nation have been willing to resist existing problems and those brought by the World Cup, using the attention the World Cup has brought to their country, despite massive repression. It is a great shame, although no great surprise, that the world's media has done little to assist them, despite explicit invitations by groups like Abahlali baseMjondolo. It remains for more solidarity work to be done and to continue to inform people about the inherent anti-democratic nature of global sporting events.

For more info see:

- <http://abahlali.org>
- www.transparencyinsport.org
- <http://www.ukzn.ac.za/ccs/files/Bond%20%20A%20Political%20Economy%20of%20the%20Soccer%20World%20Cup%202010.pdf>
- <http://pitchinvasion.net>

Stonewall was a riot

On Saturday 3rd July, approximately one million people came to central London for Pride. Although it was billed as an opportunity to celebrate the events of 40 years ago – the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, followed by the formation of the Gay Liberation Front – it seems that much of that radical history has been forgotten.

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people – and anarchists – have heard of the ‘Stonewall Riots’, but are a bit hazy about what actually happened.

At the end of the ‘60s, New York City gave LGBT people the chance to find community, or at least escape small-town homophobia. Gays used public spaces, and a number of bars. These were small and dingy, owned by Mafia men who routinely sold watered-down liquor. They charged a cover on the door, and high prices for the booze. The police received regular pay-offs, and in return would usually warn the owners before they staged their raids.

The police had many laws at their disposal, including the New York State Penal Code. Bars which openly served homosexuals, or permitted them to dance with each other, could be labelled “disorderly houses”. Plain-clothes police officers were used to entrap gay men for “soliciting men for the purpose of committing a crime against nature”, while “sumptuary laws” were used against anyone not wearing “gender appropriate clothing”.

The Stonewall Inn (pictured below left) was raided in the early hours of Saturday 28th June 1969. Many of those present – especially the street youth, the butches and the drag queens – had been harassed, beaten, arrested and invasively searched by cops. They felt like they had nothing to lose, and every reason to fight back this time. Enough was enough. Stilettos, bottles, coins, and bricks were thrown. The cops found themselves trapped inside the bar, while a crowd of angry queers outside

tried to set fire to it. The riots continued for days and nights, with over a thousand people out in the streets on the Wednesday.

The Stonewall Rebellion sparked the Gay Liberation Front, which then organised the first Gay Pride march exactly one year later, on ‘Christopher Street Liberation Day’ (pictured below right). The GLF was explicitly revolutionary, and aligned itself with other radical social movements, for example anti-war protesters and the Black Panther party. The GLF were against patriarchy, against capitalism, against colonialism, against exploitative gay bars, and they organised without a formal, hierarchical structure. These ideas spread quickly, and a GLF group formed in London. Its members established communes, often in squatted houses, and were active on a broad range of issues, seeing the struggle for sexual liberation as part of a wider struggle for all kinds of liberation.

Pride events now happen around the world every year. In some places, it is still a struggle to create this level of public visibility, and fascist groups threaten violence against marchers.

However here, Pride has been de-politicised and increasingly commercialised. From 1999 to 2003, the whole event was re-branded as ‘Mardi Gras’ (copying Sydney, Australia), and the free post-march festival was replaced with a ticketed event, with corporate sponsors. Pride London, a charity, has now taken over the organisation, but followed the same route: a themed parade (not a march, or a protest), with lavishly-decorated floats representing the LGBT ‘community’, and the latest assimilationist campaigns, for example the ‘rights’ of gay people to get married, get a mortgage, join the military, etc. The police, armed forces and prison service march proudly – this year the Home Office float has one of the loudest sound-systems. Pride is used to sell

London as a destination for gay tourists.

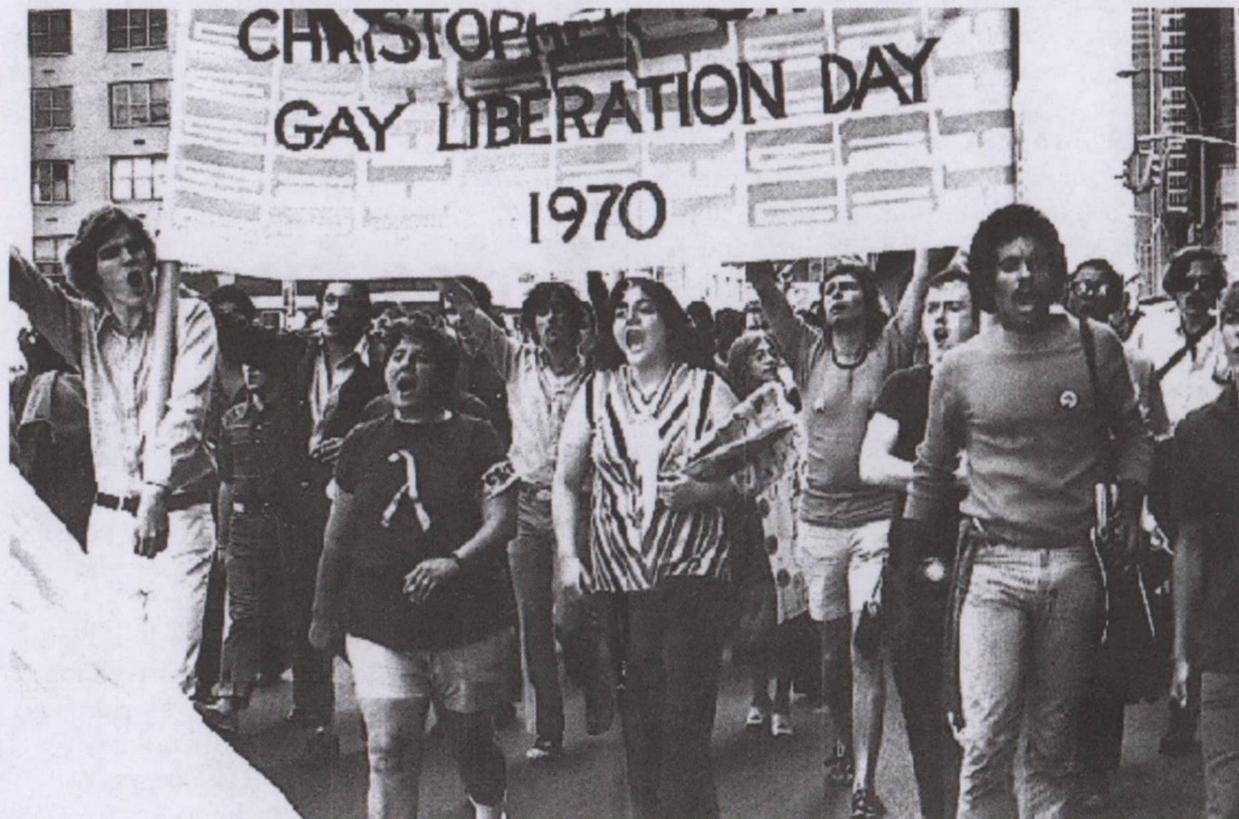
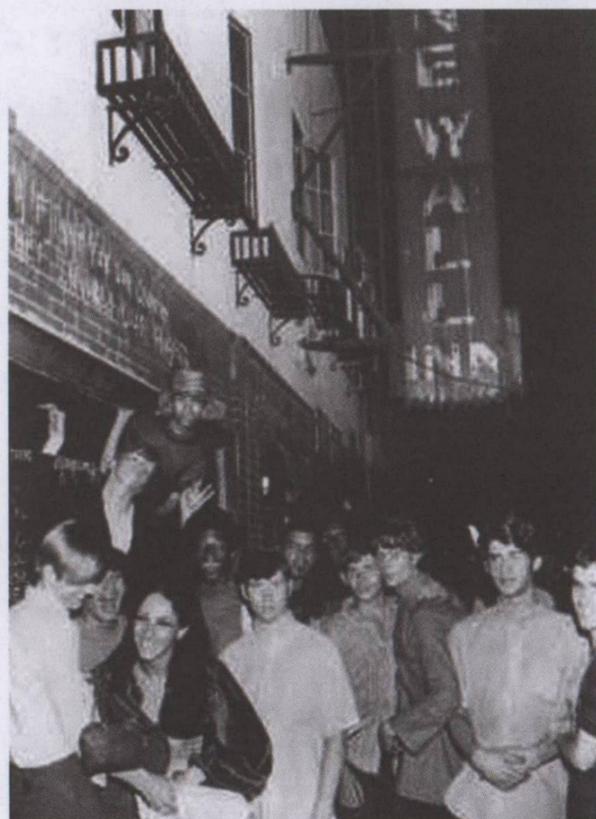
The GLF used to urge people to come out, and join in. But each year, participation in the parade is more strictly controlled, the sides are sealed off and stewards are instructed not to let spectators in. So yes, there are more people coming along to the West End to celebrate Pride, but for them the march is pure spectacle, something to watch go by, not something to be part of. The ‘gay lifestyle’ has been packaged up and sold to us, capitalism continues to see LGBT folk as yet another category of consumer to exploit.

Queer resistance has come in many forms. New York activists questioned the whole notion of ‘Pride’ and created ‘Gay Shame awards’ instead. Here in London, anarch@-queers have set up alternatives to the gay mainstream, and to Pride itself, occupying space both on the march and afterwards. A spoof newspaper, the *Pink Pauper*, has appeared twice. Last year’s flyers questioned the need for hate-crime legislation, and criticised police and prison service LGBT recruitment drives. Placards and banners like ‘Queers Bash Back against Homophobia’, ‘Fuck the Pink Pound’, ‘Queers against Capitalism’ attract the unwelcome attention of the Met, and Pride organisers; both of whom seem to find radical politics much more offensive than, for example, the presence of a float-full of LGBT Shell employees!

Radical queers are active in a range of struggles, and seem to be especially well-represented in No Borders and anti-prison groups. Bent Bars was established last year to link up LGBT prisoners with pen-pals on the outside, and now need more pen-pals.

London anarcha feminist kolektiv
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For more info at about Bent Bars see <http://www.co-re.org/joomla/index.php/bent-bars>.



INTERNATIONAL

IN BRIEF

AUSTRIA: Police raided apartments and autonomous spaces across Vienna on 6th July, arresting three activists as part of a major crackdown. The 'anti-terror' raids took place after direct actions had been held at unemployment offices in the city.

BELARUS: Workers have managed to halt a slide in pay and the loss of their bonuses to a vindictive management after they sent a letter to the press exposing unfair working practices in the Black Red White factory which employs them.

CAMBODIA: Cambodia's government and several unions have agreed to a 9% minimum wage rise for garment workers but the industry's biggest unions said demands were not met and a strike was still possible.

CHINA: HIV/AIDS campaigners are accusing the government of repressing public health educators after a series of forced cancellations of awareness-raising events and detentions.

GERMANY: A new report has criticised brutality in the police and a failure to bring offending police officers to justice. The Amnesty International report notes cases of excessive force during arrest, at police stations and during deportations which rarely make it to court.

IRAN: A public call for solidarity has been launched by the Tehran Bus Drivers Union for members Saeed Torabian, Reza Shahabi, Mansour Osanloo and Madadi, who remain in detention after their arrest by the regime for trade union activities. They are facing extensions to their prison terms on new charges from the authorities.

MEXICO: Twelve political prisoners known as the Atenco 12, arrested for detaining state officials for 48 hours during community education talks, have been found innocent and freed. The court noted there was no evidence of 'organised kidnapping', particularly given that the charge does not in fact exist in Mexican law.

PANAMA: Two men have been killed and over 100 people injured after police attacked striking banana plantation workers. They had been protesting a new law which undermines trade unionism.

POLAND: Anarchist author and historian, Rafal Gorski has died of cancer at the age of 37. Rafal has for many years been a key organiser in Poland and was active as an anti-fascist streetfighter from the age of 16.

SOUTH AFRICA: A report from the Landless People's Movement has found a "clear increase in aggressive attempts to undermine social movement activities in the past few years". The report documents beatings, forced removals of residents from their homes, and arson.

LENS CAP MEXICO



A member of the Detonation Collective in Mexico gestures during a film made ahead of the anniversary of the country's 1910 revolution. It was made as a spoof of an advert by Mexico's head football coach Javier Aguirre urging people to "stay calm" for the event and not cause trouble. Aguirre's original film was widely ridiculed as he opened with the line "I love Mexico". The millionaire has moved his family to Spain and publicly denounced the country as "totally fucked" in the past. There is widespread fear among the ruling classes in the country that social upheavals of the last few years could detonate before 2010 is out.

Police manslaughter charge protests

Thousands of people have joined protests have erupted in Oakland after policeman Johannes Mehserle was let off with a charge of 'involuntary manslaughter' after the killing of Oscar Grant. Oscar was shot while lying on the ground at the city's Fruitvale Station and a series of rallies and protests over the killing led to the recent case.

Whereas a murder conviction demands establishing an intent to kill, jurors believed that Mehserle was criminally negligent and acted with "reckless disregard for human life". While this was the first documented case in California history in which a police officer was charged with murder for an on-duty shooting, but it is far from the first time that a police officer has murdered a black man while on-duty.

According to Oakland's 11th December 2008 Citizens' Police Review Board's Policy Forum on Officer-Involved Shootings, an estimated 45 reported officer-involved shootings occurred from 2004–2008 in Oakland. Victims' ages ranged from 16–50 years old; of these, 36 were African American males, seven were Hispanic males, and the remaining two were an Asian male and an African American female. All of the shootings were "deemed to be in compliance with departmental policy". In 2008/2009 the Oakland City Attorney's office paid out \$3,75 million (£2.49m) for documented claims and lawsuits on police matters.

In an editorial on the case, one indybay writer said: "To condone such violence is to ensure that racial violence will also continue in America."

Notes from the US

It's somewhat encouraging that many of the mainstream propaganda organs still lead with the BP oil spill over two months after the Deepwater Horizon offshore rig exploded killing 11 workers and subsequently pouring millions of barrels of oil into seas in the region.

Around Independence Day, 4th July, the oil reached Texas. Most holiday resorts along the 500 miles from that state to Florida have seen dramatic drops in summer holiday bookings and many tens of thousands of workers have lost their livelihoods.

The likelihood is that many thousands will become seriously ill as a result of the clean-up. Also at the end of last month more than 600 separate rallies were held across the country to protest offshore oil drilling under the umbrella group, Hands Across the Sand.

Given such strength of feeling, you might think that BP would be hell-bent on putting things right, on acting transparently and on trying to limit the damage to its reputation.

However the company is now facing credible accusations that it has been using a

Global wave of general strikes

Unrest hits from Panama to Bangladesh, reports Rob Ray

Panama has joined Bangladesh, India, Italy and Greece in nationwide walkouts over the last few weeks, with more expected in Spain and France this September – and South Africa could follow.

The apparent mood to fight has been brought on by different factors but largely linked to the crisis of globalisation which has left world markets teetering.

In Panama, attempts to drive down working wages and clear out opposition to safeguard-free mining practices have been met with widespread fury, including riots and the general strike on 13th July.

The Aviation Bill, nicknamed the Sausage Bill because it has up to nine major pieces of legislation squeezed into it, was passed on 12th June and is widely regarded as an anti-labour stitchup.

Included in the bill are measures stripping away environmental safeguards on mines, legalising the use of scab labour, sanctioning brutal government responses to break strikes and undermining traditional trade unions' automatic recruitment rights in certain industries.

The attitude of the government was starkly shown on 10th July, when organisers meeting at the hotel Soloy were surrounded by armed riot police and arrested.

Large parts of India shut down on 5th July as inflation soars and subsidies on oil and cooking gas are rolled back. Riots followed walkouts and rallies as air, rail and road



Protestors with 'Workers Solidarity' union banner prior to a demonstration in Athens

transport was disrupted across the country, primarily in areas where the ruling Congress party wasn't dominant.

Another strike had been set for 15th July as *Freedom* went to press – which could drag in the Indian equivalent of the TUC, INTUC – a Congress party loyalist union.

Greece's general strike against strict austerity measures put up to 100,000 people out on the streets in a symbolic protest, while local government services shut down across the country while hospitals, education, transport links and even newspapers largely shut down. The strike followed the passing of pensions attacks through parliament as part of measures to pay for a £90bn IMF loan.

In Bangladesh, hundreds of political activists were arrested at the end of last month in their own 24-hour strike against misrule by the government in a 'precautionary crackdown', as 12,000 police thugs were put out on the streets.

Food and fuel prices have been spiking while the country's industrial heartlands have been hard-hit by the recession. With anger rising, the government has been closing down opposition media channels.

Meanwhile in South Africa, hot on the heels of an energy workers' strike which was called off at the last minute after a management cave-in, a quarter of a million public sector workers are voting on walkouts, slightly ahead of 13 other unions covering 1.4 million people.

Notes from the US

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toxic dispersant to deliberately conceal the magnitude of the spill. In a recent interview, Dallas investment banker Fred McCallister said that the dispersant has been used to sink the oil.

This effectively masks the extent of the spill, thereby artificially decreasing the company's financial liability. McCallister said: "Using the dispersants allows the oil to stay under the surface. It... makes it a lot more difficult to quantify the amount of oil that's coming out, which has a direct impact on damages and royalties.

"It keeps it out of sight and out of mind. And it allows BP to amortise the cost of the cleanup over several years, 10 to 15 years, because some of this oil is going to biodegrade, but a lot of that oil is going to roll up on the beaches for 10 or 15 years."

In the 80 days since the disaster BP has skimmed or burned barely 60% of the amount of oil it promised the regulating authorities that it could remove in a single day.

And it emerged at the end of June that, only four days before the rig exploded on 20th April, officials from BP went against the advice of contractors over how to stabilise the oil well before cementing it. Halliburton recommended using 21 so-called 'centralisers', but BP ignored this advice and used just six.

In an email made public in a hearing before the US Congress, a BP official wrote on 16th April, "Who cares, it's done, end of story, will probably be fine". In a separate email two days earlier, a BP drilling engineer wrote "... [it] has been [a] nightmare well which has everyone all over the place".

Then it emerged that the last government inspection of the Deepwater Horizon rig to have been carried out before the explosion was by a MMS (Minerals Management Service) employee who had only recently begun to train for the job. Eric Neal told investigators he was only a few months into his training when he was sent to inspect the massive rig – by himself.

US militarises Costa Rica

Activists in Costa Rica are calling for pressure to be put on the US to pull troops out of the country after a recent agreement was signed allowing up to 13,000 troops to stay, despite significant popular resistance.

The troops are moving into the central American country as part of the war on drugs, which US military sources will help give them faster reaction times.

However with the region currently in the throes of a political fight between left and right, it is thought that the motivations for the move are to take up tactical positions and shore up US dominance.

Critics point to the nature of the material being brought, including warships and helicopters, saying such weaponry is unsuited for anti-drugs operations.

The new deal, which has been condemned as "illegal" by opposition parties, ups the US contingent by 7,000 troops and 46 warships until 31st December.

EDO weapons decommissioners' victory!

After a three week trial, seven walk free after unanimous 'not guilty' verdicts

"I told many people in Gaza about the people's strike on EDO MBM... When I recounted this action to people, I saw an expression come over their faces that I hadn't encountered before when talking about international solidarity. It was a kind of respect, a sense of surprised pride at a tiny move towards a levelling between the blood sacrifices and living hell of so many here, and sacrifices made by people in comparative comfort zones on the other side of the world – for them" (Ewa Jasiewicz, UK-Polish human rights journalist based in Gaza and eyewitness to Operation Cast Lead, was in Gaza at the time of the activists' break in).

In the end, eighteen months after their dramatic midnight raid on the weapons factory, the last of the six decommissioners who stood trial walked free on Wednesday 7th July. A week before, Ornella Saibene, Simon Levin, Robert Nicholls, Tom Woodhead and Harvey Tadman were unanimously acquitted. This was followed on Friday 2nd July by the acquittals of Christopher Osmond and Elijah Smith. Smith remained on remand on another charge until he was released on the 7th.

There was immediate reaction to the verdict from prominent Zionists, with the Israeli ambassador Ron Prosor apparently 'furious' at the judges 'blatant anti-Semitic stance'. The Zionist Federation are demanding a retrial citing the 'political bias of the judge'. But of course it was the jury who made the ultimate decision – five of the decommissioners had already been found not guilty on the Wednesday afternoon, but it was only after a nail-biting twenty-four hiatus, that the

final two defendants, Osmond and Smith were found not guilty.

"It's a real victory for the anti-war movement. The jury were presented with the facts and they supported our motivations. If people in Britain knew the truth away from media manipulations they would all support our actions" (Ornella Saibene, EDO Decommissioner).

The jury decisions were all completely unanimous, an indication perhaps of the depth of feeling ignited by the evidence presented of war atrocities committed in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead.

It was on the night of the 16th January 2009 that six activists broke into EDO MBM's manufacturing facility on Home Farm Road, Brighton. By this time the IDF's bombardment of Gaza Strip had been under way for nineteen days. There had been approximately 1,300 deaths, amongst them three hundred children.

For an hour the decommissioners wreaked havoc with hammers. Filing cabinets and computers were hurled from top-floor windows. Machinery was sabotaged. Ironically, one of the reasons that the six had so much time in the factory was that Sussex police saw a bomb in the car-park and cordoned off the area for specialists to arrive. The 'bomb' was in fact a dummy, a prop for EDO to display their wares at trade fairs, precision guided out of an upstairs window by the decommissioners. "A sense of peace pervaded my action on the night. I was doing work that needed to be done. I systematically destroyed what I could. In my mind I saw the images of the victims. I was destroying the mechanisms that dropped bombs on their homes, schools and hospitals" (Ornella Saibene).

The six had pre-recorded videos to be posted on Indymedia after the action. In his video Elijah Smith said "I don't feel I'm going to do anything illegal tonight, but I'm going to go into an arms factory and smash it up to the best of my ability so that it cannot actually

produce munitions and these very dirty bombs that have been provided to the Israeli army so that they can kill children. The time for talking has gone too far. I'm not a writer, I'm just a person from the community and I'm deeply disgusted".

The jury requested to view those videos again before they made their historic decision... and they obviously liked what they saw.

In effect the trial was turned around: it was EDO MBM in the shape of managing director Paul Hills who found themselves in the dock. Laughably they had come to court intending to pass themselves off as a company primarily manufacturing in-flight entertainment equipment. He was presented with a dossier of evidence painstakingly built up over the years by campaigners, which pointed firmly at the company's complicity in war crimes.

Paul Hills was due to give evidence again on Thursday 1st July after accusing a campaigner of intimidating him as a witness at the regular weekly noise demo. Funnily enough Hills wasn't available at the time and the court heard that he was flying to the



only of the eight UK civilians who risked their liberty to protect fellow civilians whom they may never meet but also of the jury who recognised that it is everyone's responsibility to uphold international law, even if that means decommissioning the weapons."

Two of the defendants, Chris Osmond, 30, and Simon Levin, 35, had visited Palestine and Israel whilst working with the International Solidarity Movement. Chris Osmond told the court that "the humanitarian disaster unfolding in Gaza at that time meant it was imperative to act". He cited the words of Rachel Corrie, the US activist who was killed in 2003 by an Israeli soldier operating a bulldozer in Rafah, as an inspiration. The court heard a passage of Corrie's diary in which she wrote: "I'm witnessing this chronic insidious genocide and I'm really scared. This has to stop; I think it is a good idea for all of us to drop everything and devote our lives to making this stop."

So what next for Smash EDO? A spokesperson for the campaign told us: "When we first started banging pots and pans outside the factory back in 2004, we never believed we'd get anywhere like this. EDO must be reeling; their dirty laundry is now flapping out there for the whole world to see. We're not to going to let up the pressure on this factory – watch this space."

Ornella Saibene said: "The trial proved to me that faced with the true horror of war most human beings would identify with our actions – however the trial was a victory only on paper- the real victory will be when this factory is closed."

For further information see: www.smashedo.org.uk
<http://decommissioners.wordpress.com>

This is an expanded and updated version of an article which first appeared in *SchNEWS* on 2nd July (issue 729). *SchNEWS* is a free weekly newsletter reporting on direct action, demonstrations and protests, see schnews.org.uk/

The promised second part of the feature article on Marx's analysis of capitalism will now appear in the next issue of *Freedom*.



USA. Perhaps we should spare a thought for Paul, standing right now in front of ITT's board explaining how a bunch of goddam two-bit limey punks were able to smash his factory up with hammers and walk out of court smiling.

The answer is that Paul Hill's evidence was fuller of holes than his factory's windows. Here are just a few edited highlights of five days of his cross-examination.

Hills revealed that the company have owned the rights to the main bomb rack used on Israeli F-16s – the VER-2 since 1998. He admitted removing website evidence of his company's dealings with Israel as early as 2004, the date of the first protests. He admitted having interfered with the crime scene, retrieving debris and papers, before police photographers arrived. He claimed to have police permission, but no police statement backed him up. There has been a speculation that £189,000 is actually an underestimate of the damage caused and that the more controversial evidence may have been spirited away. After being warned at one stage by the judge that he was at risk of perjuring himself if he contradicted evidence

he'd produced in earlier court cases, crucially he ended by admitting that anyone looking at the evidence presented to him in court would form the reasonable belief that his company was involved in arms sales to Israel. It was this that the defendants needed to convince the jury of – that there was an obvious link between this factory and the bombardment of Gaza.

It was Sharyn Lock who provided the background necessary for the jury to understand the full scope of the horror then unfolding in Gaza. Now a trainee midwife, in 2009 she was a human-rights volunteer in Al-Quds hospital, Gaza City. She was in the Gaza strip for the whole of Operation Cast Lead, and able to show footage of a missile strike on the hospital, just metres from the maternity ward. The jury also saw news reports of the white phosphorus attacks on the UNWRA compound, which incinerated much-needed food and medicine.

Sharyn closed her evidence by saying she had no doubt that those who armed the Israeli Air Force "had the blood of children on their hands". After hearing of the verdict she said "Brilliant news. I am so proud, not

COMMENT

ABOUT FREEDOM

ANGEL ALLEY

We had a great time at the Colin Ward memorial on 10th July. It was wonderful to see so many comrades there. Our apologies to anyone wanting any of Colin's books that we ran out of – poor Scott couldn't carry any more over from the shop. They can, of course, all be ordered from our website post free. As can our new selection of t-shirts. The designs are a star, an anarchy sign, the *Freedom* logo and a Wildcat, each in a variety of sizes for a mere £10, all profits to go to the window fund (see below).

Thanks are due to our neighbours at the Whitechapel Art Gallery who have had a skip in to clear away all the crap that has been dumped in the Alley. This of course has not been met with gratitude by Louise de Goldclerk of the Angel Alley Rat Collective. In a recent statement she threatened wholesale slaughter of the running dog lackeys of capital who have used the iron broom of history to sweep away such basic necessities such as Kentucky Fried Chicken boxes.

The window repair programme proceeds apace. At last Monday's meeting it was agreed to repair the broken windows in both the LCAP and Corporate Watch offices before winter sets in, if not sooner. In case Freedom is seen as a miserly landlord in these matters, we have now broken our own window in the Freedom admin office in an act of solidarity.

As the saying goes, 'What would Makhno do?'

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This issue is vol 71 no 14, so if the number above your name on the address label is 7114 or less, then your subscription is now due for renewal. There's a renewal form on page 16 of this issue or you can now subscribe online at freedompress.org.uk/news/subscribe

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will be dated 31st July 2010 and the last day to get copy to us for that issue will be Thursday 22nd July.

You can send your articles to us by email to copy@freedompress.org.uk or by post addressed to 'The Editors', Freedom, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

A sideways look

by SVARTFROSK

Noam Chomsky famously described sport as a crucial example of the indoctrination system. It is an often quoted passage but rarely do commentators get what he meant.

He was commenting on the propaganda model, developed by Edward Herman and himself, which shows how the media is used to manufacture consent in democracies. The role that sport plays in this is as a distraction, and it is more true of certain sports than others, particularly spectator sports.

A lot of right-wing sports commentators in the US dismiss his view out of hand, chiefly by conflating it with the idea that it means he doesn't like sports and was the nerdy guy picked on at school. A few of our less physically active comrades, grasping for a justification for not liking sport, echo it from the other side. The point is, of course, that you don't have to like sport. And, as if to prove everything can be reduced to a binary choice, Chomsky's own regularly-stated enjoyment of American football and baseball as a spectator is ignored in favour of the caricature of his analysis.

I've just spent around four weeks living the essential truth of Chomsky's view of sport as a "weapon of mass distraction". In *Manufacturing Consent* he talks about how sport "keeps [people] from worrying about things that matter to their lives that they might have some idea of doing something about. And in fact it's striking to see the intelligence that's used by ordinary people in [discussions of] sports." Harold Wilson famously attributed his re-election in 1966 and losing the 1970 elections to England's performance in the World Cup. At the start

of the England-Germany game we were treated to footage of Cameron and Merkel watching the game while at a summit meeting. It's a measure of how important sport is for distraction that someone like Cameron can pretend he is remotely interested in football.

Amongst my forty or so colleagues, I can talk about political or social issues with maybe three or four. Since the World Cup's been on, there have been erudite and reasoned discussions involving over a dozen. Nor has there been any senseless nationalism, partly aided by England's woeful performance. The national side's exit has also offered opportunities to talk about what is wrong with the game, such as the ownership structure and the role of the elite players selected for the team. We can wonder why the millionaires performed so badly – though why are they the only group of millionaires to be called 'overpaid' so regularly? I happen to think that hedge fund managers are overpaid, but the adjective only attaches to footballers or public sector workers in the British media.

When it comes down to it, the merits of the 4-4-2 formation and whether it has had its day is us talking about the things we have no control over – none of us are likely to be called in to replace Capello should he go by the time this goes to press – but at least don't matter. Bob Crow makes a speech saying we all need to go on strike and use direct action – I'm alone in the office in not thinking this outlandish (albeit unlikely). It is time to start talking about the things that *do* matter.



England captain Bobby Moore holds the World Cup aloft in 1966 – Prime Minister Harold Wilson famously attributed his re-election in 1966 to England's performance.

LETTERS AND COMMENT

Wildcat

Thanks to Samuel (letter, 3rd July) for taking an interest in Wildcat, thanks to *Freedom* for the long-continued privilege of publication and thanks to the comrade who does the delightful colouring.

Wildcat is intended to be funny. The political creed of Josef Goebbels was nasty (of course), but he was a brilliant propagandist, and he said entertainment is the way to get ideas across – audiences who are harangued do not pay attention.

I try to draw political cartoons which represent the opposition as vicious buffoons. Sometimes I just do jokes. And sometimes I like to make fun of the anarchist movement. The two anarchist characters are the Pussycat, who gets angry and enjoys vociferous demonstrations, and the Egghead who is intellectual and may tend towards intellectual snobbery. Most anarchists I know are sometimes a bit like the Pussycat and sometimes a bit like the Egghead.

Occasionally there appears one (represented as a fat rodent) who thinks he is the only real anarchist and, lacking a sense of humour, thinks that making fun of the anarchist movement is 'anti-anarchist', but I cannot agree with this view. Some of my best friends are lovable buffoons.

Room

You state in your reply to his Samuel's letter in *Freedom* edition no 13, vol 71 (3rd July) that you are interested in looking at other cartoons. Please check my comic strip, it's original, funny, timeless and has a philosophical and anarchic flavour. It's in two volumes,

and maybe your readers are missing out:

- <http://meanddeo.blogspot.com/?zx=d2c5ddfdd055cb3a>
- <http://meanddeovolumell.blogspot.com/?zx=13ac192ad876b98d>

Jimmy

Rafal Gorski

After a long-term disease Rafal Gorski died in July. He was an anarchist and an activist of the Worker's Initiative Trade Union.

He was also a researcher of history of syndicalism and anarchism, and author of numerous articles and books. For many of us this is a loss of one of our closest friends.

Rafal Gorski was born in 1973 in Krakow. In the years 1988-1990 he was active in the structures of anti-regime opposition, and since 1991 he was linked with the Anarchist Federation, and later with the Worker's Initiative Trade Union. He was also organiser of Free Caucasus Committee (organising humanitarian and political support for the people of Chechnya during the uprising of 1994) He was an organiser and a participant of many social protests, he was repeatedly stopped by police and imprisoned.

Rafal Gorski suffered from cancer for many years. In September 2009, after blocking a tenant's eviction by bailiffs and police, he was hospitalised. Injuries to his spine and a relapse began. Despite two serious operations, he failed to obtain a clear and long-lasting improvement in his health.

In recent months Rafal Gorski was fighting the disease and, until the very end, he tried to actively support the syndicalist and the anarchist movement.

We bid farewell to a remarkable social activist, researcher, writer and above all a human being devoted to other people.

czolgosz

BAe drones

This is a live link to the British Aerospace drone developed at Woomera (Australia) and to 'be unveiled at BAe Warton (Lancashire, England) on 12th July: <http://www.flightglobal.com/articles/2010/06/30/343880/bae-hails-mantis-uav-success-nears-taranis-roll-out.html>.

BAe Warton has a bit of sentimental value for moi as it is where the 'Seeds of Hope Ploughshares' disarmed a Hawk fighter to be exported to Indonesia and used in East Timor. That 1996 action and trial brought me to this part of the world and I've kind of been based here ever since. I have been arrested at Warton before. I'll be travelling there with Chris Cole – we both have lifelong BAe civil injunctions making interfering with BAe punishable by up to two years imprisonment. Chris spent six months in jail under the civil injunction for writing a leaflet encouraging folks to blockade BAe. So wish us luck!

BAe targeted the Catholic Worker in Liverpool in the late 1990s, placing a spy in our extended community for three years. They had six agents in the moderate Campaign Against the Arms Trade... so I guess they will be thrilled to see us back on their doorstep!

With this drone BAe are keen to cash in on the imperial wars without end in Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc.

Ciaron O'Reilly



Come to the Peace News Summer Camp
OXFORDSHIRE
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Join people from across the broad spectrum of the British peace movement for five days of exploration, celebration and empowerment.

"Fascinating and engaging discussions, debates and conversations seemed to be taking place all the time all over the camp. Fantastic networking amongst groups and individuals" A 2009 PN Summer Camper

For more information see:
www.peaceneWSCamp.info

Peace News
 The voice of the anti-war movement peaceneWS.info

GETTING ACTIVE

PRISON NEWS

Ken Clarke, the new justice secretary (as mentioned in the last column), has tentatively embraced the 'Prison Doesn't Work' argument and started to talk about cutting shorter sentences in favour of 'community punishments'. He outlined the thinking behind this change of heart in a speech to the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, which incidentally coincided with the Scottish parliament passing legislation seeking to drastically cut Scottish prisoner numbers, replacing jail sentences of three months or less with community service orders.

Despite being flagged up as a major policy speech about how he would save billions from the prison's budget, Clarke's text was rather light on any detail. What he did reveal of his plans for a so-called 'rehabilitation revolution', in addition to cutting shorter sentences, were the closure of underused magistrate courts; the slashing the legal aid budget, with the possible introduction of a legal insurance scheme; more 'transparent sentencing', with the introduction of min/max sentences and increased 'judicial discretion'.

In the speech, Clarke also chose to highlight the fact that Britain has "one of the highest crime rates in Western Europe, and one of the highest prison populations" and that he aims is to stabilise numbers, and even reduce them over the long term, contradicting the purported plan to keep Labour's prison-building programme. Par for the course for a politician who claimed on the same platform that "sentencing should not be based on cost" but that he would be cutting shorter sentences in order to save money!

As a politician, he is also guilty of seeking evidence *post facto* from the examples of other governments to justify the decisions he takes. Clarke has come up with the instance of '90s Canadian prison policy to justify his position. There, in the decade after 1995, the Canadians cut the prison population by 11% whilst the crime rate was seen to fall.

This all flies in the face of the standard Tory criminological thought, as exemplified by the widely-used Civitas' argument, that a better measurement would be between prisoner numbers and the volume of crime rather than prisoners per head of the population. Thus, Spain has the highest imprisonment and lowest crime rate and Britain the lowest imprisonment and highest crime rate. But this ignores the fact that Spain imprisons significantly more people both pre-trial and for sentences of a year or less, exactly the length implicated in providing no time for rehabilitation. Interestingly, Civitas similarly compare British crime and imprisonment rates with those in the USA, where a massive increase in the prison population over the decade after 1995 paralleled almost exactly the same fall in the crime rate as Canada experienced.



Campaigners from Food Not Fuel, Friends of the Earth Ealing and Biofuelwatch were amongst those celebrating a 10 to 0 win against the proposed biofuel power station in Southall by Blue NG.

● The campaign against the building of an agrofuel power station in Southall, West London has been successful as Ealing Council, along with the Secretary of State finally rejected the proposed plans by Blue NG to construct a powerplant in one of London's poorest and most densely populated areas.

Following an appeal and public enquiry, the planning application was refused over concerns voiced by local people and environmental campaigners about air pollution from the exhaust emissions and worries that road safety would be compromised by frequent fuel tanker deliveries through crowded streets.

Blue NG used their greenwash credentials to push through the plans but were met with fierce local opposition. Along with demonstrations, activists also visited the company's head office during the night, jamming all the locks with superglue, and leaving a brief communiqué explaining their motives.

Food Not Fuel, Biofuelwatch, Friends of the Earth and other environmental campaign groups objected to the development because the production of liquid biofuels on a large scale accelerates rather than slows climate change.

● Tuesday 13th July saw the first meeting of the Glasgow Solidarity Network (GSN), organised in response to the increase in housing problems and employment issues across Glasgow.

Modelled after the successful Seattle Solidarity Network, Anti-Poll Tax unions and the Claimants' Union from the 1980s, GSN aims to confront bad landlords, bad employers, and bad jobcentres/benefits agencies through collective direct action and

build solidarity between tenants, claimants and workers, active and retired.

The intention is to offer support in dealing with problems people face in their daily lives including, but not limited to, dodgy landlords, dealing with employers and the dole.

Getting involved is easy, people are invited to actions such as picketing a boss, visiting a landlord, or whatever it takes, or volunteering to do work such as gathering information or distributing flyers, and come to organising meetings.

GSN operates as a non-hierarchical organisation controlled by its members and unaffiliated to any political group or party. You can email Glasgow Solidarity Network at glasgowsolnet@gmail.com or call 0798 274 2305 – leave a message with contact details and they will get back to you.

● The Lewes Road Community Garden, Brighton, has been re-occupied. Further to the article in the last issue of *Freedom* in which we reported the eviction of the local initiative Supporters of the project held a demo outside the court before an appeal hearing against the possession order granted to developers Alburn Minos Ltd and their partners in eco-crime Tesco.

In the meantime activists and residents saw off the first eviction attempt on 2nd July by putting themselves before the bulldozer and garden entrance. Three lorries carrying harris fencing the bulldozer and a grabber left the site after three hours after repeated attempts to try and hoodwink garden occupiers failed.

Activists are encouraged to go down and support the resistance.

Anarchist tactic for Palestine

The Arab revolution is centred on Palestine. The re-awakening of the Arab nation and the consequent nationalist revolution has brought the masses of Palestine in conflict with British Imperialism. Every movement against British Imperialism must be welcomed as the rulers of this country rule (or, synonymously, misrule) the larger part of the world's colonial peoples. The opposition of revolutionaries to British Imperialism and its allies must be taken for granted.

The clashing of two nationalisms (Jewish and Arab in this case) has inevitably given rise to controversy abroad. In the Houses of Parliament sympathy is naturally pro-Zionist; as one MP is reputed to have said, when asked why he supported the Jews in Palestine against Arabs: "In my constituency I have thousands of Jewish voters – I haven't a single Arab". The Labour Party, free from responsibility in the Government of a bloody suppression of all vestiges of Arab life, urges the Government to insist upon the policy of a Jewish National State. The majority opinion here seems to be pro-Zionist, perhaps because the Zionists are so definitely pro-Imperialist while the Arabs are vaguely accused of being

Originally there was no agitation against Jewish immigration; moreover there was never previously any anti-Semitism in the Arab countries. Not until immigration became colonisation, and the aim of the Jewish state, did the trouble commence.

pro-Fascist. It would be a surprise, therefore, to read about the Government's rejection of the Jewish side in the Palestine talks (up to the moment of writing) if the Government had not to reckon with other millions of other Arab and Moslem subjects in the Empire. Chamberlain's policy of 'appeasement' has up to now not been primarily in the interests of the Democratic Imperialisms, and in the Palestine issue, again, he is far less concerned with the maintenance of Imperialism than his 'Left' opponents!

What is the case for Zionism? Zionism represents the age-old desire of the rabbis to return to the 'Holy' Land. The significance of the word 'Zion' (the Biblical and traditional name) will be noted. The rabbis, whose jobs depend on the keeping-up of the race-barriers and the consequent survival of the religion, in the fear of assimilation, have fostered those artificial laws in order to maintain, by tribal 'totems and taboos' a separate race. Naturally, they have failed, and Zionism is the way they are endeavouring to succeed. There is today no pure race, despite the claims of Hitler and Rabbis. It will be noted that the



revival of Judaism has only been a reaction to pogroms and persecution. In times and countries where there has been complete racial and religious toleration, assimilation has begun; intolerance always defeating its own ends.

Originally there was no agitation against Jewish immigration; moreover there was never previously any anti-Semitism in the Arab countries. Not until immigration became colonisation, and the aim of the Jewish state, did the trouble commence. The Zionist leaders, keeping up a pretence that they were struggling against Fascism, have been the motivators of Fascism in Palestine and have the responsibility for the heavy toll of wasted lives. Fascism? From the 'Jewish Hitler', Vladimir Jabotinsky, with his 'Storm Troop' Revisionists to the Rothschild and Imperialist Zionists in London (who take good care to keep out of the 'Holy' country), from the 'Nuremberg' laws of the synagogue to the basic ideology of Zionism (nationalism based on race and not on country) the whole of the Jewish nationalist movement has been as fascist as any other nationalist movement which has left its early liberal phase. The labour leaders like Ben Gurion accuse the Arabs of being in the pay of Hitler and Mussolini and under that pretence act the Hitlers and Mussolinis. Meanwhile they dupe the masses of Jewish workers in the pogromist countries that there's only one future – Palestine – and furnish the excuses for the anti-Semitic governments.

Undoubtedly the Arab revolution must have the support of the workers abroad. Let us not be duped as 'revolutionary socialists' have been duped, however. There is no hope for the future in a Palestine under the Grand Mufti and Company. There is no reason to suppose that a bourgeois nationalist govern-

ment will do more for the working class than did the imperialist government. The lesson of Ireland alone affords proof. The struggle must be against imperialism first, against Zionism secondly and lastly against the bourgeois nationalist government when created.

There is no evidence that the present nationalist movement is capable of such a task. The task is to forget the past and to build up a revolutionary labour movement in Palestine, without consideration of nationality. The only hope there for workers' unity is a movement that will not include within its ranks the religious leaders of Judaism or Mohammedism, and exclusive of Jewish or Arab or British exploiters. From which side it will come remains to be seen, there is little hope for a revolution in Palestine becoming a social revolution. It may be necessary at the moment to struggle alongside the petty bourgeoisie against Imperialism, but must be borne in mind that they can neither play a revolutionary role, and that neither the Nehrus in India nor the Muftis in Palestine can be considered as friends, but only as pawns, of the revolutionary working-class.

The programme of the new Palestinian labour movement must be for the overthrow of the Mandate: for autonomy; for a struggle against the autonomous government when created, for workers' control and freedom. The anarchist tactic for the situation in Palestine is the only road that will lead away from the present debacle; the co-operation of the Arab revolutionaries throughout the Near East, in co-operation with the anti-Zionist Jewish minority and all workers, of whatever race, will alone push forward the opportunity for a complete revolution.

Albert Meltzer
25th March 1939

REVIEWS

WHAT'S ON

JULY

23rd to 27th Peace News Summer Camp, join people from the British peace movement for five days of exploration, celebration and empowerment at Westmill Farm, Watchfield, Oxfordshire, SN6 8TH, £15 to £60 depending on income, call 0207 278 3344, email admin@peacenews.info or see peacenewscamp.info for details.

24th ORG Con: Digital Rights Conference, topics including the Digital Economy Act, ACTA, the Database State, privacy, downloading. Including speakers James Boyle and Cory Doctorow at College Building, City University London, St John Street, London, EC1V 0HB from 10.30am until 6pm, see openrightsgroup.org/blog/2010/book-now-first-ever-orgcon-24-july for details.

AUGUST

4th to 9th Earth First! Summer Gathering, Derbyshire (exact location tba) a weekend of workshops around ecological direct action, skill sharing, networking, at a location to be announced nearer the date, for details email summergathering@earthfirst.org.uk or see earthfirst.org.uk, entry will be £20 to £30 according to what you can afford.

21st to 24th Camp for Climate Action, targeting the Royal Bank of Scotland's global headquarters in Edinburgh, see climatecamp.org.uk/actions/edinburgh-2010 for details.

27th to 30th Animal Rights Summer Gathering, a weekend of talks, discussions and workshops on a wide range of issues and activities related to animal rights campaigning, as well as a chance to relax and socialise with like-minded people, to be held somewhere near Northampton, email 2010@argathering.org.uk or see argathering.org.uk for more.

SEPTEMBER

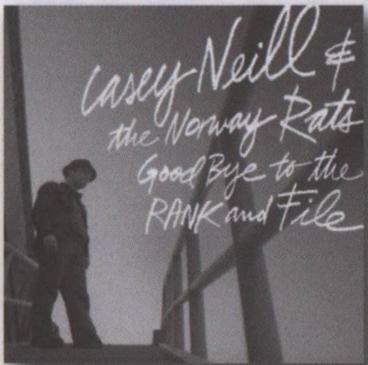
11th Bristol anarchist bookfair, with just about anything you could possibly want that's anarchist related: books, merchandise, films, meetings, workshops, vegan café, stalls, campaigns, networking, history, debate, ideas, theory and ways of putting it into practice for action, at Hamilton House, 80 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS1 3QY from 10.30am to 6pm, plus after-party evening, see bristol-anarchist-bookfair.org

27th until 3rd October No Border Camp in Brussels, a free space for sharing info, experience or expertise for actions aimed at smashing the borders that divide us all. There will be a big demonstration on Saturday 2nd October, for more details email nobordercamp@vluchteling.be or see http://nobordersbxl.noblogs.org

OCTOBER

23rd London Anarchist Bookfair, for all your radical requirements including books, talks, t-shirts, food and so much more... from 10am until 7pm at Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, see anarchistbookfair.org.uk for details.

MUSIC



Goodbye to the Rank and File

by Casey Neill & the Norway Rats

It should be noted, first off, that I'm writing this review almost a month since I first heard this record. In this case, I think that's a very good thing. It should also be noted, that this was the first record that I'd been really excited about for a long time. That said, it's probably not surprising that when I first heard it, I was a bit disappointed. It wasn't bad, but it didn't have the raging Earth First! protest songs of his early work, or the more subtle bluegrass influences of the Casey Neill Trio era. But I persisted, because I really wanted to like it, and now I'm glad I did.

It's now one of my favourite records of this year so far. Beautifully crafted folk/rock songs of letting go, leaving, and looking back. Part of me does miss the political aspect to his earlier work, but at the same time, I'm glad he hasn't just rewritten 'Dancing On The Ruins (Of Multinational Corporations)' for the past 15(?) years. The different progressions and phases, and the ability to reinvent himself without forgetting his roots is one of the things that makes Neill such an incredible artist. From his words on 'Guttered' ("Me, I still cling to the things that once fuelled us / In On The Kill Taker, Cometbus & Unrest") it's obvious that Neill isn't afraid to wear his influences on his sleeve.

Which brings us neatly on to another song off the record, 'She Floated Away'. Covers are never easy, and I really wasn't

expecting to be impressed by this, simply because the Husker Du version is one of my favourite songs ever. However, this version pays tribute, while still changing it enough to be interesting. I've always thought the Husker version sounded like a folk song, so in some ways I think it could have been taken further, but still definitely a nice addition to the record.

As it is now, there's only two songs that my opinion hasn't really changed on since I first heard the record, 'Radio Montana' and 'When I Came To You'. 'Radio Montana' is a new version of a song on the earlier Casey Neill record, 'Memory Against Forgetting'. To put it simply, I just don't think it's as good, it overcomplicates it and doesn't leave as much room for his voice to shine. 'When I Came To You', just really doesn't do it for me. I'm not sure the duel Casey Neill/Little Sue (I think) vocals quite work together, and it just doesn't feel as emotionally deep as the rest of the record, but that might just be me.

However, this is easily outweighed by the splendours of 'Ouroboros', 'Idyll', and my personal favourite, 'When The World Was Young'. The nostalgic tone is perfect, with lyrics such as "What ever happened to those who swore they'd never stray? / There's an undercurrent of dirt and stain no shine can wash away..." I could basically quote that whole song, but it doesn't mean anything without Neill's rich voice, or the excellent backing of the Norway Rats.

So, yeah, since this record came out just under a month ago, I've listened to it while bunking my last ever day of school, waiting for night-buses in the rain, cycling home as the sun rose, and, yeah, basically non-stop. Perfect soundtrack to all of the above, and more! It takes a few listens, but I promise this is an album well worth persisting with. It's available now, from In Music We Trust Records and various other places!

Aimee Cuculatti

ABOUT ANARCHISM

Nicolas Walter with an introduction by Natasha Walter

Available from Freedom Press, £4.20 (post free worldwide)

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Whether Milan will feature on a new version of Monopoly, where the Italian public votes for cities rather than streets. Milan's showing is currently too low to get it on the board, so mayor, Letizia Moratti, has been appealing for residents to vote.
2. They used to be used as pregnancy tests in hospitals and, inevitably, some escaped.
3. A law about the frequency words are used in a language. The second most common word being used half as much as the most common, the third used one-third as much and so on. It was formulated by George Zipf in 1934 and applies to all languages, including dolphin noises.
4. Ice, which was used in manufacturing ice cream. The invention of electric freezing killed the trade off.

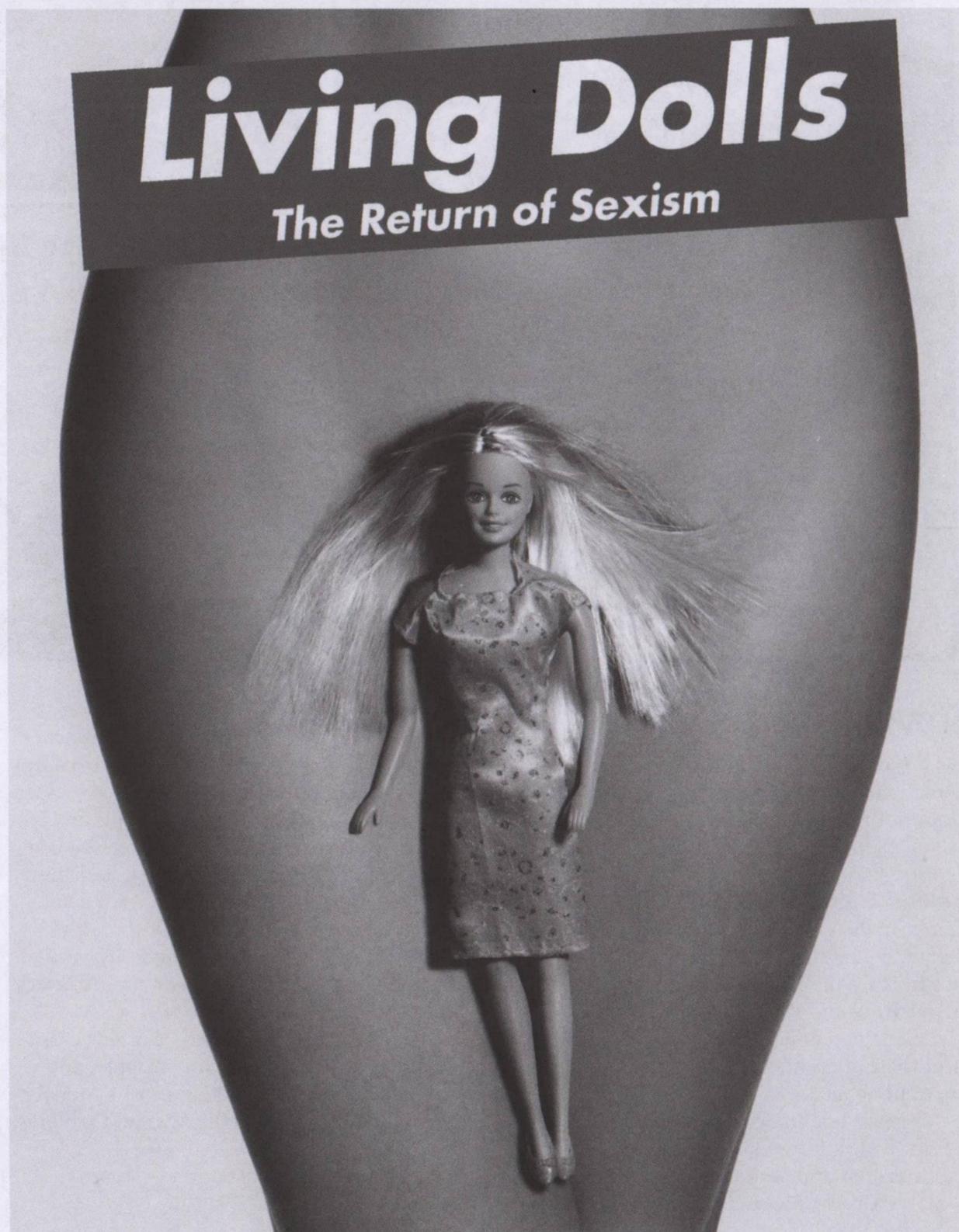
Dolls for sale

Natasha Walter's latest book details how sexism is making an unwanted return – on the back of consumer choice.

Natasha Walter, author of *Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism*, was optimistic in 1998: "I believed sexism in our culture would wither away." In her book published that year, *The New Feminism*, Walter argued that the political had eclipsed the personal; women had already won key battles regarding reproduction, sexual preference, social status, education, and career opportunities. Young women were accustomed to choice and would no longer tolerate a deterministic future based on their gender. The task to hand was to shatter the last anachronistic glass ceilings and march to victory. Twelve years later, Walter now writes that she was "entirely wrong".

Living Dolls returns to the personal, one that has drifted so far from 'the personal is political' into consumerism that the choices available to young women are merely different flavours of willful sexual objectification. Walter argues that the new sexism is a "rise of culture," fuelled by glamour models and sexist advertising, "in which it is taken for granted that women will be valued primarily for their sexual attractiveness," creating physical expectations that are not only "inescapable for many young women," but emotionally and politically stunting. Shrouded in the language of empowerment and choice, young women are encouraged to emulate the glittery, hollow Bratz dolls they are given to play with as children.

This consumerist corralling of women's choice is paired with a renewed scientific interest in biological determinism – that gender is physically indwelling (via brain chemistry, hormones, etc.), rather than socially constructed. Discrimination is "being explained in many places not as a cultural phenomenon, which could therefore be challenged, but as an inescapable result of biology, which is assumed to be resistant to change." Revolution is impossible if inequality is 'natural' biological preference. Of course, the science is questionable and re-spun to enforce existing prejudices. Neuroscientific experiments that show females slightly prefer reddish hues are explained by sociobiologists arguing that ancient gender roles meant women collected reddish ripe fruit, then filtered into *Guardian* headlines claiming, "Pink is for a girl and blue for a boy – and it's all down to evolution". There's no mention in mainstream media that a pink and blue gender dichotomy is a recent invention, or that the preference could be "simply encouraged by our current culture."



The book's two sections, 'The New Sexism' and 'The New Determinism', elucidate how hypersexualised culture has co-opted and rendered hollow the language of choice. Walter is scathing towards myths that popular pornography, burlesque, and lap dancing are simply 'empowered' careers women happily take up in the name of sexual liberation and fun. Through interviews with young women working in the sex industry and analysis of recent books and films on the subject, Walter concludes that "if this is the new sexual liberation, it looks too uncannily like the old sexism," and demands a reassessment of the material equality available to women beneath this veneer of freedom.

"It is time to look again at how free these choices really are. Women still do not have the political power, the economic equality or the freedom from violence that they have sought for generations... The mainstreaming

of the sex industry has coincided with a point in history when there is much less social mobility than in previous generations. No wonder, then, if the ideal that the sex industry pushes – that status can be won by any women if she is prepared to flaunt her body – is finding fertile ground among many young women" who "would never imagine a career in, say, politics." Walter interviews a contract lap dancer who describes the disempowerment she experienced within the strip club: "The men in there are respectable, they are in suits, they have bank accounts; the women are not respectable, they are naked, they have debts."

Living Dolls excellently analyses the current semiotic tangle of feminism and consumerism without regressing into puritanical morality. Walter criticises the systemics that aggressively push women to buy – literally – into the myth

