

WHO ARE SOUTH WALES ANARCHISTS?
South Wales Anarchists are a network of autonomous collectives who are against all forms of exploitation & bigotry. We engage in direct action against capitalism & government, spread information, & build resistance to create a world based on justice & freedom.

- *Government & capitalism is chaos, pitting person against person, encouraging domination & exploitation to preserve inequality & privilege. Anarchism is order, delivering individual liberty & social equality through a system of voluntary cooperation without political, economic or social hierarchies.*

Government & capitalism are not only undesirable, but also unnecessary. As anarchists we operate without hierarchy, co-operating on a basis of mutual aid & solidarity.

- *The ruling class control & dominate all economic & political systems, through government & capitalism they use violence, & poverty to amass wealth & coerce everyone else into obedience. Our enemy is the ruling class, embodied in institutions like the G8, WTO, states & corporations. We aim to confront their activities & defend personal freedoms.*
- *Parliaments cannot be reformed because representative systems are inherently undemocratic. Voting is not an expression of power, but an admission of powerlessness, since it just reaffirms the government's supposed legitimacy.*

Whenever people resist, practice solidarity & organise without leaders, anarchism lives. We aim to strengthen these libertarian tendencies & help them however we can.

Check out: southwalesanarchists.org

Anarchism is a very diverse political theory with many different tendencies. Check out: anarchismfaq.org

The P.A.D. ~ Peoples autonomous Destination

A PHYSICAL SPACE IN CARDIFF FOR GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS WHO CANNOT OR WILL NOT WORK WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF GOVERNMENTAL OR CORPORATE CONTROL

CARDIFF ANARCHIST NETWORK
local anarchist activists.
Meet 8pm Mondays.
myspace.com/cardiffanarchists

CARDIFF READING ANTI-CAPITALISM
A study/reading group.
Meet 7pm Tuesdays.
myspace.com/cardiffanticapitalism

FOOD CO-OP cost price wholefoods
Open from 5pm Wednesdays.
P.A.D. ORGANISING - all welcome.
Meet 7pm Wednesdays.

NO BORDERS WALES
organising on migration issues.
Meet 7pm Thursdays.
noborderswales.org.uk

VEGAN FRY-UP Sundays from noon & more call by or check the website

118 Clifton Street, Cardiff CF24 1LW • thepad.wordpress.com

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Audio, back issues & subscription details at:
www.gaggedanarchist.tk

DIARY DATES


DECEMBER
18th - Screening of "Anarchism in America", about US anarchism. 7.30pm at the PAD.

JANUARY
5th - No to Murder Academy meeting. 2pm at the Temple of Peace, Cardiff.
7th - South Wales Anarchist Forum - monthly meeting of anarchist groups & individuals from south Wales. 8pm at the PAD.
8th - Screening of "Sicko" by Micheal Moore, about US health care. 7.30pm at the PAD.
16th - Screening of "Living Utopia" - the Spanish anarchist revolution 1936-39 by people that lived it. 7.30pm at the PAD.
17th - No to Murder Academy Demonstration - to coincide with the anniversary of the contract to build the academy being awarded to Matrix at the Senedd.


FEBRUARY
14th - Screening of "Behind the Mask: The Story Of The People Who Risk Everything To Save Animals" - with a talk by Keith Mann at Chapter Cinema, Cardiff.

Read more of the same:
www.schnews.org.uk,
www.indymedia.org.uk
& www.libcom.org

GAGGED!
#21 ★ DECEMBER 2007 ★ WWW.GAGGEDANARCHIST.TK ★ FREE

GERMANY 1939

Nazi SS officers detain 'untermenschen'

**NO TO IMMIGRATION PRISONS
NO TO RACIST BORDER REGIMES**

BRITAIN 2007

Border & Immigration officers detain 'illegal'

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER ★ SOUTHWALESANARCHISTS.ORG

THE PAD SOCIAL CENTRE: STILL GOING STRONG

The Peoples Autonomous Destination has been open in Cardiff since June, providing a non-commercial social space in the community & a place for anti-authoritarian activist groups to meet, make plans & hold events. The former shop space rented at 118 Clifton Street is run collectively by the people who use it, with decisions about its use made by consensus. The PAD is home to a radical bookshop, a library & a free activist information stall (with the complete back catalogue of *GAGGED!*). A not-for-profit whole-food shop runs on Wednesdays from 5pm & vegan fried breakfast is served on Sundays.

Since opening, the social centre has also hosted a No Borders info day & a film night, discussion with London Social Ecology, an Indymedia Wales gathering, talk & films from Indymedia Oaxaca, a visit from Colombian anti-BP activists & a Vegan food fayre. The venue is a valuable resource to local activist groups, offering a free space from which to organise against capitalism & government. The PAD relies on donations & volunteers to keep going. More people & ideas are always welcome. Check out: thepad.wordpress.com

KEEP CONSTANCE & SON ANDREAS IN CARDIFF

Constance Nzenau & her 5 month old son Andreas face imminent deportation to Cameroon following the Home Office's rejection of her asylum claim.

Constance fled Cameroon over two years ago when her father tried to force her into an arranged marriage which would have meant undergoing Female Genital Mutilation, which is widespread there. When Constance refused him, the 'fiancee' took her to court. Knowing she would lose, Constance left her family home. A search warrant was issued, involving the police. Her father also put an announcement in a national newspaper offering a reward to anyone who returned her to the family because if the marriage didn't go ahead they would owe the 'fiancee' the dowry money & be shamed within the community.

Constance faces a dangerous & uncertain future if she is forcibly deported to Cameroon. There will be recriminations from the police, the court, the 'fiancee' & her family. Constance has said she will fight until she & her son Andreas, who was born in the UK, are allowed to stay. Constance's case is not unique. The UK government, which prides itself on its supposed humanitarian character, arbitrarily deport tens of thousands of people every year, back to places where they face persecution, torture & often murder, all in the name of 'managed migration'. Check out: noborderwales.org.uk

ASYLUM SEEKERS IN CARDIFF PRISON AGAIN?

Asylum seekers may once again be locked up without charge in Cardiff Jail, despite assurances that this barbaric practice had ended. Sources in the prison itself have confirmed this is true, though there have been official denials.

In May 2001 it was revealed that asylum seekers were being held behind bars alongside remand prisoners. It has now been 7 years since the removal of the "final" asylum seekers from the jail was welcomed by then Minister for Finance & Local Government, Edwina Hart, who stated "I hope that the prisons in Wales will never need to be used for this purpose again in the future. Prisons are not the appropriate place for asylum seekers."

However, the further detention of asylum seekers at HMP Cardiff in 2004 led to protests outside the prison. A cross-party consensus was reached in Sept 2004, at a meeting of the Welsh Assembly Equality of Opportunity Committee, that it was not appropriate to house asylum seekers in prisons. Worryingly, during a visit to HMP Cardiff this October, a prison officer told our source that asylum seekers who have committed no crime continued to be detained at the Prison, due to lack of space at other immigration detention facilities in England.

This information was then passed on to the Dr. Brian Gibbons, the Welsh minister for social justice asking him to investigate the situation. He claims that the Border & Immigration Agency have provided reassurances that under no circumstances would asylum seekers be detained in prisons. However they did admit asylum seekers were being held in police cells in South Wales & that a lack detention space in the region is a problem.

NO CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR IMMIGRANTS IN WALES!

In the run up to Christmas there has been a marked increase in immigration raids in South Wales, with arrests in Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport & Rhondda as well as large raids in North Wales. 9 people were arrested following a raid by cops & Borders & Immigration officers on a restaurant on City Road, Cardiff, on 28th November (coinciding with a visit by Immigration Minister Liam Byrne). The Hawaiian restaurant was hosting the annual Albanian celebration of independence, one of the party commented "I thought I was in Stalin's Russia, not a civilised country like Britain. This was not just a raid. They had guns & dogs. They stormed into the building. People who had the correct documents on them were forced to wait outside in the rain while the remaining diners' identities were checked. 6 of the arrestees may be deported. These controls mean that thousands of vulnerable people are sent back to often dangerous & impoverished situations that they have risked everything to leave."

DAWN RAID TERROR

It has been discovered that 'snatch squads' who carry out dawn raids on asylum seeker families operate out of the Border & Immigration Agency's, General Buildings, 31-33 Newport Road, Cardiff. As part of the fight against unjust & racist migration controls worldwide, activists from No Borders Wales have conducted early morning monitoring of immigration staff at General Buildings & have witnessed 'snatch squads' leaving the building on a number of occasions at around 6am in the morning. Activists who have followed the 'snatch squads' have been stopped & questioned by cops who accompany & aid immigration officials in their activities.

The brutal truths about 'dawn raids' are rarely reported in the media. Doors battered down, families dragged from their beds & parents beaten in front of their children. What we get instead are racist lies about Britain being 'swamped' by migrants who have come here because it's a 'soft touch' & to steal 'our' resources. But migrants are not the problem. The real enemy is the state, the corporations they serve, & unaccountable global institutions like the IMF & the World Bank whose economic policies cause the poverty, wars & environmental damage that migrants want to escape.

NO TO RACIST BORDER REGIMES

PICKET LINES

After many months of dispute with the employers, local government unions have finally accepted a below inflation pay offer of 2.475%, meaning a payout in real terms. The GMB gave up without a fight, balloting members on whether or not they should ballot for strike action & while doing so recommended that the offer be accepted. Unsurprisingly the result was in favour of accepting the pathetic offer. UNISON, the biggest union, balloted for industrial action with a recommendation to reject the offer. However, when the ballot came in with a yes vote for action, UNISON still decided to accept the offer! As one union activist told **GAGGED!**, "There were issues around the ballot, only 24% of the membership bothered to vote which is shameful, & of those only 51.6% voted for strike. This is hardly an overwhelming mandate, but a yes vote is a yes vote. The union needs to learn some lessons from this, & learn them quickly. It needs to start engaging more with members & getting them to feel part of the union, a 24% turn out is an embarrassment. No doubt the way last year's dispute over pensions was handled has left many members disillusioned & this debacle has done serious damage to the union's credibility. The time for the membership to take ownership of their own union instead of sitting back & let people do things for them is long overdue". Now that the pay rise that should have been implemented in April 2007 has been agreed, negotiations will start shortly for April 2008. This is the 4th consecutive year that UNISON has backed down & accepted a pay cut.

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Former Allied Steel & Wire (ASW) workers are still fighting for compensation over their stolen pensions, recently holding protests outside Downing Street & the Senedd. About 1,000 workers in Cardiff, Sheerness, Kent, & Belfast were robbed when ASW went bankrupt in 2002. They are part of the 125,000 workers who have lost their pensions due to failed capitalist ventures.

Although parliamentary ombudsman Ann Abraham has said the government was guilty of maladministration & that workers should be compensated, ministers refused. However at a February high court case, four people who lost company pensions won against the government after the court ruled that the government was wrong to reject completely the ombudsman's report into collapsed pension schemes.

Ex-ASW worker John Benson, 61, from Cardiff, lost the pension he had been contributing to for 38 years. "I've lost my life savings through no fault of my own," he said. "I was going to retire at 60, but here I am at 61 a litter picker for Cardiff Council. We are not asking for much, only for what we lost."

BARRAGE OF OPPOSITION

A controversial new £14 billion barrage stretching 10 miles across the river Severn from Lavernock Point in the Vale of Glamorgan to Brean Down in Somerset has been proposed. Supporters argue that the project will create clean energy by harnessing the tidal power of the river, & creating 6% of the UK's energy. Despite this even major supporters such as First Minister Rhodri Morgan have compared the project to the 3 Gorges Dam in China - a massive concrete monolith that displaced hundreds of thousands of people as river valleys were flooded. Opponents state that the project will damage wildlife & destroy miles of unique protected ecosystems, & that building it will be over-expensive & unsustainable. The amount of stone needed to create the barrage is the same as contained in the Mendip Hills: as the government isn't about to quarry that, they'll have to import the stone from elsewhere. Similarly huge quantities of sand will also be needed to create the concrete for the structure, meaning more dredging & increasing coastline erosion. Initial costings are £14 billion of taxpayer's money, but there is an inbuilt 60% budget over-run. The feasibility study alone will cost over £10 million.

Politicians tell us that the barrage is the lesser of two evils, & that the alternative is 3 new nuclear power stations: this, though, is just not true. Friends of the Earth & others have examined a number of greener projects, & recommend that more research is ploughed into piloting smaller Tidal Lagoons, & using stand-alone tidal fences & tidal generators. These, they argue, are more environmentally friendly & more efficient than the current plans. As anarchists we want real alternatives to the capitalist mode of production that will remove the power of politicians & big business to push ahead with damaging projects like this. We need small-scale, local, & sustainable green-energy projects, & not green-washed monoliths like the Severn Barrage.

DIM KIM & THE DICTATOR KING

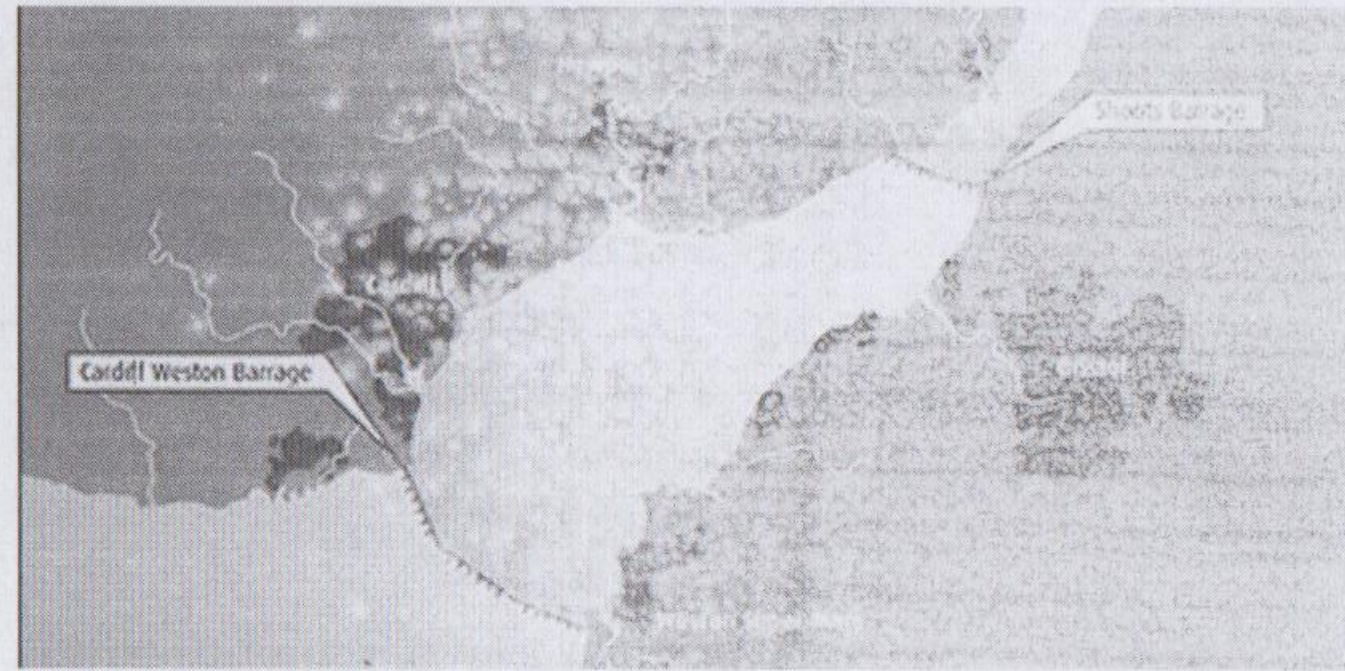
King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia recently visited the UK, welcomed by the government & our own Royals. In an effort to give support to the Saudi dictatorship, where even political parties are banned, Foreign Office Minister Kim Howells said he has "shared values" with King Abdullah. Perhaps by this he means detention without trial, support for Saddam Hussein in the 1980s, exporting terrorism throughout the Middle East & the harsh punishments for trivial crimes that both countries share. Maybe the MP for Pontypridd 'values' the torture, public executions & lack of women's rights that exist in Saudi Arabia. What Kim is most concerned about is the flow of Saudi oil, from beneath the feet of the impoverished Saudi people to Western corporations, oil that keeps the UK economy rolling. Nothing else really matters. Kim Howells & King Abdullah's "shared values" have killed millions to satisfy the greed of corporate, aristocratic & political elites.

MERTHYR'S MONSTER MINE OCCUPIED

In the early hours of 5th December over 30 activists from around Wales joined local residents to occupy the site of the open cast mine at Ffos-y-Frân, near Merthyr (See **GAGGED!** #20). Climbing on & chaining themselves to bulldozers & heavy machinery they've stopped excavation work on what is an extremely environmentally damaging project. As one of those involved said: "Coal is the filthiest fuel known to man & projects like this mine could destroy all our chances of tackling global warming. The battle over this hilltop in Wales is a fight for the stability of the global climate & it epitomises this government's hypocrisy on climate change." Campaigners have stated they intend to do everything they can to stop this project.

NATIVITY? NAIVETE, NAIVETE!

As usual in December, the Nativity story will pop up everywhere & we'll be treated once again to the story of a baby born to a virgin called Mary, with a foster dad of royal descent announced by an angel, witnessed by shepherds & heralded by a star. He goes on to have a death threat during infancy, gets baptised by 'the Baptist' (who was later beheaded) in a river at the age of 30, has twelve disciples, walks on water, casts out demons, heals the sick, & restores sight to the blind. He gives a sermon on the mount, gets crucified with two thieves, is buried in a tomb & resurrected after three days, & was regarded as the Saviour of humanity. Doesn't the ancient myth of HORUS the SUN-GOD get you feeling festive?



ST ATHAN SLAUGHTER SCHOOL JOB CON

Last January politicians popped champagne outside the Senedd to celebrate £14 billion of public money being spent a new military training academy in the tiny village of St Athan, 'creating' 5500 jobs. (see **GAGGED!** #16) This PFI privatisation deal hands control of all UK military training to the Metrix Consortium of private companies, which includes the likes of Raytheon (who make cluster bombs & depleted uranium weapons) & Qinetiq (ballistic missiles manufacturers). They will be running the base as an international business which will also train the troops of other governments.

After the Welsh Assembly gave LG Electronics £130 million to open a factory in Newport to employ 6000 people but LG only built part of it, gave up & pocketed most of the cash, you'd have thought politicians would be a little bit more cautious. The promise that the St Athan academy will create 5500 jobs is an empty one. As there are currently 6300 civilian & military trainers employed by the MOD, most employees will be re-located from other parts of the UK. Local people will be left with short-term construction posts & low-skilled service jobs, or as trainee cannon fodder for government policy. Check out: nomurderacademyatstathans.com

To mark the one year anniversary of Rhodri's champagne incident there will be a demonstration outside the Senedd on January 17th.

COMMUNITY ACTION IN CARDIFF

Rumney Recreation & Eastern Leisure Action Group (RREEL) are residents of east Cardiff who have campaigned since August against the Council's proposals to spend £50 million to close Llanedeyrn, Llanrumney & Rumney High schools & build a new school & leisure complex on the site of Eastern Leisure Centre & Rumney Recreation fields on Newport road.

The group took action on 14th November, where they demonstrated outside the Eastern Leisure Centre. RREEL member, Don Taylor, said "The council is not listening to us. We have to shout to make our voices heard against this council so we held a demonstration". A council run 'drop-in' held the following day was described by attendees as a 'whitewash', with residents' questions about the proposals remaining unanswered. The council consultation period runs until 21st December, for more info check out: www.rreelactiongroup.co.uk

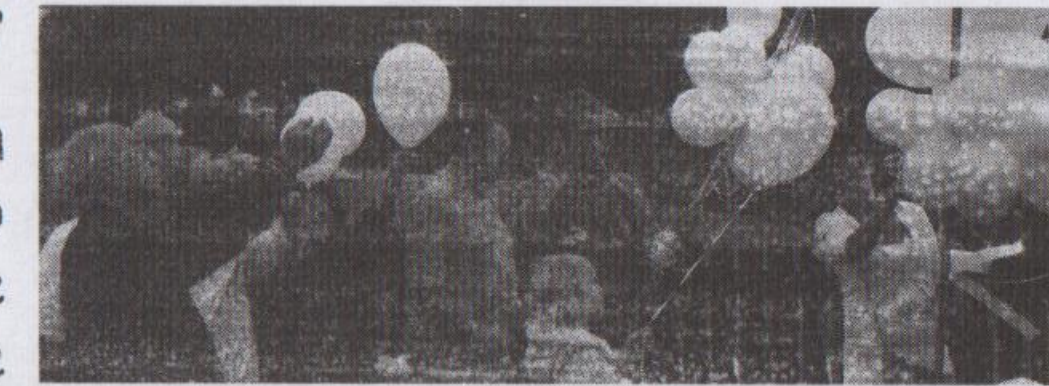
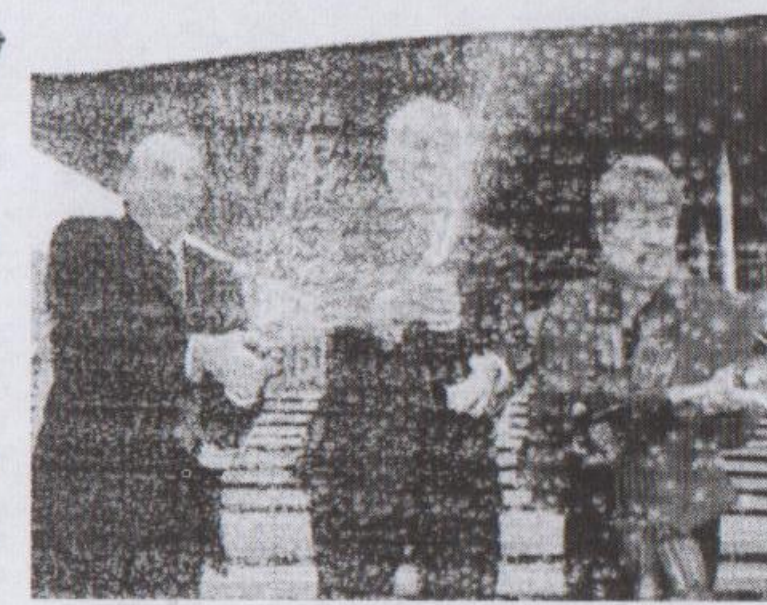
COMMUNITY ACTION IN BLAENAVON

At the start of 2007 the Blaenavon leisure centre & swimming pool were damaged in storms. Torfaen council closed both & promised to 'repair & reopen'. In July the council concluded that re-opening would be too expensive. It decided to demolish & build a new primary school on the site with money from the Heads of the Valleys Initiative funding. As Blaenavon swimming pool opened in 1927, paid for by miners' contributions, & a covenant states the site can only be used for recreational activities, it's a hugely emotional issue that has galvanised the whole town. Local residents formed an action group to save the buildings, collecting 7,000 signatures & over £14,000 in funds. Although the Town Council agreed to help finance a Trust to take over swimming pool, the council leader, Bob Wellington, is refusing even to consider this, saying that the land is needed to site a school. Yet their Chief Executive admitted at an earlier meeting that this was not the case, & both could be accommodated. Torfaen Council are clearly making it up as they go along, & last September they were still applying for grants for extra facilities. But they say now that they'd been considering closing both buildings for a while & the storm damage 'only brought forward the debate'. Check out: freewebs.com/saveourcentre

COUNCIL ARE DUMPING ON THE POOR

Cardiff City Council has admitted exporting recycling waste (see **GAGGED!** #19) - cardboard to Indonesia & China, LDPE plastic to India & China, & newspapers & magazines to Sweden. The council initially said no residual waste it collected was exported then did a massive U-turn when "It seems that the [freedom of information] question was misread by the council employee." 6 more Welsh councils, Powys, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Pembrokeshire, Monmouthshire & Swansea have admitted some of their recycling waste is exported, & 7 more admitted not knowing where their waste goes.

A great deal of recycling waste is sold on to middlemen who sell it on overseas. This situation raises questions, such as worker exploitation at the final sites, the environmental impact of transportation & the possible undermining of the entire recycling system. 'Recycling facilities' in many of the countries where we export our rubbish are often just public landfill sites. We are filling the global south with our rubbish. To leave the fate of our environment to the market is ecological suicide.



COPWATCH

ANOTHER COPPER OFF THE HOOK?

Terry Grange, chief constable of Dyfed-Powys Police, suddenly retired after news of alleged financial irregularities, misuse of police equipment & the sending of 'inappropriate' emails was made public.

The Police Authority said, "Mr Grange had indicated that he had allowed his private life to interfere with his professional role as chief constable. This has led the police authority to consider the chief constable's position & it was considered to be appropriate to accept his retirement. No further statement will be issued & no interviews will be given."

Police aren't allowed to retire whilst being investigated because it removes the possibility of disciplinary measures & might change their pension entitlement. He may face criminal charge however as more rumours circulate of his involvement in a cover up of a child abuse case involving a local judge.

SOUTH WALES POLICE: LAZY & WORKSHY.

South Wales Police were this month revealed to have the highest absence rate of all 4 Welsh forces. With 88 out of 3000 at home because of stress, injury or sickness. The other 3 Welsh forces have a total of 70 officers absent between them.

STRAY BULLET POLICE INQUIRY

Welsh firearms cops are being investigated after a police marksman shot a bullet through an office window. Luckily the office was empty, but 8 people were having health & safety training in the next room. The marksmen were called out when a calf escaped from Mold cattle market.

COP COULD GET AWAY WITH BEATING

PC Stephen Dance, accused of assaulting a motorist in the back of a police car (see **GAGGED!** #20) claimed he acted in self-defence. He denies repeatedly punching Robert Davies, which was recorded by an audiotape machine, & witnessed by his partner PC Paul Jones, who testified against him. Despite compelling evidence, such as testimony the officer had informed the motorist, "I'll rip your fucking head off", & suggested he was about to "go back & give him a good seeing to", the jury were unable to reach a verdict. It is not yet known whether he will face another trial or get off scott free.

ROAD COP BANNED FROM DRIVING!

South Yorkshire Chief Constable & former head of road policing for the Association of Chief Police Officers, Meredydd Hughes has been found guilty of driving at 90mph on a 60mph stretch of the A4 in North Wales. He was banned for 42 days & fined £350. Safety groups have criticised this lenient sentence & called for him to resign.