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# GAGGED!

#9

September 05

ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER OF SOUTH-EAST WALES • AGAINST POWER & PROFIT

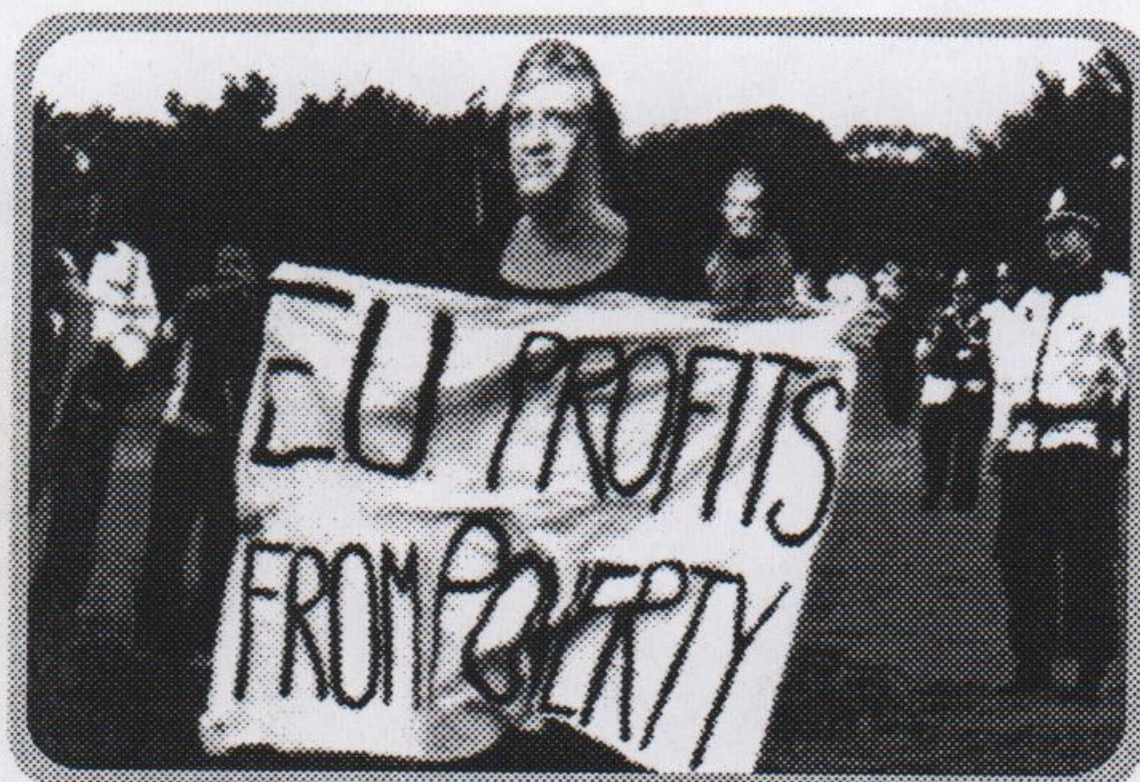


On 1st September the EU foreign ministers (led by Jack Straw) came to Newport for the 'Gymnich' summit at the Celtic Manor. A 2-day 'informal' gathering where delegates got wined, dined & had a fine time - behind the biggest security operation in Welsh history. Planned since last November, all Police leave between 22nd August & 5th September was cancelled before officers were sent to G8 summit in Scotland. Thousands of cops were drafted in from 30 other UK forces, headed by the 'wannabe-national' Metropolitan Police. Court time was cleared for 300 cases & 'non-lethal' Taser Stun guns, that have killed 70 people in the USA & Canada since 2001, were brought in. Two days before the summit three walkers taking photos nearby were arrested under anti-terrorism laws. They were released within hours as it became clear that they were just going for a summer's afternoon stroll! Vehicles were regularly stopped & searched, whilst the Coldra roundabout M4 J24 was closed for hours without any regard to the public. Security costs of £3m are to be shared between tax payers both locally & nationally.

**"WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THEY TOOK AWAY OUR RIGHT TO PEACEFUL PROTEST?"**

## "RINGLAND, ON A ROUNDABOUT"

Whilst the likes of Make Poverty History were staying at home due to 'high levels of security' Anarchists from across South Wales refused to be intimidated & made their way to the Celtic Manor.



The very peaceful & easy-going protest with drummers, banners, Jack Straw masks & lots of vegan chocolate cake was met with only a few dozen of the thousands of police that were present. They started taking photographs & giving descriptions on their radio, even stating that we had 3 drums - W.M.D. indeed! Scared by the Jack Straw lookalikes several more van loads of riot cops were brought in boosting their numbers to well over 50 - all for ten protesters! Eventually police demanded that the Straw masks had to go, because they were upsetting the police cameramen. Police moved to force people to remove masks separating the protesters into smaller groups. The protesters responded that they did not wish to be filmed, two people were arrested very forcefully for refusal to remove masks - a female protester was thrown to the floor breaking a banner pole, whilst eight officers were used to arrest the other. Everyone else had masks ripped off their faces & had belongings kicked around & searched.

Everyone was shocked by the police tactics though experienced protesters were not surprised. Onlookers were bemused by the police intimidation, especially considering they had taken 3 hours to arrive to a reported burglary in the area the previous night! As more police arrived the protesters went leafleting around Ringland shopping centre before getting the bus, complete with police escort, to Maindee police station! Some people stayed at the station waiting for the Jack Straw impersonators to be released. Everyone else went leafleting in the city centre. A large number of police followed, filming everyone all day, even filming people taking leaflets!



Given the police attention (which included following people to the toilet!) the only thing for it was a to go for a picnic outside the Celtic Manor! As the huge number of police somehow increased further the last of the cake was finished off. Everyone involved got followed home by the cops many of which were undercover, with police being taken for long cross country walks and long waits outside pubs. When alone, individuals (some completely unrelated to the protest) were asked for names &



addresses, information about future protests, had their cars searched & were breathalysed (which they passed)! In all police followed people for over 10 hours. The "Police Everywhere, Justice Nowhere" banner was only too true.

The two were released a couple of hours later as the police declined to bring charges. It's a shame that the arrests didn't end in up court. Not only for the amusing headlines ('arrested in possession of an offensive face' perhaps?), but to have the opportunity to challenge the extent of the police's right to constantly shove a camera in your face, & to assault people who have the damned cheek to stand in the way of a police cameraman.



Meanwhile overpaid politicians had their banquets & discussed, amongst other things, ways to further economic relations with Iran & Turkey - countries with horrific human rights records.

Gagged! can be found at: **CARDIFF:** Spillers Records, Hayes Island. Europa Cafe Bar, Castle Street. AJs Cafe, City Road. Ozone Cafe, Charles Street. **CHEPSTOW:** Tattoos, Beaufort Square. **CWMBRAN:** Metalbodies, Inshops. **NEWPORT:** The Murenger, High Street. Le Pub, Caxton Place. Rockaway Records, Indoor Market. O.S.S.S, Market Arcade. Want to distribute Gagged! or know a place that would? GET IN TOUCH! Email us at [gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk) to go on the e-mailing list.



## ID CARDS

Proposals for a national identity cards scheme were reintroduced after the controversial plans were conveniently put on hold in the run up to the general election. The National Identity Register Bill is mainly concerned with creating a national identity database. Objections over the infringement of our privacy have been expressed by the widest possible spectrum.

David Blunkett, Home Secretary when the bill was first introduced, argued that ID cards would "hold only very basic information". This 'very basic' information includes your full name & every name you have ever been known by; your address & every address you've ever had; your finger print, iris scan & a photo. It could include your National Insurance number, passport number, immigration number, driving license number & the number of any other designated document.

The Secretary of State would have the power to make it compulsory to register for ID cards & to register changes in circumstance, putting sanctions on those who fail to register. Fines of up to £2500 each time you don't register. If you don't renew your card or inform the authorities of changes, you could be fined up to £1000. If you forget to register a lost, stolen, defective or damaged card its up to 51 weeks in prison & a fine. You'll also have to pay for being spied upon: around £85 for an enhanced passport which includes registration of £40 for an ID card. The Bill implies that having an ID card would become necessary to seek employment, access health & social care services, claim benefits, operate a bank account & access other private services such as a solicitor. The Information Commissioner expressed concern over the extensive information retained as being "excessive & disproportionate" & how this contributes to a "surveillance society", which already includes a huge CCTV network. Resistance is widespread & varied see: [www.privacyinternational.org](http://www.privacyinternational.org) [www.defy-id.org.uk](http://www.defy-id.org.uk) [www.no2id.net](http://www.no2id.net)



A Cardiff Social Centre has been proposed, has some funding, & would like as many people involved as possible. Volunteers & ideas with what to do with the space needed! Check out: [groups.google.co.uk/group/cardiffsocialcentre](http://groups.google.co.uk/group/cardiffsocialcentre)

## CAPITALISM RULES POLITICIANS ARE TOOLS

Local politicians should spare us their crocodile tears over the 156 job losses at TRW Automotive in Pontypool as they are fully supportive of "New" Labour's pro-business neo-liberal capitalist ideology. Without regulations to protect workers, multinationals can relocate with ease.

TRW, based in Michigan USA, had sales worth \$12 billion last year, they are not cutting costs because they are in a bad financial situation, but because they can make more money elsewhere. They will put workers on the dole in Wales because capitalism dictates that profits come before people.

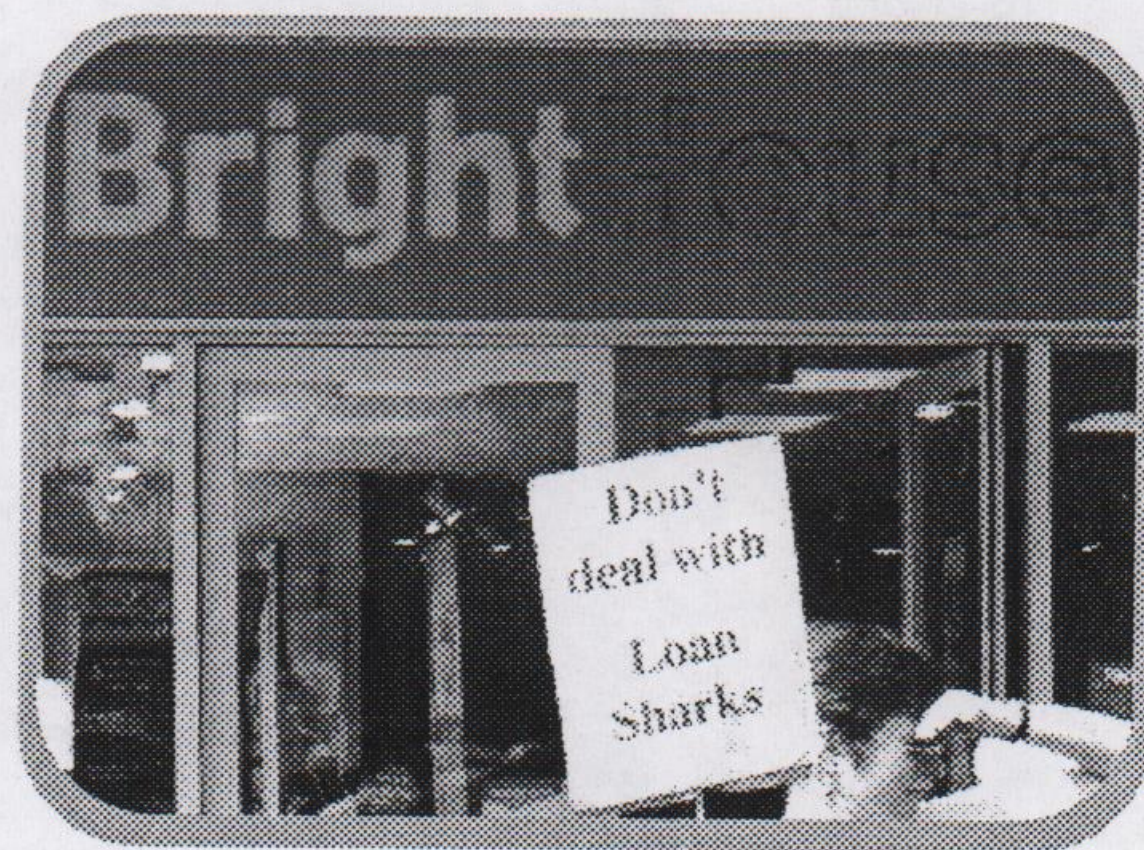
Exploited workers not only create wealth for their employers thorough their labour but are chucked on the scrapheap when multinational companies can get cheaper labour (& higher subsidies) elsewhere. Such an abhorrent system is championed by Paul Murphy MP & Lynne Neagle AM so they should cut out the amateur dramatics, all they are concerned with is keeping their seats.

## BRIGHTHOUSE - EXPLOITING THE POOR

With over 130 stores nationwide selling TVs, washing machines, beds & more Brighthouse market themselves as "making shopping more affordable" - yeah, with massively expensive goods at a 30% interest rate! Customers end up paying several times the actual value. With no deposit needed, they accepting bad credit ratings & people on benefits Preying on the most financially vulnerable in society. They also cash cheques, giros & housing benefit cheques; like vultures, they'll make money anyway they can.

If you should miss an installment, you get a hefty fine on top of being ripped off & if you're not quick enough in paying they'll send the bailiffs round. Most people just boycott such rip-off places, but many fall into this trap.

Brighthouse were kicked out of France for unethical practices, in Birmingham, Manchester & Southampton residents have taken direct action against bailiffs employed by Brighthouse & similar companies - loan companies are some of the biggest criminals. Research done by Trading Standards in Gwent showed that more than one in ten people who had used credit had not been given copies of the paperwork relating to their loan, had felt they had insufficient information about the agreement and, even more worryingly, had been threatened.



We can stand up to Brighthouse & others that rob us. Hire purchase is only one unjust debt - debts incurred because we're forced to pay for things we need even though we can't afford it like basic utility bills, rent & mortgages, student loans, or worse still for things, we're told we need like council tax!

Debt is a way of keeping working class people under constant pressure to work at rubbish jobs & toe the line. The average person in the UK is £4,500 in debt & rising. Just as 'third world debt' is a result of hundreds of years of imperialist exploitation, all working class debt comes from an economic system where we do all the work but receive none of the wealth!

We need a society based on people's needs, rather than the profits of those who control the resources. The world belongs to us all, let's take it back!



Cardiff Anarchist Network & Gwent Anarchists are very similar & adherents of the Hallmarks of People's Global Action (PGA - [www.agp.org](http://www.agp.org)). Please get in touch with your local group or if there isn't one - set one up!

**Cardiff Anarchist Network** is a collective who pursue political demonstrations through direct action. There is no members or leaders, just like-minded individuals who act as a whole. The present system is crap! If we want a better world we are all responsible. Email: [cardiffanarchists@riseup.net](mailto:cardiffanarchists@riseup.net) Web: [riseup.net/cardiffanarchists](http://riseup.net/cardiffanarchists)

**Gwent Anarchists** are like-minded individuals believing in autonomy, respect & justice; against all forms of exploitation & bigotry. Aiming to increase the knowledge of & create a resistance to governments & big business abusing people & the earth. Post: PO Box 70, Newport NP20 5XX Email: [gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk)