

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. Come to our monthly open forums if you'd like to get involved. Get in contact: cardiffanarchists@riseup.net or gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk

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

For more news like the kind you find in **GAGGED!**: indymedia.org, anarkismo.net, schnews.org.uk & libcom.org

Circulation: 8,000 - 6 times a year. Distribution: Willing to help? Get 15 copies delivered anywhere in south Wales to handout to friends & strangers. Totally free. **Subscribe online:** gaggedanarchist.tk **Email:** info@gaggedanarchist.tk **Learn more:** wikipedia.org/wiki/gagged! **Befriend us:** myspace.com/gaggednewsletter. **Funding:** We rely totally on donations & occasional benefit gigs, for printing and postage costs, we are all unpaid volunteers. Cheers.

DIARY DATES

APRIL

5th - **Merthyr Tydfil No Opencast**

- 2pm March from Twyn y Rodyn nursery school, Parfitt Terrace. 3.15pm speakers front of Civic Centre. 4-6pm Public meeting St David's Church Hall. stopfosyfran.co.uk

7th - **South Wales Anarchist Forum**, Glan yr Afon Club, Edlogan Way Cwmbran 8pm

10th - **No Borders meeting**, 7pm, Riverside Community Development Centre, Brunel Street, Cardiff. Fortnightly.

11-12th - **Days of Action for Squats & Autonomous Spaces** international. april2008.squat.net

12th - **'Hope not Hate'** March & Rally in Wrexham. Free coach leaves Unison House, Custom House St, Cardiff 7.30 & Newport Railway Station 7.50.

15th - **Picket of Border & Immigration Agency**, General Buildings, 31-33 Newport Road, Cardiff, 12noon. noborderswales.org.uk

20th - **Love Music Hate Racism** gig, TJS, Newport. **Sex, Wales & Anarchy** music & spoken word. The Point, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff.

24th - **No Borders meeting**, 7pm. 26th - **Stop St Athan Military Academy** - Demonstration meet City Hall Lawns, 1.30pm. no2metrix.com

26th - **Unite against Racism** gig Dreadzone, Mulatto & others. Club With No Name, Guildhall Place, Cardiff 9pm

27th - **Love Music, Hate Racism Carnival**, London. £20 coach leaves from TJS, Clarence Place, Newport 9am.

29th - **No to Military Academy** meeting 6.30pm Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff. no2metrix.com

MAY

7th - **South Wales Anarchist Forum**, Fancy Dress Shop, 6 Clifton Street Cardiff. 8pm.

Cardiff Social Centre is homeless! Meet wednesday 7pm Fancy Dress Shop, Clifton St. 'til we get one! thepad.wordpress.com

GAGGED!

#23 ★ APRIL/MAY 2008 ★ GAGGEDANARCHIST.TK ★ FREE

ARE THEY: "HAVING A LAUGH?"

A.M.S' EXPENSES 2006-7

1. Jason Wyn Jones £270,792.67	2. Alan Ffryd Jones £92,237.20	3. Gareth Jones (N/A - New AM)	4. Darren Millar (N/A - New AM)	5. Ann Jones £79,546.88	6. Sandy Menies £87,378.07	7. Carl Sargeant £100,067.87	8. Lesley Griffiths (N/A - New AM)	9. Karen Sinclair £84,411.80	10. Janet Ryder £92,093.06	11. Bryn Williams £82,635.23	12. Mark Isherwood £88,823.62	13. Eleanor Burnham £92,191.63
14. Lord Elis Thomas £72,085.57	15. Nick Bates £83,428.49	16. Elin Jones £88,200.50	17. Kirsty Williams £82,658.39	18. Paul Davies (N/A - New AM)	19. Angela Burns (N/A - New AM)	20. Rhodri Glyn Thomas £89,155.24	21. Helen Mary Jones £88,066.30	22. Nick Bourne £271,202.04	23. Alan Davies (N/A - New AM)	24. Joyce Watson (N/A - New AM)	25. Mervyn Evans (N/A - New AM)	26. WERE: "HAVING A LAUGH!"
27. Edeina Hart £81,842.47	28. Andrew Davies £86,437.65	29. Val Lloyd £70,819.27	30. Gwenda Thomas £85,577.32	31. Brian Gibbons £87,992.37	32. Jonie Gregory £79,814.07	33. Carwyn Jones £93,415.14	34. Alan Cairns £89,886.70	35. Peter Black £83,428.49	36. Bethan Jenkins (N/A - New AM)	37. Dai Lloyd £74,201.35	38. WERE: "HAVING A LAUGH!"	39. WERE: "HAVING A LAUGH!"
40. Leighton Andrews £84,582.27	41. Christine Chapman £85,125.44	42. Jane Davidson £100,913.40	43. Jane Hart £82,309.72	44. Rhodri Morgan £170,357.05	45. Jonathan Morgan £72,268.71	46. Jenny Randerson £75,760.20	47. Lorraine Bennett £67,343.05	48. David Hilding £68,463.06	49. Andrew Davies (N/A - New AM)	50. Lesame Wood £83,613.13	51. Christopher Tranks (N/A - New AM)	52. WERE: "HAVING A LAUGH!"
53. How Lewis £98,801.89	54. Trish Low £55,827.73	55. Lynne Neagle £101,195.39	56. Nick Ramsay (N/A - New AM)	57. Jeffrey Carthbert £78,639.57	58. Irene James £81,914.35	59. Rosemary Buller £79,783.00	60. John Griffiths £72,670.84	61. William Graham £76,654.07	62. Mike German £245,995.97	63. Jocelyn Davies £94,779.43	64. Mohammad Asghar (N/A - New AM)	65. WERE: "HAVING A LAUGH!"

ALL ABOARD THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GRAVY TRAIN

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER ★ SOUTHWALESANARCHISTS.ORG

SNOUTS IN THE TROUGH AT CARDIFF BAY: MASSIVE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS & EXTORTIONATE PAY RISES!

When the Welsh Assembly opened for business in 1999, politicians insisted that party politics was going to be done differently in Wales, symbolising this change with the Senedd, the assembly's new debating chamber. With its glass walls, it was to give a feeling of transparency & the openness supposed hallmarks of a so-called modern democracy. We were told we could breathe a sigh of relief, knowing our politicians wouldn't be jumping on the gravy train like their colleagues in Westminster. Eight years on & guess what? Assembly members (AMs) from all parties are milking the generous allowances for all they're worth & making serious money thanks to voters' stupidity. Forget the employment of relatives, the free tickets to rugby internationals, all expenses paid trips abroad, the lavish new assembly member-only restaurant & subsidised food. They're nothing compared to the 'additional costs allowance' of £12,000 which 'reimburses members for expenses necessarily incurred staying overnight away from their main home for performing their duties as a member'. Which sounds reasonable enough, after all, AMs can't be expected to be driven to the assembly three or four times a week for the odd debate, followed by free buffet & then be driven home.

But what people are unaware of is that, up to one third of AMs living outside Cardiff are exploiting this allowance & making tens of thousands of pounds of profit at our expense by using it to fund payments on interest-only mortgages on second homes in & around the Bay. Consider this: the average price of a property in Cardiff Bay in 2000 was £124,000. By November 2007 this had risen to £177,000. Over the same period the AMs could have each used £84,000 of taxpayers' money to pay off the interest before selling up & rousing a tidy £50,000 profit! Not a bad way to top up your £45,000 salary. Better still is if AMs happen to be married to one another. Step up Lynne Neagle & Huw Lewis, labour AMs for Torfaen & Merthyr Tydfil respectively, who both claim the full allowance even though they live in the same house in Penarth. Why are they even claiming an allowance in the first place since Penarth is a suburb of Cardiff? Average house prices there have risen 95% since 2000. Thus a house costing £95,000 is now worth £185,000 & with an annual mortgage allowance of £24,000, the Lewis-Neagle combination is, without doubt, a winner! How apt that both represent two of the poorest constituencies in Europe.

HIP, HIP, HOORAY!

As anarchists we firmly believe in equal health care for all, unlike Councillor Rosemarie Seaborn, of the Social Services Executive in Torfaen, who out of the kindness of her heart has allocated £63,000 of public money in the form of a grant for her grandson. He suffers from perthes' disease, a condition of the hip joint, often ending up with legs splayed apart in plaster, having to be wheeled around in a wheelchair for up to 2 years. Part of the cash will be used to build an extension on her grandson's home to aid mobility.



Needless to say we would expect all sufferers of this debilitating disease to be treated the same. If you live in Torfaen & one of your children needs help because they have perthes' disease we suggest you contact the Social Services Department of Torfaen Council (01495 762200). We would be interested to hear from anyone refused such generous grant aid.

AMA SUMANI - KILLED BY BRITISH BORDER CONTROL

Ama Sumani, the Ghanaian mother of two, deported in January whilst receiving cancer treatment at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff (see last issue) died on the 19th March. By denying her the drugs she needed & the support people were willing to give, the Border & Immigration Agency (BIA) are guilty of no less than culpable homicide. This case not only shows a total lack of compassion, it suggests a vindictive cruelty in the methodology of the BIA. It is horrific that someone receiving treatment vital to their survival can be removed from hospital against their will. What is chilling is that this is the operational practice of a government funded executive agency. Ama Sumani's situation was described by the chief executive of the BIA, Lin Homer, as "not exceptional". There is a huge number of migrants being denied medical care & treatment in the UK. A number that is only set to rise. Check out noborderswales.org.uk

AMS' SHOCKING 10.2% PAY RISE!

This month it was announced that Assembly Members in Cardiff Bay will receive a whopping 8.3% pay rise... that's over £4,000 a year for backbench AMs. But we can exclusively reveal what they're actually going to receive will be more like 10.2%. Assembly members, along with Westminster MPs, were in line for a pay increase of 1.9% pay increase anyway, even before AMs announced their bumper one-off 8.3% raise. Do the maths, & what do you get? A new inflation busting figure of 10.2% that leaves public sector pay rises looking even more like chicken-feed than they did before! Welsh Labour, the Tories, the Lib Dems & Plaid presiding officer 'Lord' Dafydd Elis Thomas all come out in favour of pocketing the 8.3%, & all of them have kept quiet over the extra 1.9% they were getting anyway. The people of Wales are not being told the truth. Either our AMs are hiding the full extent of their pay increase from the public, or they simply don't know how much they're being paid. Either way, it doesn't look good. As Nye Bevan might have said: if they did know they're too wicked to be AMs; if they didn't know they're too stupid to be AMs.

When asked about the 8.3%, Elis Thomas said: "I think AMs are working hard & are overworking, not only our own budget of £45m for the Assembly Commission for all democratic services but also the £16bn spend of Welsh Government. That's the price of an effective democracy". So what's the price of a healthy Health Service Dafydd? Or a thriving school system? Or maybe you couldn't give a toss about real workers & public services as long as the Cardiff Bay gravy train keeps rolling on. A Welsh Labour spokesman blandly stated: "A decision has been taken by the Assembly Commission & we will abide by that decision." Tory William Graham welcomed the announced pay rise with an even more blatant display of greed: "We can say to members its worthwhile coming here, you won't be disadvantaged in terms of an economic prospect, that you'll get a reasonable salary commensurate with your responsibility & the complexity of the work that you do. But we will also expect you to work jolly hard for the days you're in Cardiff." You're gonna have to try jolly harder than that chaps! The public can see clearly that this is just another public display of politicians with their snouts in the trough!

PICKET LINES

Wales' biggest trade union UNITE has said it'll stop sponsoring Labour Minister Dr Kim Howells because of his support for the brutal military in Colombia. Union members have condemned Pontypridd MP Howells after he was snapped sharing a joke with a human-rights abusing, murdering, drug-dealing General Mario Montoya, Commander of the Colombian Army. Former National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) leader in Wales during the miner's strike, Dr Kim has lurched further & further to the right. Favourite Howells howlers include his suggestion that labour "phase out" the use of the word "socialism", full support for the invasion of Iraq & continued cheerleading for Israel's war crimes. This is only the latest in a string of incidents in which Dr Kim has cuddled up with despotic regimes. Last year he claimed the UK has "shared values" with Saudi Arabia, a nation that's not afraid of making tough choices like public mutilation & execution & the severe repression of women, to keep its people quiet.

More than 3,000 trade unionists have been murdered in Colombia in recent years by the Colombian army in league with right-wing paramilitary death squads. Countless peasant farmers & others have also been disappeared & internal migration from conflict zones has reached crisis proportions. All with the blessing of the US-funded President Alvaro Uribe.

Last month Dr Howells told a bare-faced lie in a statement to the House of Commons saying that most of the Colombian trade unionists killed had been murdered by the FARC - Marxist revolutionaries who control much of the country where a bitter civil war has raged for decades. As Liam Craig-Best, director of Justice For Columbia says

"Not even the Colombian Government claims that FARC is responsible for most of the murders of trade unionists. It was an absurd claim by Kim Howells, & we have no idea where he could have got this from."

Maybe Kim doesn't care if it's true as long as he can shimmy a few inches further up the Westminster greasy pole.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Employers offered a below inflation 2.2% pay rise to over 1.4 million council workers, including refuse collectors, librarians, cleaners, architects, planners, teaching assistants & traffic wardens in Wales, England & Northern Ireland on 19th March. Unions have described the offer as "abysmal" & warned of "severe political & industrial consequences". Unison, the GMB & Unite tabled a claim for a 6% pay rise & urged the Local Government Association to "face down" Government attempts to cap public sector pay deals at 2%.

BRUTAL ARREST AT PRO-CHOICE DEMO

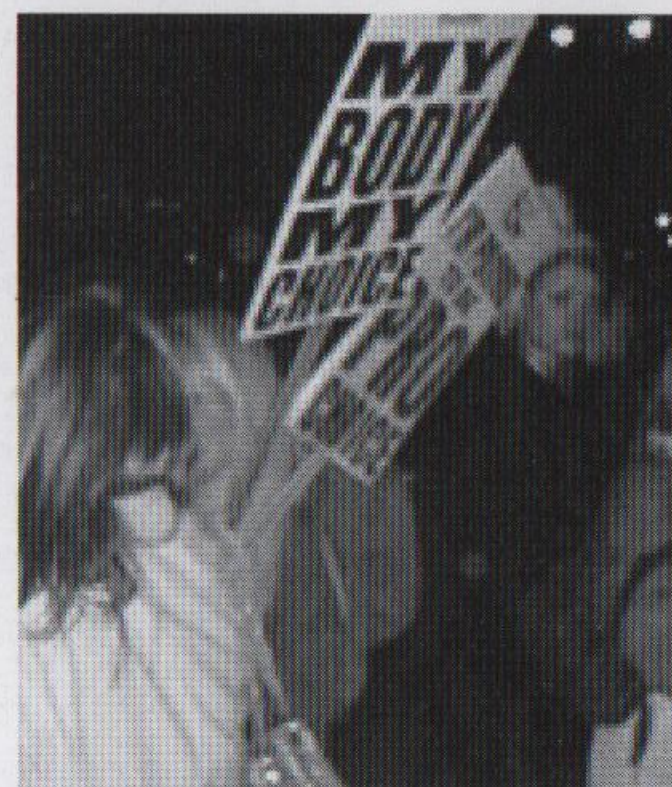
On the 4th March 150 people held a protest outside the City Temple against the "Passion for Life" anti-abortion road show (see last issue). Keynote speaker Anne Widdecombe didn't even turn up. The protest was peaceful & without incident, apart from an apparently arbitrary arrest of one Cardiff woman. A number of witnesses back up the woman's claims that she had done nothing other than take some photos. Despite this she was arrested for obstruction & taken to Fairwater police station where she was subjected to a forced strip search.

The woman was handcuffed & forced to the floor where the police used 'pain compliance' techniques to remove her clothes, including her underwear. While she was restrained on the floor naked from the waist down, one of the coppers shouted repeatedly that she was a 'fucking bitch' that this was 'making her day' & that it would 'teach her a lesson'.

The cops said they strip searched her because of 'a history of mental illness & self harm' (which is completely untrue) despite the fact that they had decided to search her even before she was asked for her name. Conveniently for the cops the cell had no CCTV.

The woman is a prominent individual in 'Fitwatch' a group which monitors the activities of the police Forward Intelligence Teams (FIT). This is a specialist police unit which compiles data on people involved in protests. They have a long track record of intimidating protesters. The police have recently tried & failed on two separate occasions to get convictions against Fitwatch activists, & have been increasingly resorting to bullying tactics. The woman arrested is quite sure that her arrest is connected to her Fitwatch activities. "Unless the police just had a grudge against photographers, there really is no other explanation for what happened. I will be taking my own legal case against them."

The police are continuing with a prosecution & a trial date is set for the 3rd June. Supporters are welcome. If you or anyone you know witnessed the arrest, please get in contact: defycops@yahoo.co.uk. Check out: fitwatch.blogspot.com



ROAD BUILDING ON BUTE PARK

Cardiff Council has had to temporarily withdraw a scheme to build a major bridge, new two-lane carriageway & substantial road-widening into Bute Park, after they illegally destroyed loads of trees near the site before getting planning permission.

The idea is to provide access for articulated lorries so the council can host more commercial events. Bute Park is an oasis of green in the city & should be kept as a public space, but the council is making big bucks hiring it out. They reckon they can make more money by bulldozing a road through it & don't care about the ecological impact. The decision will now be made by the Assembly, who will doubtless just be looking for their cut.



LORD GOLDSMITH: VERBAL DIARRHOEA

Not content with brainwashing kids to be subservient at school, the State now wishes to force children to swear an oath of allegiance to Queen & country. The idea was proposed by Lord Goldsmith, the man who 'legalised' the invasion of Iraq for the UK government. Now he has the cheek to preach to us about good citizenship & the need to be law abiding subjects who know our place in this 'great' nation of 'ours'.

Our problem is civil obedience not civil disobedience. There are too many people who do not question the actions of an increasingly authoritarian & corporate led government. Oppressive political systems can never ultimately control our minds, we are free men & women, we refuse to bow down to Lord Goldsmith & the corporate/government elite who live in luxury while others survive in abject poverty.



IRAQ DEATHS MOUNT

As the US casualty figure reaches 4,000, statistics reveal more Welsh servicemen have died in Iraq as a proportion of the population than any of the invading countries, except the USA. In total, 13 Welsh troops have been killed in the 5 year war, a ratio of one death per 231,123 Welsh people. The US has a ratio of 1 in every 78,076 people. 175 UK troops in all have been killed in Iraq. The most conservative realistic estimate of Iraq's killed is 89,928 & rising. Check out iraqbodycount.org

This horrific aggressive conflict, sold as a quest to topple a dictator was fought for the interests of western profit & control. A war sold on lies is being paid for in blood.



DAM CORPORATIONS, DAM GREEDY

Labour Peer Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde must be thinking she's won the lottery after the latest 'respected' environmentalist-to-sell-out, Jonathan Porritt, backed the construction of the Severn tidal barrage; a contract that businessmen have been desperate to get for 150 years.

For the last 25 years, the people trying to get their hands on billions have been the usual corporate thugs, who always seem to be first in the queue for government handouts. Whether the project is lead by the Severn Tidal Power Group, consisting of Balfour Beatty, ALSTOM Hydro, Taylor Woodrow Construction, Robert McAlpine, Tarmac & Rolls Royce or a government department, these corporations will be cashing in. The £15 billion estimated price tag is likely to creep up to £60 billion!

Balfour Beatty have been at the centre of many scandals, but perhaps none worse than the Pergau Dam project which has become the byword for western corruption. Also involved was Mark Thatcher, acting for Cementation International, the other partner. Meanwhile his mummy was pushing through a £billion arms deal with the Malaysian government, using the construction of a dam as an illegal sweetener. Balfour Beatty got a fat profit, even though the government had to repay aid money it had stolen.

At ALSTOM Hydro's Yusufeli Dam project in Turkey, there is no resettlement plan to cater for 30,000 people who are going to be flooded out. The project doesn't even conform to World Bank guidelines, which speaks volumes! It's the same story with ALSTOM work on the controversial Three Gorges Dam in China & the Bujagali Dam in Uganda.

Taylor Woodrow Construction (Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde is a director) has an appalling safety record. In 2000, they were fined £80,000 after 30 tonnes of scaffolding fell from a 12-storey building in Cardiff because 70% of the ties hadn't been put in place. Tarmac bunged £300,000 to the Tories in return for £250 million pounds worth of contracts. Just the people Gordon Brown can do business with.

THE NEW BOSS, SAME AS THE OLD BOSS

No sooner have we waived off Peter Hain the brand new Secretary of State for Wales, Paul Murphy (MP for Torfaen) is installed in power. Murphy has an exemplary track record as a New Labour MP, fully supporting the illegal invasion of Iraq & vigorously opposing the call for a public inquiry. His voting record shows his unbridled support for privatising the NHS by the back door, introducing ID cards, student top-up fees, anti-terrorism laws & the expensive replacement to Trident nuclear weapons. The more things change, the more they stay the same...



THE QUEEN IS A DIRTY SQUATTER!

The queen has won squatter's rights over huge parts of the Severn estuary after a legal battle with a Cardiff businessman Mark Roberts. He claims he 'owns' much of the Welsh Marches after 'acquiring' over 60 Lordships of the Manor. Judges said it was "beyond doubt" that "the law of adverse possession" - known as squatter's rights - "applies to both the Crown & citizen", & as the crown had been in possession of the land for hundreds of years, it now effectively owned it. Everyone in the UK has the right to claim land after 12 years of unchallenged possession.



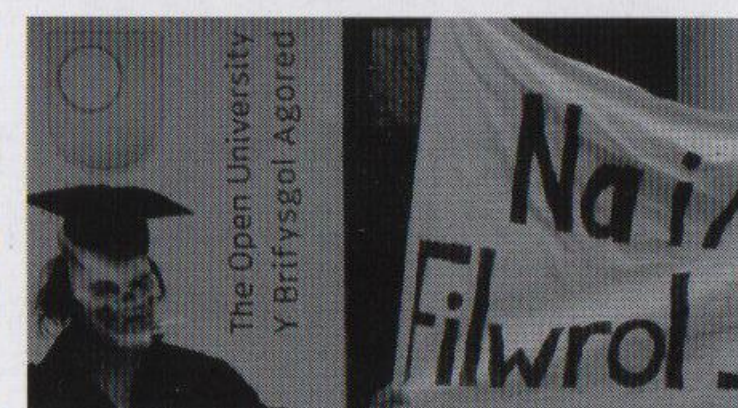
COPPERS ARE *COUGH* WANKERS *COUGH*

The Cardiff activist arrested before the No Borders demo last September (see GAGGED! #20), had her case thrown out of court. It was deemed a misuse of Section 50 of the Police Reform Act 2002 to demand her details for a potential ASBO after she coughed 'wankers'. This Act is the only way cops can demand someone's name & address before an arrest. It's been popular with police to intimidate & harass, but it seems unlikely this will stop misuse.



OPEN UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN DEATH

Anti-militarists help a protest outside the Cardiff offices of the Open University (OU) as part of the National Day of Action for University Ethical Investment on 27th February. The OU along with the likes of Raytheon (cluster bomb makers) & Qinetiq (ballistic missile manufacturers) are part of the Metrix consortium that is set to build & run a military training academy at St Athan using £14 billion of public money. It will train not only personnel from the UK, but from any regime or private company willing to pay. The next demonstration is on Saturday 26th April, 1.30pm, outside Cardiff City Hall. All welcome to oppose the tax-payer funded war factory. Check out: no2metrix.com



COPWATCH

DOZENS OF COPS SUSPENDED

45 South Wales Police officers have been suspended since 2005 with 11 resigning & two being dismissed. A further eight were found not guilty of any wrongdoing. The offences included: 12 suspended for assault; 9 for excess alcohol consumption; 1 for fraud; 4 for corrupt practice; 1 was suspended for 37 months for an undisclosed reason. There was no disclosure as to how much money was spent paying police officers whilst suspended.

A spokeswoman for South Wales Police said "Where officers are suspended, it will involve issues of suspected criminal acts, gross misconduct or any behaviour likely to bring the reputation of the force into disrepute."

COPS' GUN INCOMPETENCE

North Wales Police haven't been keeping proper records about guns handed over to them by members of the public. A leaked internal report showed senior management oversight & extremely poor record keeping. No list was created of weapons received & it couldn't be proved they'd all been destroyed when they were taken to a smelter in Yorkshire to be melted.

THIN BLUE SHORELINE

Five unnamed Blackwood cops have been found guilty of using patrol cars to take day trips to the likes of Barry Island & Porthcawl whilst on duty. The "Seaside five" were competing to see who could travel the furthest from the police station using camera phones as evidence, they only got caught when they got a punctured tyre on their way to Weston-super-Mare. Although they told local cops who tried to help that they were on an 'official operation', their own senior officers later confiscated their phones, finding photos of the filth munching ice cream & frolicking on the beach & riding the log flume at Barry Island!

A Gwent Police spokesman described them as "grotesquely stupid". Two have resigned, & two others were fined thirteen days' pay each but remain on the force. The other one had already resigned over abusing a member of the public.

COPS LOVE FOOTBALL VIOLENCE

After the Welsh Cup semi-final at Ninian Park, Newport County fans were greeted by a wall of riot cops. After a bit of push & shove, the cops waded in without warning, lashing out at anyone in striking distance & beating down on the fallen as they tried to flee, causing numerous injuries. Fans, including kids, were left to return to coaches unprotected, where they faced abuse & being spat at, without a cop in sight.