

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 fortnightly open meetings if you'd like to get involved. 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

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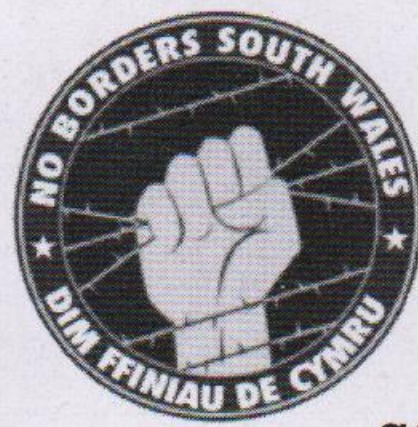
DIARY DATES

October

18th: Anarchist Bookfair, London anarchistbookfair.org
18-19th: Welsh Peace Festival cymdeithasycymod.org.uk/gwylheddwwch/saesneg.htm
20th: Day of action against BMI. noborderswales.org.uk
20th: South Wales Anarchist meeting, Model Inn, Quay Street, Cardiff. 7.30pm
24th: "Why Prisons Don't Make Our Communities Safer" hosted by Bristol ABC, at Kebele, 14 Robertson Rd.
25th: Subvert Fest, fundraiser for Bristol No Borders & Bristol ABC. At White Hart, Whitehall Road. £8 6pm.
26th: 'Down with the fences' Bristol No Borders Film Night at Kebele. 6pm.

November

3rd: South Wales Anarchist meeting, Model Inn. 7.30pm.
5th "Burn A Politician" Class War Bonfire Party - London 7pm. classwaruk.org
8-9th: No Borders Gathering, Newcastle. noborders.org.uk

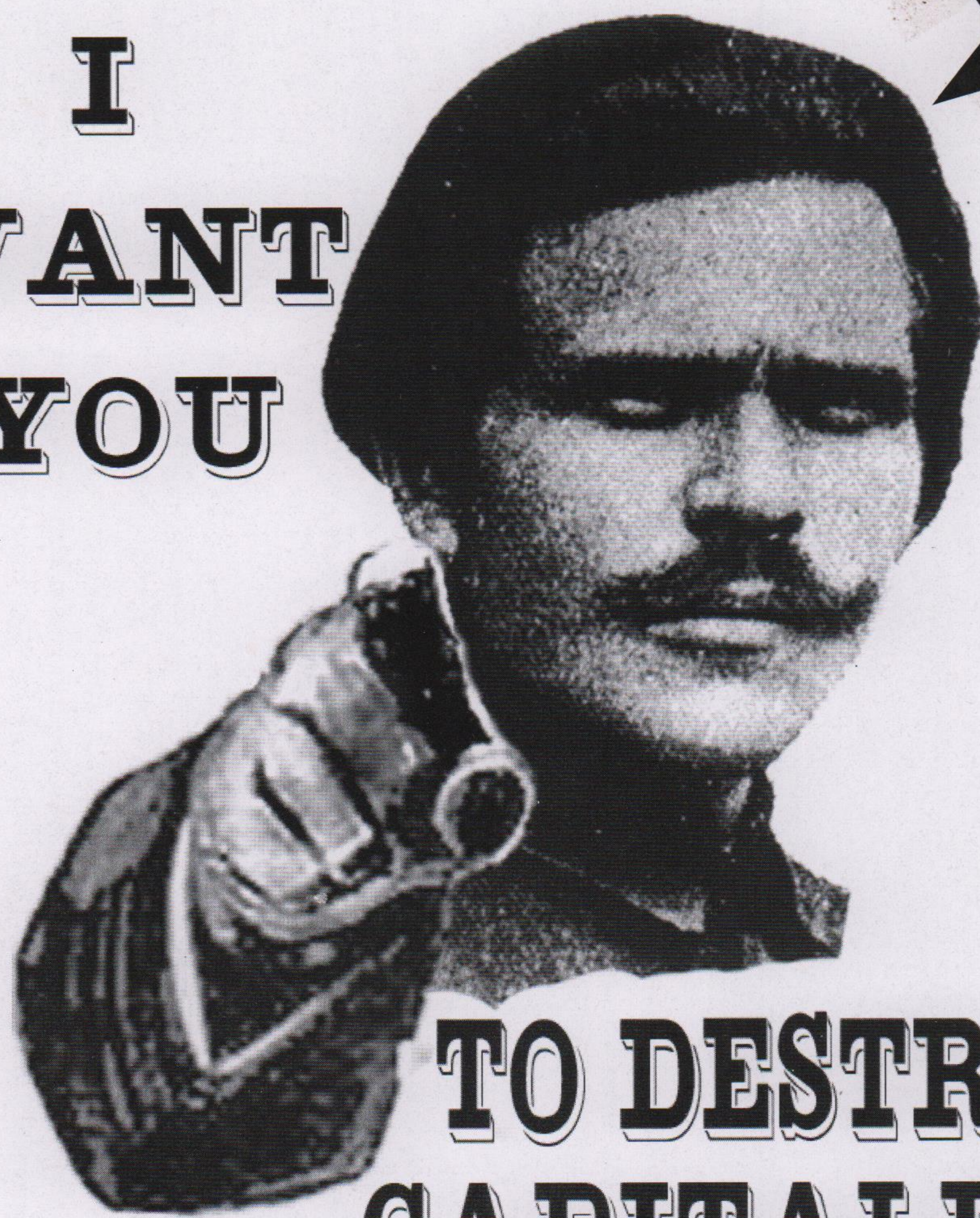


No Borders South Wales is a collective of people, who organise against migration controls and for the freedom of movement for all. We work on a non-hierarchical, anti-authoritarian basis, using consensus decision making. Weekly meetings are on Thursdays at the Riverside Community Centre, Brunel Street, Cardiff at 7pm. noborderswales.org.uk

GAGGED!

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER ★ #24 AUTUMN '08

I WANT YOU



TO DESTROY CAPITALISM

Inside this issue: **CREDIT CRUNCH, ID CARDS, ANTI-FASCISM, CRIMINAL COPS, CORRUPTION, DEPORTATIONS, PROTESTS, CLIMATE CHANGE, MUSIC, DIARY DATES, & MORE!** southwalesanarchists.org

THE CREDIT CRUNCH & YOU

As the United States housing market suffers its biggest slump since the 1930s, with record defaults on over 200 million mortgages, banks and financial institutions worldwide are losing billions of pounds. The era of easy credit is coming to an end and the effects are being felt all over the world. Ten years of economic "growth" in the UK under "New" Labour (thanks to cheap Chinese imports) is beginning to unravel.

WHO IS TO BLAME AND WHO WILL PAY?

Corporate greed is to blame, and working class people like me and you will pay twice over. Global capitalism needs ever-increasing profits to meet the demands (greed) of shareholders. Capitalism does not care how profits are made. Jobs are axed and the environment destroyed in the relentless bid to make money. Growth through greed is the name of the capitalist game and exploitation is the norm. So as the banks are bailed out with our money and the bankers allowed to walk away with large pay outs - Andy Hornby, former director of bankrupt HBOS has just trousered £1 million - ordinary people are left to carry the can. Wages and state benefits have been squeezed and kept to a minimum while corporations make record profits. At the same time, "easy credit" has been made widely available. This has resulted in record borrowing, just in order for us to be able to purchase the services and goods produced. Profits were maintained: banks & building societies made a fortune on loans, while customers were lured into debt, often borrowed with their homes as security. Capitalism is based on such exploitation and with the credit crunch it's us who will suffer further.

SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE GIVEN THE BUSINESS ELITE FREE REIN WHICH HAS RESULTED IN:

- Workers wages being driven down, e.g. we are told to accept pay "rises" of 2% whilst directors' salaries soar.
- A credit boom which has masked the precarious state of the UK economy, built on borrowing and debt.
- This is now over. The unavoidable "slump" in the capitalist system has arrived. Easy credit disappears and we have a crisis where a greater slice of people's income goes on paying off debts. The demand for goods and services will therefore fall. We will inevitably experience the usual "tough love" from the government and bosses:
- Debtors will be allowed to go bankrupt.
- People will lose their homes. Repossessions in Wales are up by a staggering 39% since last year.
- Companies will lay-off workers to maintain profits and corporate greed. Only last month 150 call centre workers in Swansea lost their jobs when XL Airlines went bust - no million pound payoffs for them.
- Rising unemployment as production is cutback, factories closed or relocated.
- Prices will increase. Note the rises in our weekly shop, fuel bills & petrol.
- Poverty, social deprivation and crime rates will rise.
- The British National Party (BNP) will seek political gain by scapegoating our ethnic minorities for causing the problem.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

Do we just accept the dictatorial power of a corporate elite, their politician chums and their unjust capitalist system, or do we fight back? Do we demand and strive for an economic system based on fairness and equality, where exploitation is a thing of the past? Where goods and services are produced for need within a sustainable green libertarian socialist/anarchist economic system? The choice is yours. anarchismfaq.org

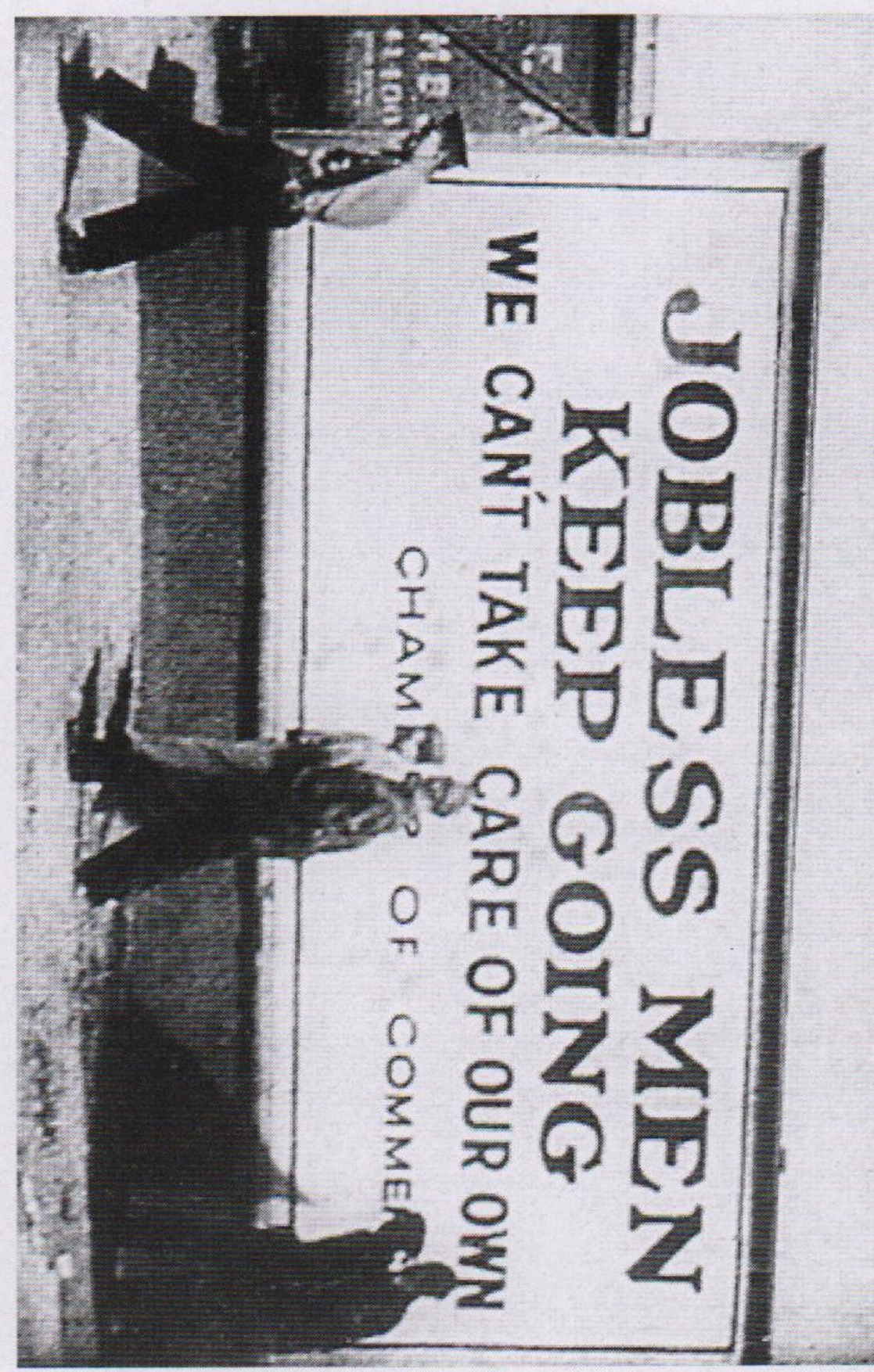
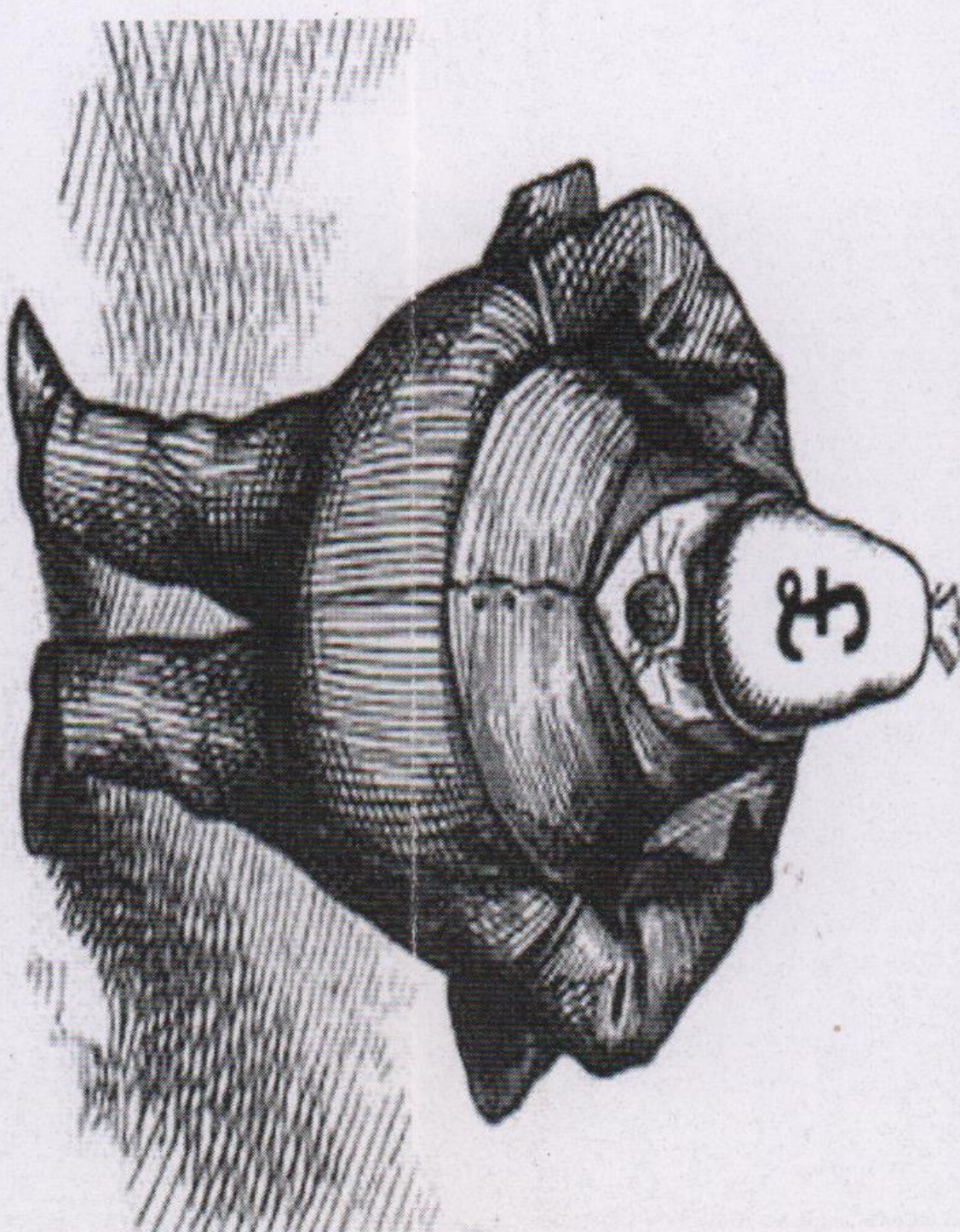


PROTEST AGAINST ID CARDS
On Saturday afternoon over 30 people joined with No Borders South Wales outside Newport Passport Office to protest against the introduction of ID cards for non-EU foreign nationals resident in the UK from this November.

Initially ID cards will be issued to non-EU students and marriage visa holders, then foreign nationals wanting to enter the UK. From next year other foreign nationals living here will be issued with ID cards. These groups will be forced to enroll on the scheme and use the card, rather than their passport, for identification. In 2009, anyone, regardless of nationality, who works in an area the government deems "sensitive" such as airports will be required to have an ID card. In 2010, students will need ID cards to get a student loan and they will be available to the rest of us on a "voluntary" basis, with ID cards being paired with passports in 2011.

Thousands of copies of our new leaflet "Big Brother is coming", produced especially for the event, were distributed to members of the public. We repeatedly made the point that these new ID cards are not only a repressive measure against migrants, they are the first shot in an attack against everyone's freedom. The vast majority of passers by who took the time out to speak with people on the demonstration were very supportive of our campaign and were adamant that they would not accept an ID card themselves.

A dozen police were waiting by the Passport office at 2pm when people arrived. The senior officer informed people that they were willing to 'facilitate' the protest providing only two people were stood outside the entrance to the passport office and everyone else stood on the other side of the road. The police were politely but firmly told that that was both unreasonable and unacceptable. The officer then said he would go inside the office and then return to implement "another course of action". Unsurprisingly, this other course of action was to completely abandon his original demand and only ask us not to block the entrance, which we had already told him we had no intention of doing. In this case the police soon realised we were not going to be bullied around and the protest was able to pass off without too much of their interference, however it is a concern that people wishing to exercise their legal right to protest are being intimidated in such a way. We all have the right to gather and protest without asking for permission. Under the guise of "minimising disruption" it is common for police to view an effectively policed protest as one which as few people as possible are aware is happening. More info: noborderswales.org.uk



UK COAL AUTHORITY AGM DISRUPTED

The UK Coal Authority's AGM was brought to a halt in Cardiff's Hilton Hotel last month by protestors demonstrating against the monster Ffos-y-Fran opencast mine in Merthyr Tydfil. 3 activists climbed the roof of the Hilton entrance and unfurled a banner reading "Coal = Climate Disaster", while Merthyr residents occupied the conference. Local people have long been campaigning against the mine which is situated in one of the poorest areas in Wales. Masquerading as a "land reclamation" scheme, plans are in place for coal mining to continue on the site for the next 17 years, extracting 11 million tonnes of coal, which will in turn produce 29.5m tonnes of carbon dioxide. The nearest houses are a mere 37 metres from the site, and residents are forced to endure noise & pollution for 16 hours daily, with climate chaos forced on the rest of the planet - all for the benefit of big business. The mine is owned by Miller Argent, a wholly owned subsidiary of BT Pensions Group. stopffosyfranco.uk

SUCCESSFUL NO BORDER FEST 08

No Border Fest, two days of political punk, ska and folk music held in TJs, Newport on the first weekend of October to raise money for No Borders South Wales was a great success. Performances by Inner Terrestrials, No Choice, KilnAboy, Cosmo, Jesus Bruiser, Catch-it Kebabs, Robb Johnson & the Irregulars, Spanner, Rejected, Filthy Habits, Tracey Curtis and Politrax entertained the crowd who were encouraged to get involved with the group's wide range of activism. Organisers hope this Fest becomes an annual event, and grows to include a greater variety of entertainment and politics. noborderswales.org.uk/fest

ROSSPORT SOLIDARITY IN CARDIFF

12 Westside Climate Camp activists occupied the Irish Consulate in Cardiff in September in solidarity with the Shell to Sea campaign against Shell's pipeline in Rosport. The consulate was occupied for two hours while the consul refused to meet demonstrators, and messages were left protesting against the Irish state's complicity in the environmental destruction that the Shell pipeline will bring. coribos.com

LORDING IT OVER ANTI-FASCISTS

What on earth has prompted anti-fascist campaigners Searchlight Cymru to make Dafydd Elis-Thomas their honorary president? Don't they know that Elis-Thomas epitomises the very worst characteristics of many professional politicians: hypocrisy, greed and arrogance to name but three?

Once upon a time Elis-Thomas was a self-confessed Marxist who moved the writ in parliament for Bobby Sands' election in 1981. Yet within two decades he dumped any pretense at being a democrat to become a member of the house of lords, taking the title of lord Elis-Thomas of Nant Conwy.

Unworried by the charge of 'traitor', the good lord has continued to exploit his powerful position, especially with the ladies. Marjorie Thompson claims she and her purse were taken to the cleaner's by the former Plaid Cymru leader in their nine-year relationship. Mind you, his "lordship" does speak sense from time to time: in 2003 he slammed the Welsh assembly, saying he wouldn't bother to vote if he wasn't a politician. So why is he still the presiding officer? Err, could it be anything to do with the big fat salary he gets on top of all the allowances? Or perhaps it's the chance to vote himself an 8.3% bung when other public servants are scraping by on below-inflation pay settlements. Then, again, it might be because he gets to be the chair of a number of well-paying quangos, including the Welsh Language Board - seen in Welsh-Speaking Wales as not only toothless but in many ways sustaining the status quo that condemns the language to client status.

Wise up Searchlight! If you want to maintain your credibility get rid of this pompous ass. He does the anti-fascist cause no favours. Quite the opposite - ordinary people are increasingly turning to the BNP because they're fed up seeing members of the political establishment pursuing political careers for personal gain. If the BNP get a foothold in Wales, it's down to nobs like Dafydd Elis-Thomas.

THE ROAD TO PERDITION

Three South Wales Valleys councils (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil) have recently struck a £75 million deal to manage road and other civil engineering projects with Capita, one of the UK's most notorious outsourcing companies. Graham Cogswell, Capita's managing director said:

"We have a proven track record of improving services and job creation through local authority partnerships across the UK and Wales in particular."

Improving services? We wonder what planet Mr Cogswell has been on for the last decade. Despite winning contracts worth hundreds of millions of pounds of our money, Capita and its vast network of subsidiaries are bywords for incompetence and, in some cases, corruption. They've botched staff administration services at Leicester Hospitals NHS Trust and the BBC where staff details were lost. Capita was awarded the contract to run Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs), the government adult skills policy, which collapsed after fraudulent claims resulted in a £60 million overspend. In 2002 the company failed to provide adequate computer systems to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) causing lengthy delays in the provision of police checks for people wanting to work with children. And to cap it all, Capita Financial Administration was fined £300,000 in 2004 by the Financial Services Authority after some of its staff helped to defraud customers.

So why does Capita carry on winning lucrative government contracts? Could it possibly be because its former chairman, Rod Aldridge, made a secret loan of £1 million to Capita's New Labour pay masters before the last elections?

Clearly councillors in RCT, Merthyr and Bridgend have every confidence in the new partnership. South Wales Anarchists, however, do not and we deplore the way public services are being hived off to private sector cowboys. Watch out for the pot holes!

COUNCIL GRAVY TRAIN ROLLS ON...

While the credit crunch bites, people lose their jobs & government tries to impose below-inflation pay rises on public sector workers, greedy councillors in Caerphilly & the Vale of Glamorgan have awarded themselves a nice 2.45% increase in their allowances. One councillor refused to accept the "inappropriate" rise, but for Tory fat cat Vale Council leader Gordon Kemp - who is already raking it in with his own law firm in Barry - the rises mean he will also be pocketing a whopping £47,627 in allowances.



WE LOVES YA, BABI!

On 20th September at 3.15pm gay radical artist & No Borders South Wales activist Babi Badalov was deported on a BMI flight to Azerbaijan. Babi sought asylum in the UK in 2006 following years of persecution because of his sexuality. When his brothers found out that he was gay they threatened to kill him: one attack left him with only eight teeth.

His art & poetry also led him to become a target of government repression after mocking members of the ruling elite. The most famous led to threatening visits by the Ministry of National Security (MNS - Azerbaijan's modern day version of the KGB). It was a photographic piece in which he parodied the ubiquitous statues of the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, who, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, destroyed many statues of Lenin & erected ones of himself instead.

Babi was dispersed to Cardiff in December in 2006 & quickly became a central feature of the activist life. He regularly helped out at Cardiff's social centre PAD, & despite his precarious immigration status was involved in many campaigns & was a much loved & active member of No Borders South Wales.

Babi was snatched on Tuesday 16th Sept when he attended his weekly signing at the UK Border Agency building in Cardiff. When informed that he was going to be detained & deported Babi responded by saying: "I feel sick." The UK Border agent replied: "well you make us sick, you're going back where you belong."

The next day an emergency demo was held outside the Border Agency on Newport Road, Cardiff. Over 50 people came together to show their solidarity with Babi & the front steps of the building were covered in banners. Late that night he was then transported under the cover of darkness to Campsfield detention prison, Oxford.

Whilst in detention Babi received a medical examination. The subsequent report strongly recommended that Babi be given a proper psychiatric evaluation. Despite this, the Home Office continued with its plans to deport him at 8pm on Saturday 20th on an Azerbaijan Airlines flight to Baku. However, following a huge amount of harassment from friends, supporters & many other activists from around the country, Azerbaijan Airlines bowed to the pressure & refused to carry him. This did not stop the Home Office though, & his deportation was rescheduled to a British Midland Airways (BMI) flight at 3.15pm the same day. This time, despite a huge struggle which continued right up until the last minute, Babi was finally deported.

While Babi is currently safe, if anything happens to him the state & BMI will have blood on their hands. His deportation has left a huge hole in all his friends' lives & demonstrates the brutality of immigration controls. He was ripped away from his new home, friends & people that loved him just so the government can keep its deportation statistics up. We didn't fight to keep Babi here out of compassion or because he had suffered. We don't care why Babi came. We fought for Babi because he is one of us, a fighter for freedom of movement, for equality & a world without borders.

Despite a huge number of telephone calls, emails and faxes to BMI on the day of Babi's deportation by people raising their objections to the removal, BMI chose to ignore this and ensured the deportation took place. BMI employees told those ringing on the day that BMI could not refuse to fly Babi and it was out of their control. However, other airlines have refused to fly deportees in the past. In 2007, XL Airways made the announcement that they would no longer carry failed asylum-seekers who were being forcibly removed from the United Kingdom.

For too long, airline companies that operate deportation flights have been allowed to carry out this sordid business with little or no sustained opposition from those that oppose migration controls and work in solidarity with migrants. BMI must be made aware of the impact of their actions on the lives of the people they deport and how their business may be affected if they continue this practice.

No Borders South Wales are calling for a sustained campaign against BMI. We call on BMI to no longer take part in the forced deportation of migrants. Contact BMI and register your disapproval at their role in deporting people back to places they do not wish to go back to. On the 20th October let's hit BMI with everything we've got! Then let's do this on the 20th of every month until BMI see sense.

BMI switchboard: 01332 854000

we don't
flybmi.com
they sent our friend to die

COPWATCH

NOSEY COPS STALK THE PUBLIC

Four officers from Gwent Police's 'Evidence Gathering Team' constantly filmed participants at the anti-ID Card demonstration in Newport, both from a distance and at close range. They also frequently checked the inside of their hats where we believe they kept their 'spotter cards' which identify known activists. These four officers then followed a number of the demonstrators to a local pub where they stood outside patiently in the rain, waiting for them to come out and then followed them again, over the River Usk to the legendary TJs where Smash EDO were showing a film to build support for their upcoming protest before day two of No Border Fest. Their actions are clearly politically motivated. As one passer by noted: "I didn't know there were so many police in Newport"

MORE CORRUPT COPPERS

Freedom of Information requests have revealed how at least 32 cops in South Wales have been arrested and convicted of a huge range of crimes in the past two years, including Arson, Threats to kill, Forgery, Possession of indecent images, Driving with excess alcohol, Sexual assault Corruption, Breach of data protection, Use of a mobile phone while driving, Speeding Careless driving, Failure to comply with traffic light, Assault, Common assault, Possession of a class A drug, Section 20 wounding, Misconduct in public office, Threatening behaviour and, Intimidating a Witness! Some enterprising cops even managed to carry these crimes out while on the job. South Wales Police arrest on average of one criminal cop a month. And across the country, more than 800 police officers in England and Wales have been arrested for a range of offences including rape, paedophilia, child cruelty, assault, fraud, drink driving and drug charges. Between April 2006 and August 2008, 812 officers were arrested. 300 were Metropolitan officers, including 123 arrests for violence against the person and 17 for sex offences. Copwatchers won't be running out of stories anytime soon!

POLICE GO STOP & SEARCH CRAZY!

South Wales Police is among 10 forces now being allowed by the government to stop and search people in so-called "knife-crime hotspots" without issuing a full record. This requirement was brought in following a recommendation from the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Now cops will get away with giving a searched person a card, explaining how to complain if they are not happy with how they've been treated. Police accountability? Don't make us laugh.