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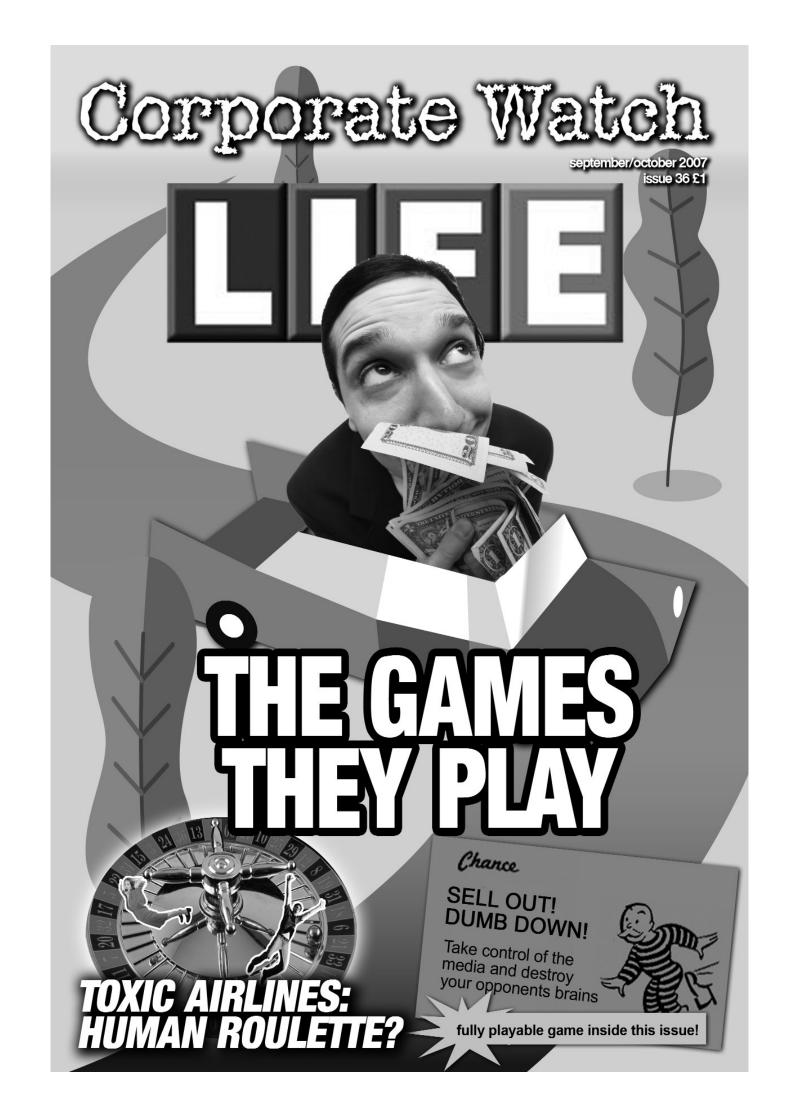
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CW TSHIRTS, YOU KNOW YOU WANT ONE

Corporate Watch

September

11 - Disarm DSEi, London. Actions against the Defence Systems & Equipment International (DSEi) arms fair held every other year at East London's ExCel Centre, *www.dsei.org*

19-24 - Gatwick area No Borders Camp. Share information, skills and experiences, and plan actions against border controls.

g-anbc2007@riseup.net http://noborders.org.uk http://http//noborders.org.uk

October

- **1 Faslane365 Big Blockade**. After a year of blockading Faslane nuclear base, a mass bloc will take place to celebrate the campaign and shut down the base. Starts 6.30am, at the north and south gate of Faslane naval base. For more call 0845 45 88 365, web *www.faslane365.org*
- 7 Lecture: Jim Herrick Shelley & Freethought, London. 11am at South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, London WC1. Admission free. For info tel 020 7242 8037, email spesupdate@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.ethicalsoc.org.uk
- 11 South Place Ethical Society (SPES) book Club discuss Self Made Man by Nora Vincent, London. Place: Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, London WC1 Time: Tea from 6:30 discussion 7-9pm Price: FREE Contact: 0207-242-8037 or spesupdate@yahoo.co.uk or www.freewebs.com/bookevents
- 13 Keep Space For Peace, Near Harrogate. As part of the international protest called for by the Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons and Power in Space, the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) is demonstrating at the American base at Menwith Hill. 12noon-4pm at the main entrance, Menwith Hill, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire. For more info tel: 01423 884076, email: percy@starbeck.eclipse.co.uk or visit www.caab.org.uk

Newsletter 36: September/October 2007

Corporate Watch is an independent not-forprofit group, which aims to expose how large corporations function, and the detrimental effects they have on society and the environment as an inevitable result of their current legal structure. Corporate Watch strives for a society that is ecologically sustainable, democratic, equitable and nonexploitative. Progress towards such a society may, in part, be achieved through dismantling the vast economic and political power of corporations, and developing ecologically and socially just alternatives to the present economic system. If you would like to help with research, fund-raising or distribution please contact us.

Disclaimer: The objectivity of the media is generally an illusion. Corporate Watch freely acknowledges that it comes from an anticorporate perspective. It attempts at all times to be factual, accurate, honest and truthful in its reporting. We welcome any comments or corrections.

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Corporate Watch is a member of INK, the Independent News Collective, trade association of the UK alternative press.



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NEW REPORTS FROM CORPORATE WATCH

feature

WEEK OF DIRECT ACTION IN ICELAND

In Iceland a summer of dissent against heavy industry and large dams has begun. Corporations plan to harness the glacial rivers and geothermal potential of Europe's largest remaining wilderness for aluminium production. by Jaap Krater / Saving Iceland

Activists from around the world have gathered to oppose Rio Tinto and other transnational companies. Much aluminium goes directly to the war efforts of the US, Russia and others. Aluminium is the single most important bulk metal for modern warfare, included in missiles, tanks, fighter planes, and nuclear weapons.

In July Icelanders were joined by activists from Africa, South and North America and Europe for a conference on heavy industry and large dams, organized by Saving Iceland. This event looked at large dams' effect on ecosystems, climate and communities, on the role of aluminium in the arms industry and military and on the greenwash strategies of large corporations. Activists also saw remarkable similarities in corporate strategies between their different countries and continents, in how communities and governments are manipulated and environmental impacts covered up. The next conference is planned for Trinidad and Tobago, where communities oppose an ALCOA aluminium smelter (see Corporate Watch June-July 2007)

ALCOA, Alcan/RioTinto, Norsk Hydro and Century/Rusal are all scheming for new smelters in Iceland. Century Aluminum, a part of the recently formed Russian-Swiss RUSAL/Glencore/SUAL conglomerate, want to build a second smelter in Iceland in Helguvik, with a projected capacity of at least 250,000 metric tons per annum (mtpa). The planned site is designed to accommodate further expansion. Meanwhile the Grundartangi plant has this year been extended to 260,000 mtpa. Currently, an environmental impact assessment is under review for the Helguvik smelter, produced by the construction consultants (Honnun/Rafhonnun/VST), HRV name themselves the chief architects of the aluminium industry on their own website. It is absurd that an engineering company, with a vested interest in the smelter construction, could be considered to produce an objective impact assessment. Their document claims that pollution is really not a

windy place that the pollution will just blow away.

This smelter will demand new geothermal power plants at Seltún, Sandfell, Austurengiar and Trölladyngiu, in addition to the Hengill area which has already been seriously damaged by Reykjavik Energy. The impact assessment does not take this into account, nor the impact of the power lines and pylons required. The plants will ruin the natural and scenic value of the whole peninsula. Also, the required capacity, 400 MW, exceeds the natural capacity of the geothermal spots, which will cool down in three to four decades. Century admits it wants the site to expand further in the next decades, so it is obvious that this smelter will not just ruin Reykjanes but also need additional hydropower.

The impact assessment seems to be completely irrelevant anyway, since the company has completed an equity offering worth \$360 million, partly to finance the construction of the Helguvik smelter project. This indicates that Century already has high level assurances that the project is to continue. This contradicts the claims of the new government of Iceland, and particularly its environment minister Pórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, that it is opposed to new smelter projects.

Climate change is also a factor. Icelandic Alloys wants to expand its facility for producing ferrosilicon for the steel industry. This is already one of Iceland's largest contributors to greenhouse gases. Even if there are no further expansions of heavy industry beyond Grundartangi and ALCOA Fjardaal, Iceland will still emit 38% more greenhouse gases than in 1990. If the other expansion plans continue, levels would rise to an incredible 63% above 1990 levels.

minium industry on their own website. It is absurd that an engineering company, with a vested interest in the smelter construction, could be considered to produce an objective impact assessment. Their document claims that pollution is really not a problem because Helguvik is such a Century is a subsidiary of Glencore, well known for deals with apartheid South Africa, the USSR, Iran, and Saddam's Iraq. Glencore has merged with RUSAL, making the largest aluminium company in the world. As the main aluminum supplier to the Russian military, RUSAL con-

tributes directly to the weapons used in the war in Chechnya, where at least 35,000 civilians have been killed. Glencore are also known to have recently massacred Wayuu Indians and local farmers in Colombia for mine expansion.

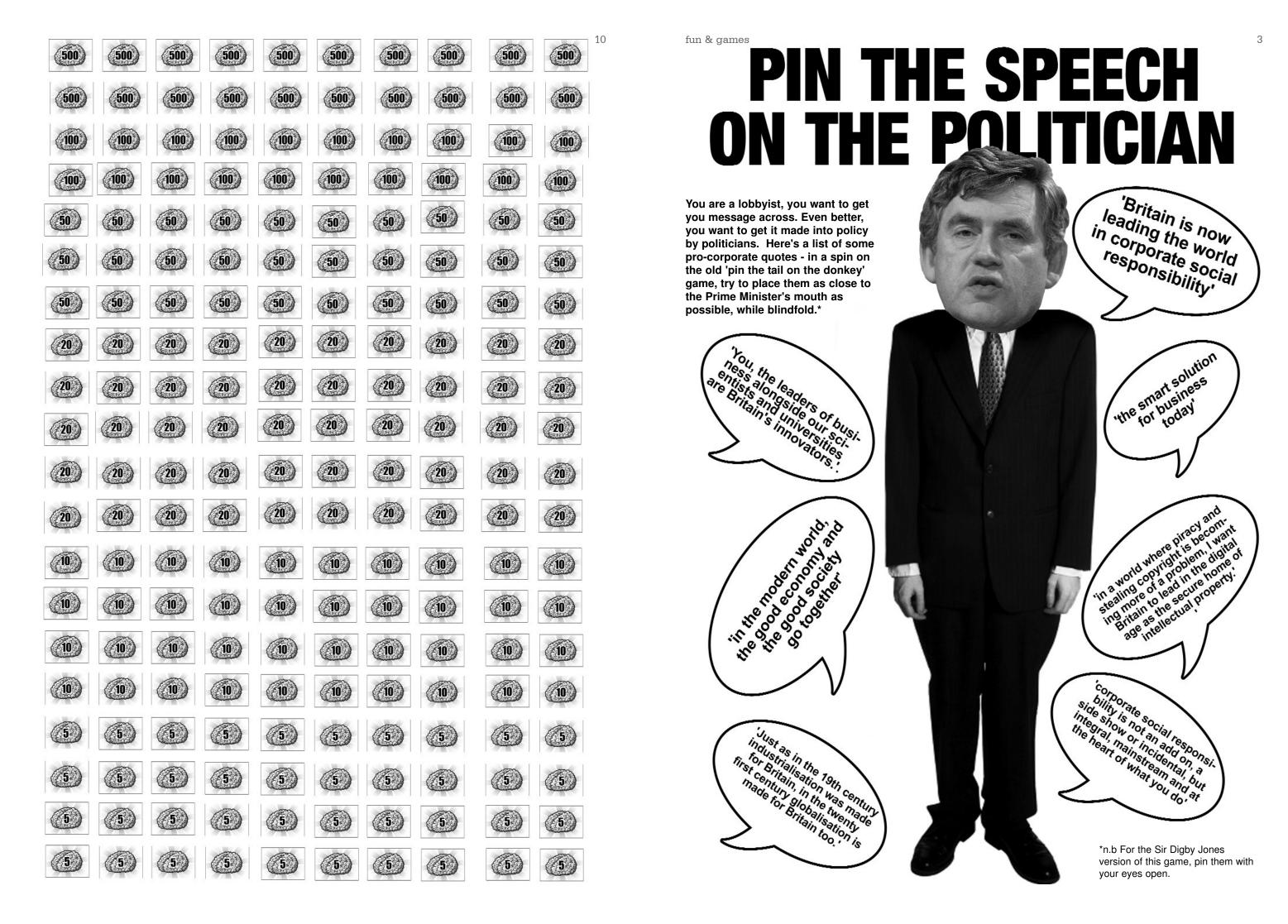
11

Reykjavik Energy are expanding their geothermal plant at Hengill in a supposedly 'green' operation, to meet industry's demands for energy. Therefore this geothermal plant must serve other expansions - Century's Grundartangi and the possible new ALCAN and Century plants at Straumsvik and Helguvik. Although the current Icelandic government claims to oppose more smelters, Hellisheidi is still being expanded at a cost of 379 million taxpayers' dollars. Once the expansion is completed, this will force Iceland into more smelters because the electricity needs to be sold to get investments back. In the mean time, farmers pay twice as much for electricity as Century does.

The expansion of the Hellesheidi power plant in Hengill is itself not as green as Reykjavik Energy suggests. Hot and toxic waste water is either disposed of by pumping it back into the borehole, increasing the frequency of earthquakes, or it is pumped untreated into streams and lakes, wiping out valuable ecosystems as treatment is considered too expensive. The Northern end of lake Thingvallavatn is already biologically dead in parts due to wastewater pumping. Tourism will also be negatively affected. Extraction of underground fluids leads to changes in groundwater movements, commonly including drying of unique hot springs and geysers and the pollution of pure subsurface spring water. Four endangered bird species are affected: the falcon, greylag goose, harlequin duck and raven. But some people are fighting back. A

Saving Iceland activist states: 'We will not stop until the corporate invasion of the Icelandic wilderness has ceased. The world is not dying, it is being murdered. And those who are doing it need to be held accountable.'

www.savingiceland.org



the rules



Aarrgghh!, the MONOTONY!

We turn the tables on the corporations, with MONOTONY, a game that parodies the corporate-controlled media's race towards banality. Players buy up media opportunities - from cheapo flyposting to the Olympic Games, from TV to newspapers. The aim is to control the mass media, viciously dumb it down and be the last media mogul with any brain cells left!

What you will need:

Monotony board (pages 6-7)

Brain cell counters (page 10). Each player starts with 1500 brain cells (divided up into 2 each, 500bc,100bc and 50bc; 6 each 20bc and 5bc; 5 each of 10bc)

Player counters (page 12)

Dumbing down counters: sex and violence (page 12)

Player markers (see below)

Pair of dice

Each budding Murdoch starts off as a young executive, fresh out of business school, with a certain amount of brain cells. In order to acquire media they must sell-out by using their brain cells to buy up a media opportunity - for example, BBC news, or the control of billboards. When another player lands on your property they are bored and bamboozled by your soulless corporate-controlled media and lose brain cells - which you take and use to increase your media empire.

Dumbing down happens after a set of spaces is bought; you have taken a controlling stake in the company! The new owner can then add extra sensationalist nonsense in the shape of sex and violence. When bought, one of the appropriate counters is laid on the space, and the brain cell loss is immediately increased.

How bad is it doctor? These are the brain cell penalties for landing on a media space:

(Cost to buy) penalty for landing on, with the addition of one, two, three or four dumbing down counters.

(60) Internet/Email/Porn Spam 5 - 10, 30, 90, 160 (60) 0900 number late night text/Chat/Flirt lines 5 - 20, 60, 180, 320

(200) News services (BBC News, CNN; Fox News, ITN)

one owned: 25 two owned: 50 three owned: 100 four owned: 200

(100) Sponsor Croyden FC 5 - 30, 90, 270, 400

(100) The Croyden Advertiser 5 - 30, 90, 270, 400

(120) Croyden Local Radio (CLR) 10 - 40, 100, 300, 450

(140) Glamour (Housewives' favourite) 10 - 50, 150, 450, 625

(140) Nuts (Lads Mag) 10 - 50, 150, 450, 625

(160) Hello! 15 - 60, 180, 500, 700

(150) Sponsor a Sportstar (round up for odd numbers)

one owned: The number rolled, times four two owned: The number rolled, times ten

(180) ITV: 15 - 70, 200, 550, 750 (180) Channel 1: 15 - 70, 200, 550, 750 (200) Channel 4: 15 - 80, 220, 600, 800 (220) Lifetime TV 20 - 90, 250, 700, 875

(220) Musak TV 2018 - 90, 250, 700, 875

(240) Channel 5 20 - 100, 300, 750, 925

(260) The Grauniad 25 -110, 330, 800, 975

(260) The Sunday Panorama 25 -110, 330, 800, 975

(280) The Thunderer 25 - 120, 360, 850, 1025

(300) Manchester United FC Football shirt sponsorship

25 - 130, 390, 900, 1100

(300) Michael Schumacher Sponsorship deal

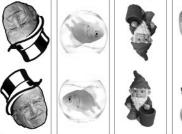
25 - 130, 390, 900, 1100

(320) Tiger Woods Sponsorship deal 30 - 150, 450, 1000, 1200

(350) Sponsor The World Cup 35 - 175, 500, 1100, 1300

(400) Sponsor The Olympics 50 - 200, 600, 1400, 1700

When you have lost all your brain cells, you have lost your marbles, and must do a Maxwell. The last surviving media mogul is the winner!













TOXIC AIRLINES

Is contaminated air aboard jet airliners ruining people's health? Are the government and the airline industry colluding to cover up a global public health scandal? Flying may not just be bad for the planet but bad for your health too. Chris Grimshaw investigates

they returned home and their GP was

unable to identify any cause of the mys-

tery illness. They complained to the airline

and to the Health Protection Agency and

discovered that their aeroplane had an 'air

valve bleed' which could have contaminat-

Ex-pilot and aerotoxic sufferer Captain

Susan Michaelis has investigated the

extent of the problem by surveying pilots.

She wrote to 350 BA 146 pilots, and

received responses from 242: 86% had

experienced contaminated air events;

ed the air supply.

John Hoyte is a tall bluff 51 year old. A pilot all his working life Hoyte had begun to develop a mystery sickness in the years before he retired. He was working for a budget airline when he became ill; blurred vision, memory problems, depression. Worsening symptoms forced him to resign as he felt unable to fly safely. He began to fear that he had CJD or early dementia. Rumours about contaminated air on planes had existed in pilots' circles for years, but it was not until he was invited to take part in tests at University College London that his illness was connected with this issue.

The tests were conducted by Doctor Sarah Mackenzie Ross, a clinical neuropsychologist. She conducted psychometric tests on Hoyte and 17 other pilots and found that, in addition to physical symptoms, they were suffering 'alarming cognitive failures', including: 'being unable to retain, or confusing, numerical data and information provided by air traffic control regarding altitude and speed; completing tasks in the incorrect sequence; setting the wrong cleared level for the aircraft to climb or descend; and being unable to recall important matters such as whether the undercarriage has been raised or lowered.' Independently, the pilots had blood and fat samples analysed. These showed exposure to toxic compounds including the organophosphate, tricresyl phos-

Evidence is emerging that the air supply on modern jet airliners is regularly contaminated with a cocktail of toxic chemicals. Due to the altitude planes fly at, crew and passengers need compressed air to breathe. This is supplied from the engines - unfiltered - and is sometimes contaminated with pyrolised (heated) engine oils and hydraulic fluids. The engine oils contain the organophosphate, tricresyl phosphate (TCP), a powerful toxin. Illness caused by exposure to the chemical contaminants in cabin air has been dubbed Aerotoxic Syndrome.

John Hoyte has now set up the Aerotoxic Association to inform crews and passengers about the health hazards to which they are exposed, to provide support and advice to sufferers, and to campaign for

and over 1000 contaminated air events in the UK alone.

A Canadian scientist, Chris Van Netten, became interested in the issue and decided to conduct his own studies. He took swab samples from inside a number of airliners and tested them for tricresyl phosphate. In total 40 planes of different types have been tested in this way in Australia, the USA, UK and Europe. 34 tested positive for TCP.

Governments around the world appear to be deeply uninterested. The issue is currently under official investigation in the UK by the government appointed Committee on Toxicity (COT) and the House of Lords, Science and Technology Committee. Campaigners allege that both investigations are seriously flawed. Of twelve parties selected to give evidence to the House of lords investigation only one was an independent scientist and only one representative of air crews.

The Global Cabin Air Quality Executive (GCAQE), an international coalition of concerned unions, has written to the Committee of Toxicity to point out serious flaws in its evidence gathering. The COT has, for instance, only accepted as evidence one study of TCP contamination of an aeroplane, although they have been informed by campaigners of at least eight other independent studies which found evidence of contamination. The blood and tissue tests mentioned above have also been ignored and the committee has failed to follow up evidence provided by a number of independent scientists. The unions' coalition has written to the COT secretariat, informing them of more than 20 crucial factual errors and limitations in their report. Each of these errors misrepresents, downplays or ignores the evidence for contaminated air and its dan-

Captain Tristan Loraine of the GCAQE commented that, 'the COT appear to be looking after industry interests rather than passenger and crew health and flight safety'. COT is expected to report back some time in Autumn 2007.

See www.aerotoxic.org and www.toxicfreeairlines.com

official recognition of Aerotoxic Syndrome. Pilots and aircrew who are regularly exposed may develop symptoms. Sometimes the contamination is strong enough to cause health damage with a single exposure. Corporate Watch spoke to one passenger who flew to Orlando. Florida on a charter flight aboard a Boeing 757, earlier this year. On the flight the family became very ill and spent their holiday in bed with a mystery illness. They suffered breathing difficulties, exhaustion, cognitive problems and severe flu like symptoms. When the return flight was delayed the passenger was able to talk to around 40 others who had been on the same outbound flight and found that most of them had suffered similar symptoms. The family were still incapacitated when

57% experienced some aerotoxic symptoms; 27% reporting medium to long term symptoms and 8.5% had retired for medical reasons. Michaelis has also written the Aviation Contaminated Air Reference Manual an 844 page guide to the issue detailing numerous independent studies

editorial

TECHNOFIX TOP TRUMPS

Whenever the issue of climate change is discussed in the mainstream media the first thing the pundits do is to reach for their trump cards. Who needs to stop burning coal - coal can be clean! Look here. Trump. Carbon Capture and Storage! Beat that hippie!

So Corporate Watch is investigating these Scarily some wing nut scientists are safe for millennia. Imagine explaining to technologies, the good, the bad and the ugly, from Solar Thermal Power to giant mirrors in space! And in the form of a Top Trumps game we'll be giving you the low down on how they work. We'll rate them into the stratosphere, dumping ship-loads

on viability, effectiveness, sustainability, and to what extent they are being used by governments and corporations for spin. Soon you too will be able to join in the top trumps game, with knowledge at your fingertips.

Viability rating

Global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut by 60% by 2030. If a technology is to be a viable solution to climate change it needs to not only work, but scaled up in the next ten years. Many of the proposals we hear about - nuclear fusion, carbon capture and storage, second generation biofuels, hydrogen they simply won't be available in time to help us lower emissions sufficiently to stop catastrophic climate chaos

Effectiveness rating

Some of the 'solutions' we are hearing about don't actually reduce emissions! Hydroelectric power from big dam projects actually produces greenhouse gases, because as the water level rises and falls

methane is released from decaying plants. In the tropics dams can have a greater climate change impact than using fossil fuels.

Sustainability rating

It's important that we don't forget about all other social and ecological impacts in our search for low carbon technologies. Replacing all our gadgets with energy efficient ones is all very well but have we thought about all the extra plastic that would need?

researching 'geo-engineering' solutions: Manipulating planetary systems to try to reverse the greenhouse effect. Research is going into spraying sulphate aerosols

your descendants why it was that, not content with burning all of the fossil fuels we can get our hands on and pushing every ecosystem on the planet to the point of collapse, we have left them sitting

on a ticking time bomb of nuclear waste. When we did, after all, have another way out. Using less.

Spin rating

Just as dangerous as the climate deniers are the climate decoys. If we believe that a technological breakthrough is just around the corner then we are less likely to take difficult decisions about the impact of our lifestyles and how much we really need. During the Climate Camp of 2006, Drax - the UK's biggest coal fired power station, made a big show of using biomass for a portion of it's fuel. This was widely and uncritically reported by most of the media. This year, as the Climate Camp came to Heathrow, the British Aviation Authority made much of their new 'eco' terminal. But since the emissions from Heathrow's planes are worse than that of most countries, it's not exactly the most effective thing they could do to reduce their ecological footprint.

Effectiveness: 6 Sustainability: 1

of iron particles into oceans to promote plankton growth, spraying seawater into the air to manufacture clouds (and using millions of sunshades in space to deflect some of the sun's rays. With any of these technologies we have simply no idea what the effect would be on the one planet we know we can live on.

Viability: 4

Spin: 8

Nuclear Power is perhaps the ultimate unsustainable 'low carbon' technology. Uranium mining is a highly destructive industry, before we even get on to worrying about the toxic waste we have to keep

We cannot protect our way of life. We are facing a time of big choices and fundamental questions. We have to apply our collective genius to find ways of living within the planet's means - but this cannot happen while the development of technology is led by profit driven corporations. If we don't tackle corporate power we won't tackle climate change.

A full report into the 'Technofix Top Trumps' complete with online top trumps game will be out in December. The Final Trumps may change from the ones shown

RESEARCH AND ESTRO

Brighton's Smash EDO group talk about the practical importance of corporate research.

EDO MBM, a Brighton-based weapons manufacturer, has been the target of a sustained campaign by local peace activists for four years. Research into the company has been of vital help to the campaign; allowing us to distribute accurate information to the public about: the company's contribution to global conflict, to mount defences in civil and criminal cases, and to demonstrate not only just against EDO, but its suppliers and associated companies. Particularly controversial has been the supply of arms to Israel, something the company has gone to great lengths to conceal. Research into the company has been conducted by telephone, through disclosures from former employees and through recourse to the Internet and public records via the Freedom of Information Act.

EDO Corp, EDO MBM's parent company is ranked by Defence News as number 67 in the world's 100 largest arms companies, with a turnover expected to reach \$1billion by the end of 2007. They supply military aircraft accessories and, more recently, technologies for the US intelligence agencies. The corporation now employs 4,000 people, mainly in the US. Its only European base is at its UK subsidiary, EDO (UK) Ltd which employs 148 people, mostly at its defence section EDO MBM Technology Ltd in Brighton. This section specialises in making Paveway 'smart bomb' interface systems (with US arms company Raytheon), bomb release units (with US aerospace company Lockheed Martin), arming units, and flexible circuits for US, UK, NATO and the Israeli Air Force.

Smash EDO, the protest campaign, started in 2004 after local press revealed that the firm had been awarded the contract for the next generation of Paveway IV 'smart bombs'. These guided missiles were the most used munitions dropped during the initial 'shock and awe' bombardment of Iraq by US/UK forces in 2003. EDO MBM were also involved in the development of the Storm Shadow cruise missile, first used in Iraq by both UK and US forces. They also make parts for tanks, helicopters and unmanned combat air vehicles.

Early on, research into the company revealed direct links between its supply of Israeli F16 bomb release units, and war crimes committed by the Israeli military in the Occupied Territories. At the same time, rather than admit what was clearly on their own website, the company decided to actively conceal their supply to Israel: a move that continues to have ramifications three years later as the false witness statements of EDO MBM directors in court come to light. Rather than dispel protests, the attempted cover-up has led to even more determination on the part of campaigners to expose the lies of the company through research work.

In 2005, the Attorney General supported EDO MBM's claim for a permanent 'injunction against the world' with which the company sought, under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 at the High Court, an exclusion zone against anybody who might wish to protest against the company; threatening a five year prison sentence for breaching its conditions. The injunction named 14 activists and two protest groups: Bombs out of Brighton, and Smash EDO.

Research by the defendants revealed that the company had unlawfully solicited police intelligence and case files on activists from police forces across Britain, with the involvement of the police's National Extremism Tactical Co-ordinating Unit (www.netcu.co.uk) Eventually the company and its solicitor Timothy Lawson Cruttenden were found by a High Court judge to have 'flagrantly disregarded' the legal process. EDO MBM lost the case. At the same time dozens of criminal proceedings against demonstrators were dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service, when it became clear that the police had colluded with the company to secure arrests that would give the impression of a serious need for the injunction in the first place. In July 2007 the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) refused to investigate protesters' collusion allegations as they were said to be 'command and control' issues that were beyond the scope of the

IPCC investigatory powers. However, civil claims against the police are still being pursued.

EDO MBM's accounts show that the failed injunction cost them one million pounds. (equivalent to a whole year's profits) and EDO MBM lost 22 employees (falling from 170 to 148).

After the injunction victory, actions against the company's premises intensified. On numerous occasions activists occupied the roof, or locked themselves to the gates. As a result activists have been put on trial for 'aggravated trespass' under our old friend the Criminal Justice Act 1994. Crucially the offence is defined as 'trespass on private land with the intent to disrupt lawful activity'. Repeatedly activists have given the justification that EDO's business is not lawful. With each new criminal court action against arrested activists, company directors have been forced to give evidence for the prosecution, seeking to cover up their supply of components to Israel.

However, committed researchers have begun to expose EDO MBM's lies in court, lies that stretch back to 2004. Documents unearthed by this ongoing research into the company have proved a valuable resource to defence lawyers cross-examining directors of EDO MBM who take the stand. In response, the company's directors have employed any means to avoid involvement in such court action. Despite the enthusiasm of Sussex Police to arrest and prosecute protesters, directors of EDO MBM have preferred to, as in one example, cut down their own security fence to gain access to their factory rather than allow the police to arrest activists who were blockading it.

The investigation of the company continues. Every new fact that exposes EDO MBM's cover-up and reveals more of EDO's complicity in UK, US and Israeli war crimes continues to boost the cam-

More information: http://www.smashedo.org.uk

