

# Black Star

The Newsletter of West Midlands Anarchists - Summer 2006

issue 4

## Fighting State Brutality

An on going monthly picket was held near Birmingham on the 30<sup>th</sup> June by NoBorders and Birmingham Anti-Racist Campaign at the Immigration Reporting Centre in Solihull. There was also a visual display of hand-made 'grave stones', from the ARC vigil last week, bearing the details and stories of asylum seekers who took their own lives incarcerated in detention centres. A selection of such victims stories were read and told.

Asylum seekers in the West Midlands are required to travel, every week, to 'sign on' at Sandford House (Homer Road, Solihull) is the Home Office's regional reporting centre. No account by the Home Office of the difficulty by dispersion or the impoverishment various 'no work' rules create is of course taken when insisting of such a dictate.

Sandford House is the point where many asylum seekers disappear without warning whilst complying with reporting requirements. People are picked off by immigration officials forcibly "restrained" by yellow-shirted security and then held 'securely'

in Sandford House before being bussed out to be interned in any one of the network of Britain's deten-

tion centres, where they may spend years of incarceration before being deported back to unsafe countries from whence they had fled. Snatch squads also operate from the centre; these are deployed to forcibly snatch families and vulnerable people in dawn raids.



An illustration of such an everyday scenario happened round about 2 pm when two asylum seekers, accompanied by police officers, were 'delivered' to Sandford House. They were dressed in forensic white jump suits. Presumably to make any attempt at absconding difficult should they have been fortunate enough to execute The removed shoes and clothes were carried by the 'bill' in plastic bags, The protesters greeted the police with angry shouts "Let them go" and "Asylum is not a crime".

NoBorders hold monthly demonstrations and many other events to keep up to date got to

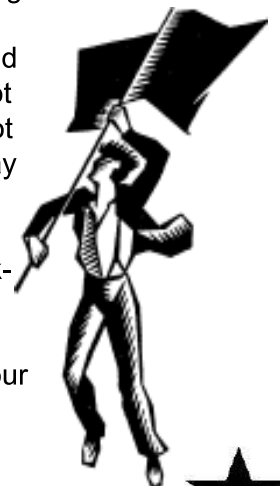
[www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk) and go to the Birmingham section.

### IN BRIEF

The GMB union has called off a five day strike at ASDA sites across the UK after a new agreement was reached which has been to the detriment of the workers as a National Joint council of GMB delegates and ASDA bosses now discuss the conditions of work, with no power left in the hands of the workers themselves!

### Ryton Update

After a long ballot process of Peugeot workers at the Ryton plant near Coventry workers voted against strike action. Workers from Europe had offered to come out on strike in solidarity but that was not enough. The spineless unions TGWU and Amicus are now spending over one million pounds to try and convince you not to buy a Peugeot car. The only way to save Ryton is through mass strikes and workers in all industries coming to the defense of our fellow workers



# ★ END VIVISECTION! MAKE CURES NOT PROFITS! ★

Every six seconds an animal dies a slow and agonizing death in a vivisection laboratory, under the guise of medical research, which in practice been proven to be unreliable and ineffective in applying the results to human patients. Adverse reactions to drugs is the fourth biggest killer in the western world.

According to the statistics concerning the distribution and safety of drugs corruption is widespread and there is a frequent disregard for the rules and regulations which Blair and his cronies say are in place to protect us, but only when it suits them. One of the better known examples of the failure of the vivisection and pharmaceutical industries is the Vioxx scandal. This according to experts has caused a massive 60,000 deaths world wide, this would be the rough equivalent to 500-900 aircraft falling from the sky. But miraculously this fact has been ignored by these industries that are solely driven by profit. If one airline had caused 500-900 of its planes to fall from the sky, over a five year period how long would it be until someone is made to answer and the airline forced into liquidation?

In 1999 Merck announced that it had developed a new wonder drug Vioxx, which according to Merck was a drug that would revolutionize

pain killers as it didn't share any of the side effects as ibuprofen and naproxen or collectively known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). They also stated that Vioxx could also cure arthritis and cure colon cancer! By making these claims it gave Vioxx the hype Merck intended to achieve, allowing them to rake in bigger profits.

In Britain where direct drug advertisement is banned, Merck took the back door and peddled the drug through doctors. In America a trial called 'vigor' was set up to determine whether Vioxx could be used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and another trial called 'approve' tested if Vioxx could cure colon cancer. In November 1999 the safety committee monitoring vigor

met to discuss increased blood pressure, 'excess deaths and cardiovascular experiences'. In October 2002

Merck supplied the FDA with a list of death reports involving heart attacks and strokes. Following the research a report was written in January 2001 stating "it would be difficult to imagine inclusion of vigor results in the labelling without mentioning cardiovascular safety results in the study description as well as the warnings section". This information was voiced to other regulators around the

world, yet in Britain patients were not told of the dangers, it is estimated that 2000 people have died as a result in the UK alone. In this case which is the same as many drugs stated as breakthroughs turned out to be nothing more than a farce.

One more thing needs to be said about the vivisection and pharmaceutical industries, they do not create drugs to cure people, and they only created drugs to alleviate the symptoms as there is no money to be made in healthy people. Vivisection does not help humanity and only ensures suffering for millions of animals.

For more info got  
[www.speak.org.uk](http://www.speak.org.uk)



West Midlands Anarchists is a group of diverse class struggle anarchists, we work for the creation of a free and equal society run by the workers for the workers.

We hold regular meetings every two weeks. Contact us if you would like to come along.

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## End Wage Slavery!

[www.wmanarchists.org](http://www.wmanarchists.org)

