

A N A R C H I S T A G E W E E K L Y R E V I E W

An Anarchist Society is a voluntary non-hierarchical society based on the creation of social and political structures which allow all people equal decision making power and equal access to society's wealth.

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'Anarchist World This Week' Radio Program on the net <http://www.3ccr.org.au>

....."COMMUNALISATION - The Transfer of Power & Wealth

from the Hands of the Private Sector & the State, Into the Hands of the Community".....

Number 795

7th July - 13th July 2008

**"WE SWEAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS TO STAND TRULY BY EACH OTHER
& FIGHT TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS & LIBERTIES" - EUREKA REBELLION OATH 1854**

G-8 G-9 G-10 G-11 G-12?

The G8 club comprises the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Russia. Periodically China, India and Brazil, the world's fastest growing economies who between them have over half the world's population, are not part of the G8 club. Climate change, food security and soaring oil prices will be the main topics for discussion at this years talks in Hokkaido in Japan. The G8 conference gives the illusion the members of the club can and will make fundamental decisions about the world's economy.

Unfortunately things aren't as clear cut as they first seem. The G8 represent less than 1 in 6 of the world's population, they can only act within certain economic parameters because real economic power in the G8 does not rest in the hands of the states that make up the club but in the corporations who are headquartered in those countries.

The main reason for the yearly G8 talkfest is to encourage and force the rest of the world to remain within the economic framework that is favoured by the G8 countries - capitalism, an economic system where the means of production, distribution, exchange and communication are largely held in private hands. The G8's ability to regulate oil prices, have any lasting impact on climate change and provide food security for the world's poorest countries are illusory. Free trade, privatisation, deregulation and corporate globalisation are their stock in trade. Every decision that will be made at the G8 conference will increase, not decrease, the power of the unaccountable minority mainly headquartered in G8 countries that privately own the means of production, distribution and exchange. Crumbs will be brushed off the table to help the world's poor, carbon trading indulgencies will be sold to the world's polluters to allow them to continue polluting and energy prices will continue to soar because of the influence the oil cartels exercise over the G8 economies.

The G8 conference in Hokkaido in 2008 like the G8 conference in Sydney in 2007 is a non event, all it will do is highlight how little power national leaders are able to exercise in the face of an economic system capitalism that has hijacked the

state and uses institutions that nominally represent the people to represent their interests on the world stage.

REMINISCENT

In scenes reminiscent of Bjelke Peterson's Queensland, thousands of protestors took to the streets in Selangor about thirty minutes by car from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's Capital. In Malaysia a gathering of more than four people requires a police permit. Malaysia's opposition parties embolden by their recent electoral gains, defied the police in a show of strength. Protesting against a 40% increase in petrol prices and a 60% increase in diesel prices as well as escalating food prices, over 10,000 protestors overran police blockades and stared down the police in what could have been a very ugly confrontation.

The Malaysian government rocked by a series of scandals that link the murder of a Mongolian woman strapped with explosives and blown up in Malaysia, with a senior government minister coupled with accusations that the opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim had sodomised a staff member (a rerun of the same accusation 10 years ago that saw Anwar sentenced to ten years in prison) has spurred on Malaysians, despite threats and intimidation from the government to hold a major protest rally.

The protestors refused to apply for a permit because they knew it would be rejected and moved the protest out of Kuala Lumpur because police had erected barricades in Central Kuala Lumpur to keep protestors out. By successfully holding a rally they have issued a challenge to the government's authority. Unable to change the constitution at will as they don't enjoy a two thirds majority, the government is being squeezed by a coalition that includes the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party as well as Anwar Ibrahim's party and a number of more radical secular political organisations that gained parliamentary representation at the recent Federal election.

The people of Malaysia have shown they will no longer be cowed by force. They are not willing to tolerate a political elite that has dominated Malaysian politics through the politics of fear. Malaysians want a change, they understand that in

order to achieve change they need to confront the Malaysian government in the streets. The protest sends a strong signal to the Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi that Malaysians will not be intimidated by a show of force by the Malaysian authorities.

BLAND BORING TECHNOCRATS

Just in case you haven't noticed bland, boring technocrats have staged a coup in Canberra. Politics is about passion, it's about finding enough beans to carry out decisions. It's not about bowing, scraping and beseeching the ruling classes to brush a few more crumbs off the table. Politics should be about shaking the table so the cake rolls off for everyone to eat. It should be about sawing the legs off the table so the whole disgusting system comes tumbling down.

Rudd and Nelson, the ultimate technocrats, have managed to squeeze the last drop of life out of parliamentary debate. The bean counters reign supreme, determining what can or cannot be done. You pay they profit, you save they profit, you vote they profit. You pull your belt tight they profit.

The technocrats in Canberra the nil, rien, zilch crew tell us what we cannot enjoy because it would interfere with the dreams, hopes and aspirations of the born to rule crew. Yes master, yes mistress how high do I need to jump to keep you happy? The parliamentary technocrats squeeze the life out of debate and destroy the hopes and aspirations of ordinary people.

In the good old days, during the feudal ages, one third of your output went to the feudal lord, one third went to the church and one third went to "the boy who lived down the lane". Today the technocrats use the institutions of government to ensure that the majority of surplus production finds its way into the pockets of the major shareholders of some of the world's largest corporations. Rudd and Nelson may be able to count beans for their masters and mistresses but they will never be able to fire the popular imagination in an era when ideas, hope and passion are needed to wrest control of the levers of power from the parliamentary marionettes, so we can collectively tackle the problems that have been created by

an economic system that long ago reached its use by date.

“CELEBRITY MUMMIES”

I'm sick and tired of hearing about newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations paying money for stories “Celebrity Mummies in the Money” (Sunday Age 6/7). If there is one area of “journalism” that needs to be exposed to public scrutiny it is cheque book “journalism” (my apologies to that disappearing band of journalists who still find cheque book journalism offensive).

It is a pity the fourth estate's excuse for making the lives of many ordinary people a misery because “of the public's right to know” isn't extended to the media.

Readers, listeners and viewers know nothing about the secret agreements that media organisations have entered into to bring the “news” to the public. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the same standards were applied to the media as the media applies to the public.

Just a few minor changes to Federal legislation could force a media that's grown so powerful, governments are not willing to challenge them because of possible adverse political consequences to come clean. What is stopping the Federal government passing legislation that forces the fourth estate to publicly disclose before an article or television or radio program how much the subject of the interview was paid for their words of wisdom. What's to stop the Federal government from passing legislation to ensure that paid interviews are not claimed as tax deductions. What's to stop the Federal government from passing legislation that taxes paid interviews and also forces the media outlet concerned to make a similar contribution to a registered charity.

It is dishonest, immoral and unethical to pay for interviews and not disclose how much was paid for the interview, during the interview. It is about time that the same standards that are applied to the rest of the community are applied to the fourth estate. It is irrelevant whether a celebrity donates the money they made from a particular interview to charity, what is relevant is that every paid interview is treated in the same manner. For every “celeb” who donates their interview fee to charity, a hundred pocket the cash while the news outlet responsible for airing the interview claims the interview as a tax deduction.

WHO CARES?

I'm a little surprised by the public reaction to the Roman Catholic Church's love in, in Sydney. I don't care if followers want to bankroll one of the most repressive religious movements in the world. I don't care if people believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God or if Mary was secretly impregnated with God's sperm. I don't care if people believe the Pope is God's representative on earth and as

God's representative he is infallible. I don't care if the Pope has a mistress or is an alcoholic, many Popes have had mistresses and have had a liking for alcohol.

I don't care if millions of people want to flock to Sydney to buy lots of papal souvenirs. I don't even care if the church wants to sell indulgences to the faithful so they can book a seat in heaven. What I do care about is when the line between the state and religion is blurred and the state is used to promote and enforce a particular religious belief. I do care that Iran is ruled by a mob of reactionary Mullahs. I do care that the New South Wales government has pumped 110 million dollars of taxpayers money to fund the Pope's journey to The Great South Land. I do care that the Roman Catholic Church has murdered, raped and pillaged its way through history. I do care that public money in Australia is used to fund religious schools. I do care about the unwanted pregnancies and abortions that occur as a result of the Roman Catholic Church's position on contraception. I do care about the damaged people the Roman Catholic Church and other religious institutions leave in their wake. I do care when the state passes special laws to protect the church from criticism.

I do not have any problems with people having religious beliefs. What I care about is the parasites who have the audacity to act as God's intermediaries on earth. I care about the damage they have caused to tens of millions of people around the world. I do care about the state being used to pedal religious beliefs. Most of all I care about public money being used to swell religious congregations and line the pockets of the professional parasites who have the audacity to use this money to build their empires on earth, at the expense of the poor and disposed.

ANARCHIST QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q. Turning on a threepenny bit?

A. Climate change is real, it's happening now and radical change, not carbon trading indulgences (apologies to Martin Luther), are needed to deal with what is arguably the greatest challenge faced by the human race. The single most important aspect of post modern society that needs to be changed is the wage system. Employers and employees are intertwined in a loving embrace as they slowly tango towards annihilation. The wage system holds both the oppressed and oppressors in a vice like grip.

Although we know what is wrong and what needs to be done to address climate change, the domination of the world economy by private and state capitalism – an economic system based on the creation of ever increasing profits irrespective of the human, social and environmental costs, makes it difficult if not impossible to address the problem. The wage system forces old foes to stand shoulder to shoulder to fight the good fight against any attempts to introduce measures to address global warming within a capitalist framework, let alone examine measures to eradicate the very system that has caused and continues to cause so much damage.

The solution to the problems caused by global warming does not lie in carbon trading schemes, political reforms or green capitalism, it lies in the abolition of the wage system and its replacement by a living wage. Rewarding people

because they are a member of society, not because of what they do or who they are, gives communities the power and flexibility to tackle climate change rapidly. A society based on a traditional wage system and social security system cannot successfully tackle climate change because individual survival is tied up with the very system that has created the problems in the first place. Abolishing the wage system and replacing it with a living wage gives both the individual and society the flexibility to change direction rapidly as people's livelihoods are not directly tied up with a particular form of production. A living wage gives the community the ability to change economic direction so they can deal with the problems caused by climate change before it is too late.

ACTION BOX

PROTECTING PUBLIC SPACE

Public space is a rapidly diminishing commodity in a deregulated, corporate dominated society. The attack on the idea that public space is an important part of community life has been so successful you can't even find a bench to sit on in the streets. Parks are being turned over to private developers or are being cut up to build another road.

The idea the public has the right to meet in what few public spaces we still have access to is being whittled away by local council decisions to restrict people from using what few public spaces exist. The privatisation of public space has reached such ridiculous proportions that the footpaths have been turned into private commercial precinct so the only people who have a right to sit down are those who buy a product from a shop that leases the footpath from the local council.

The attack on public space has reached such ridiculous levels even public toilets are being closed down forcing people to use commercial premises to go to the toilet.

Those hardest hit by the closure of public spaces are the young and the old. Not having the money to buy ten or fifteen minutes of time to sit down to have a coffee in privatised public spaces, the old do their shopping and scurry off home. The young congregate around the streets sitting on footpaths because there are no public benches to sit on. Communities are more than shopping malls and commercial strip shopping centres. Communities need spaces where locals can meet, talk and interact.

Community spirit is forged by people knowing their neighbours. The struggle to protect and extend public spaces by setting up facilities that encourages people to stop, talk and interact is a struggle that we should all become involved in. The struggle to set up a bench in the rapidly diminishing public spaces we have access to is as legitimate and important a struggle as any other struggle. The formation of real, breathing dynamic communities is the first step that is needed to create the public mindset to change society so we can address the increasing problems we are faced with as individuals, members of a community and members of the human race..

AUSTRALIAN RADICAL HISTORY

THE EUREKA SERIES 2008 NO. 9 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE “RED RIBBON REBELLION” – PART ONE

On the 6th June 1853 a meeting of diggers was held in the camp that had sprung up on the Bendigo goldfields. The mass meeting formed the Anti-Gold License Association and appointed G.E. Thomson, Dr. Jones and Edward Brown to represent their interests. The diggers delegates went to all the neighbouring goldfields collecting signatures to show the government in Melbourne the extent of opposition to the gold license fee. Over 23,000 signatures were collected on the Bendigo goldfields and over 8,000 signatures were collected on the Mclvor (Heathcote) goldfields. Unfortunately the 8,000 signatures that were collected at Mclvor went missing when a gang of thieves attacked the gold escort near Kyneton taking with them 2,230 ounces of gold as well as a large number of banknotes and sovereigns as well as the 8,000 Mclvor signatures.

Two months after the petition was launched the Bendigo Anti-Gold License Association delegates carried a thirty metre petition with over 23,000 signatures to Melbourne and presented it to Governor LaTrobe on the 3rd August 1853. The petition made a number of modest demands that included the license fee be reduced from thirty shillings a month to ten shillings a month and it be collected every three months not monthly. Interestingly in the petition's preamble a reference was made to the monopoly the squatters held over the land.

"That in consequence of the Squatter Land Monopoly a large proportion of successful diggers who desire to invest their earnings in a portion of land are debarred from doing so."

On the 13th August 1853 a meeting was held in Bendigo to welcome the return of their delegates from Melbourne. Over ten thousand miners, many marched behind the revolutionary flags of France and Germany (schwarz rot und gold the flag of the 1848 German revolution). The Irish marched behind a flag with a harp in the middle supported by a pick and shovel.

In the centre of the clearing flew the diggers flag designed by a Mr. Dexter. The flag was divided into four quarters. The upper left hand quarter was filled with a pick, shovel and cradle which depicted labour. The upper right hand quarter was filled by a set of scales that represented justice. The lower left hand corner was taken up by a Roman bundle of twigs (fascia) which represented the strength that comes from union and the lower right hand quarter had an emu and kangaroo drawn on it that represented the new land Australia.

The delegates told the assembled diggers their mission had been unsuccessful. Governor LaTrobe responded to the miners moderate demands by sending in an extra 154 troops and 171 police to the Bendigo goldfields. The failure of the Bendigo miners reformist demands increased the digger's hostility towards the British government. The organisers of the mass meeting frightened that more revolutionary elements among the Bendigo diggers would gain the upper hand, closed the meeting after calling for three cheers for the Union Jack.

NEXT WEEK : The Red Ribbon Rebellion – Part Two.

Source material for article
 EUREKA STOCKADE - A Pictorial History
 Geoff Hocking ISBN 1 74124 426 9
 Publisher Five Mile Press, 2004
 1 Centre Road, Scoresby VIC 3179, AUSTRALIA
 Tel: +61 3 8756 5500 Email: publishing@fivemile.com.au

Tristan's vitriol brings the occasional wry smile to the reviewer's face but never manages to give me a good old fashioned belly laugh. *Stick This in Your Memory Hole* won't set the world on fire but it will give you the occasional laugh and will help you to see the world around you in a different light. Whether Tristan will make it in the big bad world is a matter of conjecture. What isn't a matter of conjecture is the need to support Tristan Clark's public entry into the saccharin laced publishing world.

Tristan has to some degree succeeded in producing material without adding the spoonful of capitalist processed sugar to make the unpalatable palatable, a feat not to be sneezed at in an era when telling the truth is a revolutionary act (apologies to George Orwell and Tristan Clark).

You won't find *Stick This in Your Memory Hole* in many good or bad bookshops. It is directly available from the publisher
 Aduki Independent Press 2007
 PO Box 3152, Doncaster East 3109, Australia
 Tel +61 39830 7851 Fax +61 39844 2531
 Email books@aduki.net.au Web www.aduki.net.au

The book is printed and bound in Australia by Print Bound Blackburn Victoria, the publication has been produced by using a Clean Green Printing Process on 100% recycled paper. The book is licensed under the Creative Commons Agreement – Non Commercial 2-5 Australia License. You may copy, communicate, perform and adapt this work for non-commercial purposes as long as you attribute the original author. Just in case you want to get a hold of this 185 page journey through Tristan's pulsating cerebral sulcus, it will put you back \$24.95 AUS. A handful of two dollar coins isn't much to pay for a journey through the mind of a man who publishes his thoughts to make a difference, not make a buck.

Thanks to Peter from Brunswick for lending me his copy of *Stick This in Your Memory Hole* to review.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION

Mid winter is the very best time of the year in Melbourne. The wind isn't too harsh, it doesn't snow, it's not too cold, but cold enough to let you know you're alive. Most importantly of all, you know that spring is on the way. The bees crowd around their queen surviving on the honey they produced in spring and summer, waiting for the blossoms that will invariably herald the beginning of spring and another round of frantic activity, each bee visiting over 600 blossoms a day doing its little bit to keep the hive alive for another year. A bee needs to visit three million blossoms to make 500 grams of honey, an impossible task for one bee.

What I like about mid winter is you can see the beginning of spring if you take the time to look at the naked trees around you. The wattles are in full bloom by now, adding a splash of bright yellow to a relatively drab landscape. Once the wattle are full and heavy the cherry blossoms begin to bloom. In the sixties and seventies cherry blossoms were all the rage and councils and citizens all over Melbourne planted them as if there was no tomorrow. I saw my very first cherry blossom bloom this year in the front garden of a house on the outskirts of Melbourne, in Berwick. Once the cherry blossoms begin to bloom the buds start appearing on the naked trees. If you take the time to have a close look you'll see buds (excuse the bud) springing into life. Little tight bundles will start growing as the days grow longer and the earth warms up. The bees coming to the end of their long hibernation will venture forth, starting the cycle of life all over again.

Old Melbourne is full of front and back yards that are rapidly disappearing as new apartments and units are

crowded into every empty space. New Melbourne doesn't have that problem, the new estates are full of brick houses that sit on blocks so small you can touch your neighbours house by stretching your arm outside your living room window. The gardens that keep us aware of the ebb and flow of life in the city, are disappearing. In an attempt to keep contact with the natural world, humans crowded into cities, ogle nature on the celluloid screen. I prefer to look at the real world, if you take the time to stop and look, you'll see nature everywhere trying to reclaim the earth from its feral offspring – humanity.

**STOP PRESS
 SUPERANNUATION MELTDOWN**

When Australian workers receive their superannuation statements over the next few weeks they will find their plans for their retirement will have taken a blow. In Australia 9% of a worker's wages are compulsorily placed in a superannuation fund. Ironically the money collected by these funds is invested in the very institutions that exploit Australian workers. Over 40% of all funds invested in the financial markets and stockmarket come from workers superannuation funds.

Faced with life on an old age pension which barely meets a person's every day living costs, most workers hadn't any problems with 9% of their wages being payed by their employers into a superannuation fund because they believed that the money put aside would allow them to comfortably meet their retirement needs. Some even dreamed of using their lump sum to take that world trip they had always dreamed about. Over the last decade legislation has been passed in parliament that has limited the way superannuation can be used.


People are beginning to realise that superannuation has been introduced to privatise retirement. Money that has been collected during a lifetime of work is being earmarked to pay for an individual's retirement. To rub salt into the wound, self-funded retirees have to worry to the day they die about what their investments are doing because a downturn in the markets can destroy what little security they are enjoying.

This years returns will place an increasing burden on both self-funded retirees and workers who have seen the money in their superannuation funds decrease, not increase, because of the poor performance of the financial markets and the stockmarkets. Hopefully the downturn in superannuation funds returns will open worker's eyes to the reality that superannuation wasn't introduced to help them when they retired, but to provide another source of capital to financial markets which they could use to exploit the very workers who provided them with the funds to expand their businesses and increase their profits.

Joseph TOSCANO /
 Libertarian Workers For A Self-Managed Society.

**POEM – Stephen Roberts
 NORTH'S LIFESTYLE LEADS TO
 STARVATION IN SOUTH**

Bar cars
 in North
 Biofuel little gruel
 in South
 Peasants can't grow
 sow food crops
 Cash crops (Biofuel)
 Stops food crops
 in South
 North's foods too high
 peasants can't buy
 North's transportation
 causes starvation
 in South.

 **BOOK REVIEW** 
'STICK THIS IN YOUR MEMORY HOLE'
 Tristan Clark - Aduki Independent Press 2007
 ISBN 978-0-9803351-2-5

Tristan's first book *Stick This in Your Memory Hole* is a compilation of facts, figures, ideas, prejudices, thoughts and desires compressed into 37 essays that point an accusing finger at society. A few reach dizzy heights, most never quite leave planet earth. A Melbourne boy from the Northern suburbs, he uses wit, satire, opinion, history and politics to fashion an intellectual cudgel the reader can use to beat the bad guys into submission. Unfortunately the cudgel he has lovingly fashioned doesn't have a nail driven through its head; this omission allows the bad guys to leave the field bruised and battered but still able to spin their lies.


ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS WEEK
 Nil, Zilch, Rein, Nothing.

**** SIGN THE SEDITION CHARTER - www.seditioncharter.org ****
**** JOIN DIRECT DEMOCRACY NOT PARLIAMENTARY RULE - www.rulebythepoople.org ****
**** JOIN US RECLAIM THE RADICAL SPIRIT OF THE EUREKA REBELLION 4am – 4pm WEDNESDAY 3RD DEC 2008. EUREKA PARK (Cnr STAWELL & EUREKA ST, BALLARAT) ****
****URGENT* *URGENT** DEBT ELIMINATION APPEAL **URGENT* *URGENT****

ONCE AGAIN WE'RE BEGINNING TO BE PULLED INTO THE DEBT BLACKHOLE. - Our current debt is nudging 700 dollars. - You can help in a number of ways.
 a) If you receive the Anarchist Age Weekly Review by post and have access to the internet, you can receive it by email instead of post. Saving us postage and printing costs. Just send your details to anarchistage@yahoo.com and we will put you on the email list.
 b) Whenever you get a chance send us 50cent Australian postage stamps. Even if you send us a book of ten every two months this will go a long way to eating into our postage costs. Send them to P.O. BOX 20 PARKVILLE 3052 AUSTRALIA.
 c) If you are using cheques or money orders to send us funds, make out cheques and money orders directly to 3CR. Broadcasting The Anarchist World This Week is responsible for over 40% of our costs. Send cheques and money orders to P.O. BOX 20 PARKVILLE 3052, Melbourne AUSTRALIA. d) Take out a subscription to The Anarchist Age Weekly Review for yourself, your friends, your enemies, your local library - 50 dollars for 50 issues. Make cheques or money orders out to LIBERTARIAN WORKERS and send them to P.O. BOX 20, PARKVILLE 3052 AUSTRALIA. - We are only able to publish, broadcast and carry out activities with your financial and practical support.

09 - 07 - 2008

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RECLAIM THE RADICAL SPIRIT OF THE EUREKA REBELLION

4am - 4pm WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2008
154th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
 AT EUREKA STOCKADE SITE

(Corner Stawell & Eureka Streets, Ballarat, VICTORIA)

Download poster from anarchistmedia.org
 Email poster to your friends, print it off, distribute it around your community.

JOIN US - Celebrate the past by reclaiming the present & changing the future

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE EUREKA AUSTRALIA DAY MEDAL NOMINATIONS 2008

Know someone you believe should receive the Eureka Australia Day Medal, then why not nominate them today. If you don't, chances are nobody else will. The criteria used to choose recipients is reflected in the spirit of the Eureka oath -

"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other & fight to defend our rights & liberties"

NOMINATION CLOSE - 31st OCTOBER 2008

Send in one nomination or as many as you like. Send us the following information:

* The name of the person nominated

* A few sentences outlining why they should receive the award

* A contact address for the nominee (We need to contact them if they wish to receive the award)

* The person you nominate can be a public figure or somebody only known to a few people.

SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS ASAP TO

EUREKA AUSTRALIA DAY MEDAL, P.O. BOX 20, PARKVILLE 3052, VIC, AUSTRALIA or email your nomination to anarchistage@yahoo.com

WRITE TO AKIN SARI TODAY!

**AKIN SARI, c/- Barwon Prison,
Locked Bag 7, Lara 3212, Victoria, AUSTRALIA**

Akin Sari a 29 yr old Turkish political refugee who was granted political asylum in Australia has been sentenced to 2 years & 4 months imprisonment for offences related to his involvement in the G20 protests in Melbourne in November 2006. Akin has already spent 7 months in prison awaiting trial & sentencing. He has been set a minimum 14 months sentence. Akin will have to serve the maximum sentence of 2 years & 4 months if he fails to obtain parole in October 2008.

CITIZEN INITIATED REFERENDUMS PEOPLE POWER NOW

VIGIL

- ◆ 11:30am - 12:30pm WEDNESDAY 16th JULY 2008
HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA
Corner LaTrobe and William St Melbourne
- ◆ 11:30am - 12:30pm WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY 2008
MAGISTRATES COURT
250 William St Melbourne

Tel 0404 423 989

PO Box 5035 Alphington 3078 Melbourne

www.referendumpeoplepowernow.com info@referendumpeoplepowernow.com

ALL WELCOME - We encourage you to come and join us on these vigils

DIRECT DEMOCRACY NOT PARLIAMENTARY RULE

Want to publicly raise alternatives to parliamentary rule?

Are you sick and tired of giving parliamentary representatives a signed blank cheque when you vote?

Then join Direct Democracy activists at vigils

they will be holding around Melbourne to promote:-

THE POWER OF RECALL - Electors having the constitutional right to recall parliamentary representatives in between elections

CITIZENS INITIATED REFERENDUMS - The people having the power to initiate constitutional change through referendums

DIRECT DEMOCRACY - Electing delegates with limited mandates, to co-ordinate decisions that have been made by the people, not electing representatives to make decisions for us.

www.rulebythepeople.org

We Currently Have 122 Paid Up Members

*** DIRECT DEMOCRACY NOT PARLIAMENTARY RULE ***

Written and Authorised by Dr. Joseph TOSCANO

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 P.O. Box 5035, Alphington 3078, Melbourne AUSTRALIA

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE OBSCENITY OF THE WEEK

Has been awarded to the saccharin laced, cheque book riddled fiction that appears in the corporate owned media and the government gelded ABC as news, facts and figures.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The worldwide web - much ado about everything and nothing."

- Joseph TOSCANO - JULY 2008

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS - (ATNTE)

Some schools in Aboriginal communities only have a qualified teacher two or three days a week, apparently due to deliberate policy. The college on Elcho Island, in the Northern Territory, provides full-time teachers to several remote Aboriginal communities. However the college has told their teachers to spend only five or six days a fortnight in the classroom. The school principal allegedly believes that doing more would "set a precedent." In one such community, whose members say they're "trapped" by their lack of English, the children have spoken English vocabularies of roughly 50 words. (Source: The Age)

The United States' policy on handling detainees was re-written by a group who believed that "due process is legal mumbo jumbo", according to a senior official. A group of five lawyers, who called themselves the 'War Council', acted on the instructions of President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. They drafted a series of legal opinions which claimed that the US had the right to ignore its own criminal law, and international agreements such as the Geneva Convention, when dealing with suspected members of the Taliban or Al-Qaeda. Thomas Romig, a major general who was the Army's judge advocate general from 2001 to 2005, says that "as they viewed it, due process is legal mumbo jumbo." "They wanted to get them, get the facts and convict them...If you're caught as a terrorist, you're presumed guilty and you have to prove you're innocent. It was crazy." Civilian defense officials also told Romig that "the time for law had passed". Donald J. Guter, formerly the Navy's judge advocate general, said that one of the group wanted a place "outside of the courts." In 2006 President Bush signed the Military Commissions Act, which said Common Article Three of the Geneva Convention, which for example forbids torture of prisoners, did not apply to 'unlawful combatants'. The bill specifically said that "pain or suffering incidental to lawful sanctions" was acceptable. It also said that no US court or judge could hear cases in which such detainees contest their incarceration. The US Supreme Court has since struck down that section of the Act, as well as ruling that Common Article Three of the Geneva Conventions is applicable to detainees at Guantanamo Bay. (Source: McClatchy Newspapers [US])

American police officers have been shown to have lied under oath, trying to frame four men on drugs charges. New York undercover police officers swore in court that they bought drugs from brothers Jose and Maximo Colon and two of their friends. However surveillance video showed that the officers had no contact with the four men. In the 6 months it took to clear the brothers' names, they lost their business and their savings. Defense lawyers say the officers' actions were disturbing, but not uncommon. "As defense attorneys you know it exists more often than government wants you to believe" said Brad Wolk. (Source: wcbstv.com [US])

QUOTE OF THE MOMENT: "A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say: 'This is not just.'" - Martin Luther King.

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