

# WARZINE FREE

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The views expressed in Warzine do not necessarily reflect those of the collective

Free Information on what is going on in our world. Feel free to contribute.

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## STARTING OVER...

When the Warzone Centre/Giro's closed in 2003 a lot of people in Belfast didn't realise what they'd had until it was gone. Since then different individuals and groups have talked about maybe getting something going again. The will was certainly there but some sort of catalyst was needed and then towards the end of 2007 a few of us discussed resurrecting the Warzone label to bring some of the old bands into the digital age; to document those times but also, more poignantly, we hoped that it would maybe inspire people to get motivated.

Warzone had run the centre at two different premises for 17 years throughout some of the most difficult years of the Troubles. It was the only openly non-sectarian venue in Belfast and would become the counter-cultural hub of the city over time. Thousands of people passed through those doors over the years and were inspired by the DiY anarchist ideas that rose strongly and freely above the nationalist dead end philosophies espoused by corrupt politicians and self-appointed paramilitary 'heroes' who had collectively dispossessed the heart and soul of our culture while simultaneously getting rich off the misery. There was and still is an alternative vision to the twisted shite that made Belfast a literal war zone for so long, and a cultural cul-de-sac of sectarian politics which festers to this day.

The Good Friday Agreement helped to start the end of the war and to take the guns off the streets but unfortunately it also cemented sectarian politics into our future, while opening up the north to the neoliberal agenda of free trade and global big business; with the old lie that an unhindered capitalism will create the ultimate trickle-down economy. Will it bollocks. Today in 2009 we see the results of that greed culture with politicians

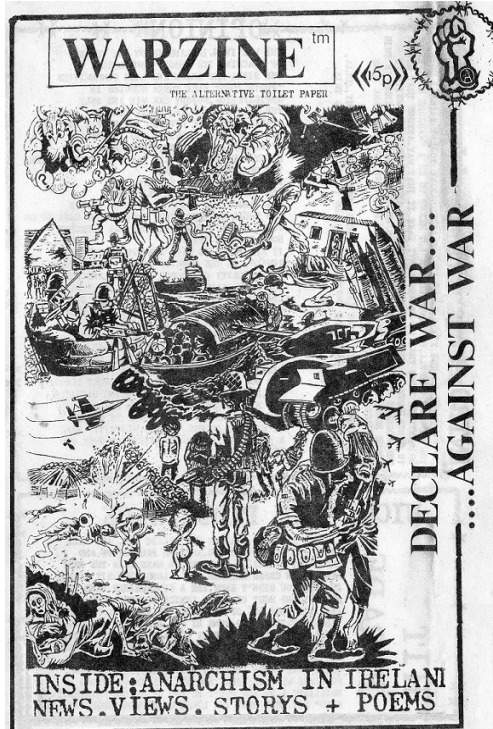
milking the system to clean their fucking moats and swimming pools and paying off non-existent mortgages; banks and big business pleading for bail-outs while awarding themselves huge bonuses; big oil companies like Chevron declaring their best profits in history while working families struggle to make ends meet and unemployment soars

climate change here, a world-wide phenomenon which could cause mass devastation to civilisation as we know it while our so-called minister of the environment, Sammy Wilson, has blocked climate change adverts which he describes as "*insidious propaganda*" and has the audacity to tell us that ecological messages could only be promoted here with his permission.

It is against this background that some of us felt there was a need now more than ever to create an alternative vision to the right-wing reactionary brown nose bigots who dare to call themselves our leaders. There are other ways of doing things that puts people before profit; that puts our environment, which provides all our needs (and which is being placed in greater and greater jeopardy to satisfy a corporate monopoly) at the forefront. Anarchism remains the only steady vision in a world of chaos. This is our motivation. People can and will take back control of their lives through mutual aid and understanding. People do not fear their governments; governments fear their people after all.

So we kept talking and we decided to have another go – the interest was there and people had different reasons to see an autonomous centre up and running again. Bizarrely there are no vegetarian/vegan cafes or restaurants in Belfast, a capital European city in the 21<sup>st</sup> century! Promoters putting on gigs here have had to use crap bars and put up with their rules while the punters have to tolerate macho bouncers and the overpriced corporate swill that passes for drinks. But at the end of the day we need a central space to organise all our ideas to provide a focus again; and to have a bloody good time while we're doing it. There is a new world in our hearts!

The Warzone Collective has reformed as of 2009 and a steering group is working towards



The very first Warzine

again. It's always the poor taking the brunt as we are lied to again and again by snivelling self-righteous bastards who want to see us chained to their well oiled-machine for the best years of our lives so they can skim the profits.

Of course this corruption isn't confined to our little statelet as the world recoils from the credit crisis and an estimated one billion people face starvation. War for resources continues to mow down communities by the hundreds and thousands. And also very disturbing, as we head into what looks like being a third wet summer in a row, we are beginning to see the effects of



raising the funds for the establishment of a new centre but we are keen to emphasise that it will be different than what has gone before. Central to our long term goals for example is that the new centre will be off the grid and run by a passive power supply which emits the lowest possible carbon output and minimises our impact on our environment. It would be the first such building in the city and an example of people taking the lead while politicians squander.

A number of benefits are currently being organised while we continue to look at possible premises and details will be printed in Warzine as we have them, or you can contact the email to hear of our latest shenanigans. The forums at our old website are open again for information and discussion. Click on members and join in: [www.geocities.com/warzonecollective](http://www.geocities.com/warzonecollective)

So there you have it, we're back and we're not going away this time, and everyone is invited!

**Jimmy Segus**

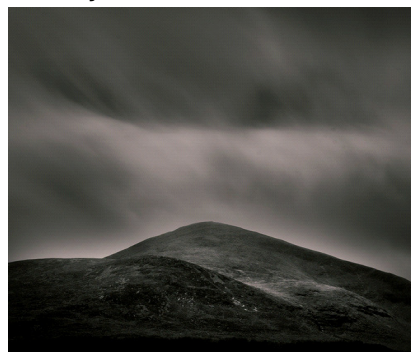
## SELF TORTURE FOR A GOOD CAUSE

It's great to see the growing momentum for a new shared space in Belfast - a great sense of togetherness and positivity which is sorely lacking these days. While thinking of why these things are important and why we should always challenge what's doled out to us I stumbled on this thought; *'What can I do to challenge me and at the same time contribute something to this new initiative?'* Simple... Climb Ben Nevis in the autumn; run the Belfast marathon in the spring of 2010 and do the 4 peaks challenge (Slieve Donard, Scafell Pike, Snowdon & Ben Nevis) in the summer of 2010!

The thing is though; it's for a collective so I'd like to make it a collective effort. My idea is to treat the 3 events as one fundraising project. Thus I will be approaching local businesses etc. and asking anyone who sponsors me for a minimum donation (I've still to set that).

Now, I can hardly run the length of myself but I've people prepared to draw me up training schedules and the like which I'm happy to share with anyone who wants to get involved. Aside from the torture element I think it will be a good way for a team of people to get to know each other and have great crack doing it. If you're interested in either or all of the events give me a shout through the Warzine email ([warzonecollective@riseup.net](mailto:warzonecollective@riseup.net)). Even if you're not interested pass the word on to people you think may be. An event like this has the potential to raise a huge amount of dosh so give it a bit of thought. All the best...

### Petesey



## TRAFFIC WARDENS SACKED FOR WILD CAT ACTION

Protests continued today (25th May) for former Belfast traffic wardens after 26 were sacked in April for taking part in unofficial strike action. Around 30 people were present at today's protest, made up of the sacked workers, supporters from Organise! and representatives from the union representing the workers, the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA). The protests are now a daily occurrence on May Street in Belfast, where the offices of the employer National Car Parks (NCP) are located.

The wardens, who represented one-third of Belfast's traffic wardens, had taken the wildcat strike action at the start of April over pay and conditions, including issues relating to rotas, uniforms, facilities for workers and sick-pay. Having initially been suspended by bosses, the workers were sacked two weeks later.

In reference to the wildcat action, NCP said that they "have a very good relationship with Trades Unions in



Northern Ireland and will continue to work with unions representing their members - but we cannot support illegal action of this kind". It is suspected that NCP had already begun recruitment for replacements before the 26 had been formally sacked. It is understood that the sacked workers are receiving full strike pay from their union, NIPSA. The workers we spoke to intend to continue their protests against their sacking and to have their various grievances addressed.

### Jason

For more info on the protests email: [sackedtrafficattendants@nipisa.org.uk](mailto:sackedtrafficattendants@nipisa.org.uk)

**DONT CROSS PICKET LINES!**

link to audio interview with one worker on the picket line <http://www.indymedia.ie/article/92466>

# EATING DISORDER?

Mental illness can affect anyone; absolutely anyone. It does not observe the boundaries of class or colour, status or sex; it's quite fair that way. It's no surprise that along the way we meet people with varying degrees of health issues but like our physical health we need to nurture and look after our state of mind. The usual suspects, alcohol drugs and stress can all contribute to problems with our cognitive thought. One such issue that seems to be more common (but of course isn't, it's just talked about more) is eating disorders.

They fall under a whole spectrum of names, bulimia, anorexia, binge eating, but it doesn't really matter what title you give it - living with disordered eating is debilitating and time consuming; eating up time with friends and family; avoiding situations where there may be food; avoiding ultimately life and living to spend time with your new, worst best friend.

I've had an eating disorder for most of my life. I'm lucky. It's made me who I am today. I can't change the past but I have been able to ask for help. I wasn't too proud, or too ashamed. The avoidance of food was my addiction, it always will be, but I am challenging that every day, and every day now gets easier and easier and brighter and nicer. I'm lucky. It's hard work, but I know now that I deserve the life I have now, the true friends, the freedom from restriction, the ability now, to make choices. My life is great and I am one of the lucky ones.

Eating disorders kill more people than any other mental illness. My relationship with food will possibly always be rocky, but food does not control me any more. Or

rather I don't need to control my life by abusing my body. I love myself just a little bit too much for that now.

So, why am I telling you all of this? Cos I reckon it might just be you who needs the help. If it is, it's no shame. If you do think you might have a problem with food, why not find that little bit of bravery deep inside to ask for help. We have a meeting on the third floor of Bryson house every 2nd and last Tuesday of each month at 7pm. It's informal, confidential and entirely up to you if you want to speak or not. Of course it's free. If you prefer, you can contact me directly via Warzine.

**Sheena**

## FLESKWATER COLLECTIVE

Part of the future plans that we have is to bring the Fleskwater Collective and Warzone under one umbrella. Fleskwater, in the north of Antrim, for those who don't know is a 10acre smallholding on the go since the early 80's focusing on ideas such as organic food production and sustainability with minimal environmental impact. Recently a new group was formed to continue this process. Long term aims include the supplying of organic produce to the new café, workshops in various aspects of sustainability and permaculture and other plans. Watch this space for further developments.

## ANTI-MINING CAMPAIGN

The campaign to prevent lignite mining in north Antrim can be found here <http://www.justsaynotolignite.co.uk/>. The Fleskwater Collective was very central to the early days of this campaign which to date has been successful however applications for licenses to mine lignite continue.

## ROSSPORT SOLIDARITY CAMP

The aim of the camp is to lend practical support to the local community's struggle against the state and Shell and to provide a base for people who wish to visit the area, to find out more and show their solidarity with the people of Erris. This is a major opportunity to defeat a highly dangerous project and the campaign thus far has already been an inspiration to many people. This struggle against the state and big business is



having a significant radicalising effect on both the Erris community and ordinary people all over Ireland. What is happening in North West Mayo is one front in the struggle against the subordination of our lives in the interests of global capitalism: a victory here will be a step to victory everywhere.

Recently one campaigner has been hospitalized due to police brutality. Cops are not wearing ID numbers, shell security guards in balaclavas continue to use heavy-handed tactics to thwart the protesters but action continues. The camp would welcome supplies, donations and bodies to help in the struggle. A benefit CD is available from [back2front@riseup.net](mailto:back2front@riseup.net) featuring Citizen Fish, MDC, Active Minds, Oi Polloi and more. Check out <http://www.struggle.ws/rsc/mission.html> for background info and updates can be found at <http://indymedia.ie/mayo%20>

# ORGANISE!

Organise! is a group of working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities torn apart by racism, sexism, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs. We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but all the alternatives assume the continuation of the present system... and that's even crazier... The current system isn't working - stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to pay for the natural resources; politicians tell us there's no money - not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great and for all humanities technological advances we spend more time working than people did 40 years ago; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', a war on drugs and a 'war on terror' and the same institutions that create war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatise, imprison and deport the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism - an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else.

The Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation, Anarchist Federation,

Anarchist Prisoner Support and a number of individuals came together in 2004 to form Organise!. Our aim was the creation of a more effective and better resourced class struggle anarchist organisation. However Organise! has a history that stretches back to the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Group of the early eighties.

The ASF and AF in Ireland had already collaborated on two previous publications, called Wildcat, which presented agreed positions on the trades unions and the 'north'. The impetus for the creation of this organisation goes back to a proposal made earlier that year asking Anarchists to look seriously at building more effective organisation across Ireland.



The response to this proposal was mixed but discussion on moving things forward took place between those who were most interested in pursuing it and who felt they had most in common. In recent months Organise! have brought out a new tabloid called the Leveller, we have been active in campaigning in support of the Ford/Visteon workers who occupied their plant in Finaghy, in support of immigrant workers who have been unfairly dismissed by their employers and in supporting the 26 Belfast traffic wardens sacked for taking unofficial industrial action. Last year we took the campaign for the right to choose to the headquarters of all of Northern Ireland's main political parties. We have also recently moved into a shared office space with Just Books who have a history of selling radical and anarchist books (and more) in Belfast that goes back to 1978.

Our membership, while it is still small, has grown significantly in recent months particularly in Belfast but we also have members in Derry, Armagh, Portadown and Newry.

We seek through our activity and propaganda, through discussion and practical solidarity with our fellow workers to show the relevance of anarchist methods of

organising and ultimately the benefits of a future libertarian communist revolution for workers everywhere.

Many members of Organise! are, and have been, active in their own workplaces. When we talk about workers, we don't just mean those in paid employment, we also support and get involved with the struggles of students, the unemployed and domestic workers. Students in Organise! are involved with the Queens University Anarchist Society and members working and studying in education have recently formed an education workers branch.

We have also been involved, and continue to be involved in building opposition to the introduction of water charges across the north through our involvement in the We Won't Pay Campaign. This is a campaign that has resulted in 'our' local 'representatives' delay implementation of water taxes year after year. We continue to demand abolition of water charges, the clear message of the WWPC is that mass non-payment will defeat the government.

If you believe, like us, that "The emancipation of working class shall be the task of workers ourselves" then get in touch with us at Organise!, 9-11 Lombard Street, Belfast, BT1 1RB or email us at [organiseireland@yahoo.ie](mailto:organiseireland@yahoo.ie)

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## SCRAP THE WATER CHARGE

The grassroots campaign to stop water charges being enforced across Northern Ireland is still ongoing despite the charges being deferred for another year in a desperate bid by big business in cahoots with local politicians to detract cross-community support for this latest scam to rip off working people. Latest developments are here: <http://www.wewontpaycampaign.com/>

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## SAVE TARA CAMPAIGN

The campaign against the M3 motorway through the Tara-Skryne Valley in Co Meath continues. The road works are

literally cutting through the heart of ancient Ireland destroying monuments and graves of considerable archeological importance. The Hill of Tara was included in the World Monuments Fund's 2008 Watch List of the *100 Most Endangered Sites in the World*. Background and latest info at <http://www.tarawatch.org/>

## **SEOMRA SPRAOI AUTONOMOUS CENTRE DUBLIN**

Seomra Spraoi is an autonomous social centre in Dublin city centre. It is run by a non-hierarchical, anti capitalist collective on a not-for-profit basis. It hosts workshops, gigs, political meetings, film screenings, a vegan cafe and lots more. The centre seeks to be a hub of positive resistance in a city and society where public spaces have been eaten away by consumerism, property speculation and the culture of the car. Sounds like it operates very similar to Warzone and we hope to forge stronger links in future. Details here: <http://www.seomraspraoi.org> g:8080/Plone

There is also a new social centre in Galway and some details can be found here: [www.galwayspace.org](http://www.galwayspace.org). Meanwhile comrades in Leeds are having difficulties with the local council authorities who could literally close down their autonomous centre, The Common Place, over refusal of an entertainment licence. Info and petition can be found here: <http://www.thecommonplace.org.uk/index.php?page=home>. Show your solidarity!



In a parallel universe Sammy Wilson is taken away for 'carbon recycling' by Warzone members

## **WORKERS SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT**

The WSM was originally founded in Dublin in 1984 and a Belfast branch was established in 2008. Since our inception we have organised several public meetings including the recent anarchist 'day school' in February. We have been involved in supporting our fellow workers in struggle such as the case of subway worker *Natalia Szymanska* and attended numerous marches from anti-war to housing rights. We are involved in the Alliance for Choice group which is fighting to extend the 1967 Abortion Act to the North.

Perhaps, we first came to public prominence in our attempt to organise a non-sectarian demonstration in opposition to the military parade in Belfast in December 2007. Recently, we organised a very successful public meeting for ex-Black Panther *Ashanti Alston* as part of a speaking tour across Ireland. We also

distribute one thousand copies of our bi-monthly news sheet *Workers Solidarity* in the North with about 10,000 distributed across Ireland. The majority of copies are distributed door to door in local communities. We hope to increase our circulation in the future as one of the weaknesses in today's anarchist 'movement' is the lack of consistent and relevant propaganda which seeks to answer some of the key political and social questions today. [www.wsm.ie](http://www.wsm.ie)

Sean

**INDYMEDIA  
BELFAST?** 

Is there anybody out there who would be interested in establishing Indymedia in Belfast? Indymedia originated at the WTO protests in Seattle 1999 and has since gone global and while there is an Irish branch online there's nothing up here. Indymedia uses an open publishing and democratic media process that allows anybody to contribute and would provide a great alternative to the tabloid shite we get in the North. I contacted the Irish branch who inform me that the software for running the site is available free but we'd need 4 steady volunteers to check emails/news submissions and keep the site updated. If you think you have the time and inclination give us a shout.

# 20 YEARS ON

It's hard to believe it was 20 years ago when I last wrote for Warzine. That particular issue was the 'speak your mind' edition in which we voiced our various grievances for there's nothing like a good moan now is there? It was all very amusing though like when Lisburn Class War accused us being middle class sell-outs for serving vege-burgers from the café rather than the working class chip butty; or indeed organising those bourgeoisie poetry evenings rather than providing working class activities such as pool tables. Fucking fantastic! And fair play for having a go but where are they all now I wonder?

Warzine is a free uncensored news sheet but that's not to say we all agree. (Actually meetings usually involve baseball bats and veiled threats but that's another story.) Seriously though it shows the strength of people that they can come together to organise for themselves, when so many others are looking for 'better' leaders to lead them out of recession and on up the garden path. The notion that the system can somehow be reformed or improved reveals a complete failure of the imagination. You can't reform something that is inherently corrupt no matter what way you disguise it.

Anarchists believe that by promoting the cause of working struggles through agitation in the workplace and by offering support for wild cat actions and other forms of worker-organised activity we can push towards the general strike. While strike action can lead to improved wages and working conditions, it is only when workers strike in solidarity with each other that the potential for mass action ensues and the opportunity for upheaval becomes a real possibility. We desire worker controlled factories and workplaces which are operated by direct democracy where everyone has a say regardless. We want a society that does not demand the best years of our lives doing what we don't want so we can get a few quid to buy more and more products that we don't really need.

But some of us also believe in looking at how we deal with each other on a personal level, where our money goes and the social relationships we interact with. This doesn't mean lifestyle or alternative capitalism but rather a means of self-education and the development of an attitude that centres on minimising injustice in all shapes and forms and by all means necessary.

These are exciting times and hopefully we can tap into the potential and rebuild something here in the north but this requires everyone's contribution and effort. We are not leaders or trendsetters and we don't claim to have the answers. What we do know is that when people come together to organise, the possibilities are endless.....

## Danny (back2front zine)

The old website is here:  
<http://www.geocities.com/warzonecollective/>. We are trying to find the command codes but the member's site is still working and hopefully discussion will take place here in the meantime as well as updates. It's free to register – click on members and follow the instructions. Deadline for the next issue is.....



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# LISTINGS: GIGS/DEMOS/EVENTS

## June

- 6-7<sup>th</sup> June - **Anarchist Conference London** – What way forward for UK anarchism ([www.conference09.org.uk](http://www.conference09.org.uk) for details)
- 10<sup>th</sup> June - **Sonic Boom Six & The Lobotomies & Pocket Billiards** – McHugh's Bar Belfast
- 17<sup>th</sup> June - **Amebix & Constant Fear** - Dublin – Button Factory (Belfast date cancelled - only Irish date)
- 27-28<sup>th</sup> June - **Drumacanoo Punks Picnic** – Churchill Co Donegal (back2front stall - Warzone benefit)

## July

- 4<sup>th</sup> July – **Sham 69** (without Jimmy Pursey!) & **Shame Academy** – Belfast Empire
- 8<sup>th</sup> July – **The Luchagors** – Auntie Annie's Belfast
- 16<sup>th</sup> July – **Kill 'em Dead Cowboy** – Auntie Annie's Belfast
- 17<sup>th</sup> July – **Kill 'em Dead Cowboy** – Mason's Bar Derry
- 25<sup>th</sup> July – **Shame Academy** – Oh Yeah Centre (Benefit for Children's' cancer charity)

## August

- 1<sup>st</sup> August - **Chumbawamba** - Belfast *Feile an Phobail*
- 8<sup>th</sup> August – **Jesus Bruiser** (from Bradford) – Pavilion Belfast plus local support
- 23<sup>rd</sup> August - **Leftover Crack & The Lobotomies** – Auntie Annie's
- 26<sup>th</sup> August – **Rise Against** – Belfast Limelight
- 29<sup>th</sup> August - **Third Belfast Anarchist Bookfair** – Unemployed Resource Centre (Details from Organise!)
- 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August - **Warzone Fest** – Pavilion Bar

## September

- 12 September (TBC) - **Subhumans & @-Political** – Black Box Belfast (To be recorded for CD release as a Warzone benefit!)

## October

- 20<sup>th</sup> October – **Green Day** ( a radical £38 at DIY venue The Odyssey – wonder if they remember a certain collective who put them on when they were a tiny wee band back in the day?)

## November

- 15<sup>th</sup> November - **Paranoid Visions & Droppin' Bombs & The Lobotomies & Violent Fuckwits** – Front Page Belfast

Write to Warzone:

**C/o Organise!  
9-11 Lombard Street  
Belfast BT1 1RB**

Or email us at:  
[Warzonecollective@riseup.net](mailto:Warzonecollective@riseup.net)

