

FREE

LONDON Late

THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL

PULL-OUT CENTREFOLD OF
ALL THE OLYMPIC STREET ART
THEY TRIED TO PAINT OVER!

TUESDAY, 7 AUGUST 2012 It's the five coloured circles runny jumpy swimmy all sportsy event paper...*



PRINTED USING ONLY CLEAN MONEY



PICTURE: SPACE HIJACKERS

READ THE STORY OF OUR
SPACE HIJACKERS COVER
ON PAGE FIFTEEN

THE BIG MONEY GAMES HAVE BEGUN!

WARNING: THIS NEWSPAPER MAY CAUSE SPORADIC BOUTS OF FEAR AND LOATHING FOR LOCOG, THE MAYOR OF LONDON, AND YOUR LOCAL MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION. LONDON LATE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IF ANY OF THIS HAPPENS. WE DON'T INTEND TO IMPLY ANY FORM OF ASSOCIATION, OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OR ENDORSEMENT BY A CERTAIN LARGE SPORTING EVENT TAKING PLACE IN EAST LONDON. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS PAPER ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITORIAL OR PUBLISHING STAFF. SOME CONTENT IS FUNNY, SOME OF IT'S REAL. WE THINK YOU CAN WORK IT OUT.

Late OLYMPIC SPECIAL

“BEHIND THE SCENES”

WELCOME FRIENDS, ENEMIES, LOVERS AND HATERS TO THE RUNNY, JUMPY, SWIMMY BIG MONEY GAMES OF 2012!

First of all, let's get one thing straight.

At the London Late, we love sport. We love hosting a global event in our wonderful city. And we even believe that international events like London 2012 have the power to bring people from all over the world together in shared enjoyment.

What we don't love is how this particular game is being played.

As the capital is plastered with billboards, emblazoned with logos and adorned with slogans, we can't help but notice that no inch of our city has been left untouched by the companies chosen as the 'Official Sponsors' of the London Games.

Behind the glitz and glamour, the armies of toned athletes and the glossy adverts lurks a murky world of corporate greed.

In this special souvenir edition of the London Late, we'll explore the Olympic legacy of sponsoring companies around the world; exposing sweatshop slavery, chemical disaster, environmental destruction and all matter of dubious deals.

It is the London Late's great pleasure to bring you an exclusive, behind-the-scenes whistle stop tour of the seedy underbelly of this most extravagant of Sports Days.

The games have most certainly begun, but our corporate team members aren't playing fair.

**Welcome to the...
London Late!**



IMAGE: CRIMINAL CHALKLIST

WHAT'S HOT...

Loosening Olympic gender norms: Seriously butch women weight lifters and the fabulous little skips that the men do at the end of their gymnastic routines.

Australian boxer Damien Hooper wearing an Aboriginal flag t-shirt into the ring

The long promised 'nose-armpit crush' tube moments largely not having materialised.

First lesbian kiss to be shown on Saudi Arabian TV as part of the Opening Ceremony

Including rather than forgetting Windrush in British history lesson

The sporting prowess, the dedication and the totality of the women's beach volleyball players.

Critical Mass - heroes on bikes pushing the urgent need to upgrade cycle safety infrastructure in London

WHAT'S NOT...

The official Olympics video game having 15 men-only sports and one women-only sport... beach volleyball.

Massive over reaction from the Australian Olympics Committee

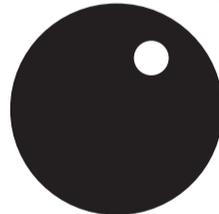
The sound of Boris Johnson being drilled into our brains in tube stations. Easy to imagine a military coup being chirpily announced in the same tone and format.

Reports of chronic shortage of condoms at the Olympic village. At it like very athletic rabbits, apparently.

Forgetting rather than including almost everything to do with Empire and slavery in British history lesson

Women's beach volleyball players being reduced to butt shots and the 'lads mag' mentalities of the newspaper that print them.

Wiggo - well done for the medals, but not hot for reducing the debate on cycling safety to "if you don't wear a helmet, you've only got yourself to blame."



Late LONDON NEWS

“WHO’S THE LAUGHING LIBERAL NOW?”

CHINESE CIVIL LIBERTY ORGANISATIONS GLOAT AFTER OPENING CEREMONY ARRESTS

Representatives of Chinese human rights organisations have reacted with giggles and sneering to the heavy-handed policing of a protest outside the London 2012 opening ceremony that resulted in the arrest of 182 cyclists from protest group Critical Mass.

Speaking in Beijing, Li Xishan of Rights Without Borders said, “Western commentators don’t miss an opportunity to wade in on the subject of human rights in China whilst acting like their s**t don’t stink. Now everyone can see that the violent crackdown on civil liberties during the Olympics isn’t restricted to any one country in particular.”

The cyclists have accused the police of using brutal tactics to block and contain large numbers of protestors

on the group’s monthly bike ride, an event that brings people together to celebrate an environmentally friendly means of transport in the city.

During the 2008 Games in China, international newspapers were jam packed with fear and loathing around police crackdowns, but only three arrests were made at the Beijing opening ceremony itself. The UK arrest score smashes this figure by a margin of 179.

From Beijing, Li continued, “The actions of the UK law enforcement agencies in the run up to the Games have been extremely questionable, from pre-emptively detaining graffiti artists, to arresting people for spilling custard, to the Critical Mass arrests.”



“LEAST LIKELY TO SAY?”

IT IS A CRUEL IRONY THAT THE COMPANY CAUSING SO MUCH DISTRESS TO THOUSANDS OF DISABLED PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY IS NOW SPONSORING THE PARALYMPICS

MICHELE HYRON
ATOS OLYMPICS
INTEGRATOR

THEY DON'T GIVE ATOS

Last week French IT company ATOS was awarded a contract to assess disabled people for a new benefit called the Personal Independence Payment. This happened despite widespread criticism that the corporation has been incapable of assessing people for the existing Employment and Support Allowance.

Disability activists have criticised ATOS’s mode of operation, saying that the company operates on the basis that everyone is a faker until proved otherwise. In fact, disability benefit fraud is estimated to be at less than 0.5%.

Dow Chemical in Faceless Monster Shocker

FURTHER SCANDAL HAS ERUPTED AROUND OLYMPIC SPONSORS DOW CHEMICAL TODAY, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THEIR NEW OLYMPIC MASCOT. THE BIZARRE FACELESS MONSTER HAS BEEN SPOTTED ANNOYING COMPETITORS BY HANGING AROUND THE ATHLETE’S VILLAGE AND GENERALLY BEING A NUISANCE.

As the Olympic park opened to the public, it quickly became clear that the engorged green figure had been frightening away any children that dared go near it.

Worse was to come, as the despicable blob was spotted attempting a sinister charm offensive on local children, offering them sweets and ice cream believed to contain genetically modified substances.

Speculation has been growing as to what motivates the horrendous, hedge-like being, and the question on everyone’s lips is: who could possibly be hiding inside?



Conspiracy theorists say the leafy abode could be home to an escaped criminal, a dead celebrity, or even a camera-shy Hollywood star wanting an ‘eco-break’ with a difference.

Whatever the truth behind the ungainly topiary, chemical company Dow’s charm offensive seems to have hit the buffers, as Londoners remain staunchly unimpressed by its monstrous antics.

PSSST!

It’s been reported that gay ‘dating’ app Grindr crashed shortly after the first wave of Olympic athletes arrived in the city, proving that not everyone’s plans for increased demand during the Olympics have been as successful as TfL’s. Grindr has since stated, “While we’d love to believe that the best built men in the world all dressed up in Lycra and congregating in one place can generate a huge increase in Grindr traffic, we can say with confidence that the arrival of the Olympic teams had little or no effect on our server.” However, we’re not going to let something as trivial as the truth get in the way of a story that good.

HYSTERIA UPDATE

Over the past months, Londoners have been subjected to a tireless propaganda campaign that told us the city as we know it would metamorphose into some kind of chaotic collapsing beast. “Plan your journeys!” warned TfL. “Work from home!” warned employers. Despite hysterical fears around infrastructural collapse, the urban apocalypse has failed to materialise. One question remains firmly on everyone’s lips in light of this scenario: how on earth did Boris manage to pull that off?



CARTOON: TIM SANDERS

Late WORLD NEWS



PHOTO: SETH ANDERSON

AUSTRALIA

G4S IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE SCANDAL

G4S today faces accusations of human rights abuses at the launch of a new bid to run an immigration detention centre in the UK.

The global security giant failed to renew its contract to deliver immigration enforcement for the Australian government after a catalogue of abuse accusations. In the Australian outback in 2007, G4S drivers were accused of ignoring the cries of detainees locked in a scorching van, allegedly leaving them so dehydrated that one was forced to drink his own urine. The following year, an Aboriginal man in Australia died in a G4S van in similar circumstances. G4S spokesman Mr A. Moral commented, "I don't see any connection. Australia is hot but it rains a lot in the UK, so that sort of thing could never happen here."

AFGHANISTAN

SCANDALOUS HUMANS G4S ABUSE RIGHTS

G4S today faces yet more accusations of human rights abuses, at the launch of the Ministry of Defence's new 'Army for Hire' strategy.

G4S-owned ArmorGroup was the focus of a US Senate inquiry around its operations in Afghanistan. The company faced allegations that they "relied on a series of warlords to provide armed men" who were "engaged in murder and bribery." Speaking at a recent security conference, Mr A. Moral boomed, "All these accusations that we are influenced by the Taliban are total rubbish. We only draw our inspiration from 90s B movies like Rambo, Robocop and The Terminator."

PALESTINE

ABUSE G4S IN RIGHT HUMAN SCANDAL

G4S today faces further accusations of human rights abuses at the launch of a new wing of a UK prison.

G4S supplies security systems to Israeli jails which detain some of the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners, hundreds of which are held without charge. Human rights organisations have accused G4S of depriving political prisoners of their basic human rights, and have pointed out that prisoners are more likely to be tortured in such environments. G4S spokesman Mr A. Moral promoted the company's prison record, saying, "All our jails have walls and floors, and the majority of our toilets have seats. What more do you want?"

UK

HUMAN RIGHTS IN G4S ABUSE SCANDAL

G4S faces further accusations of human rights abuses today. Again.

In October 2010, detainee Jimmy Mubenga died during his forcible deportation to Angola by G4S guards. In response to the Crown Prosecution Service's decision not to prosecute G4S, Mr Mubenga's wife said, "We can't understand why the officers and G4S are not answerable to the law, as we or any other member of the public would be." The supposed alleged mystery spokesperson Mr A. Moral chimed in, "G4S doesn't just manage immigration detention, we also manage prison and police services in the UK. We are not above the law. We are the law."



Late TRAVEL

*BOON VOYAGE!

Canada

For those tourists seeking the ultimate eco-apocalyptic vacation thrill, there is one destination that trumps all other contenders hands down: the Canadian tar sands. Dubbed "the most destructive energy project on earth," oil company BP has been working hard to ensure that these once-pristine lands are a vital stop on the environmental disaster tourism trail. With 8.6 million acres of Alberta's boreal forest leased for deep tar sands development, black sand beaches are quickly replacing thick forest cover. Where Caribou once roamed, the haze-enhanced northern Alberta sun provides for unparalleled tanning opportunities.

Take the opportunity to see the newest wonder of the world for yourself this summer. As large as 12,000 football fields and clearly visible from space, the tar sand's toxic ponds of Alberta are one of the largest man-made structures in the world. With BP's recently announced plan to quadruple production, this wonder is only getting bigger... and better!

Palestine

Why not visit beautiful Palestine this August? Sure, some people refer to what's happening there as Israeli Apartheid and the bombs drop like glittering gifts of death from the sky, but there's so much more to see!

Why not start your visit with our nail-biting 'G4S Tour de Force': a tailor-made package which gives you exclusive access to all the major Israeli security spots? Global security company G4S supplies equipment and services for illegal settlements and prisons in the occupied West Bank, as well as helping run Israeli checkpoints along the illegal Apartheid Wall and in the occupied territory of Gaza. We'll even throw in a half day tour of the many Israeli prisons for which G4S provides equipment and 'services.' This tour will give you an exclusive sneak peak at real life Palestinian political prisoners, including child prisoners, who are being illegally held and tortured.

A panel of legal experts from the Russell Tribunal has concluded that G4S may be criminally liable for its activities in support of Israel's illegal Apartheid Wall and other violations of international law. Let's be honest, though: the Palestinians could do with some of your cash, and a growing trend in disaster tourism means this August might be the disputed territory's first ever summer of love!

Indonesia

Ah Indonesia. Land of beautiful beaches, smiling faces and more sweatshops than you can shake a stick at! For the self confessed sportswear addict, this island paradise is the holy grail of mass produced clothing.

As you walk the streets of Jakarta, you'll be bowled over by colourful scenes of malnourished workers being shipped off to one of the cutting-edge factories. You'll note that these workers are mainly young and female, but what you won't be able to see is that they work up to 65 hours a week for as little as 34p an hour. Why not take a snap of them crammed into the backs of passing trucks like cattle? Go on, you know you want to!

To get yourself in the Indonesian mindset, a tour round one of the many factories where official Adidas Olympic merchandise is produced is a must. As you wander amongst the endless rows of sewing machines, let your ears be greeted by the dulcet tones of relentless verbal and physical abuse hurled at workers by their supervisors. If you're lucky, you might even get to see some unfortunate labourers being punished for not reaching production targets!

India

Bhopal, capital city of exotic India's Madhya Pradesh, is a fascinating blend of scenic beauty and uniquely modern urban planning. It's a place where old meets new, around a cluster of beautiful lakes.

First on your itinerary should be Bhopal's old city: a chaotic sprawl of dusty streets littered with marketplaces, old mosques and run-down palaces. If you're hoping to find an Indian city refreshingly unsullied by Western branding, then look no further. Old Bhopal may be desperately poor, but its charm is undeniable and the Bhopalis ever welcoming.

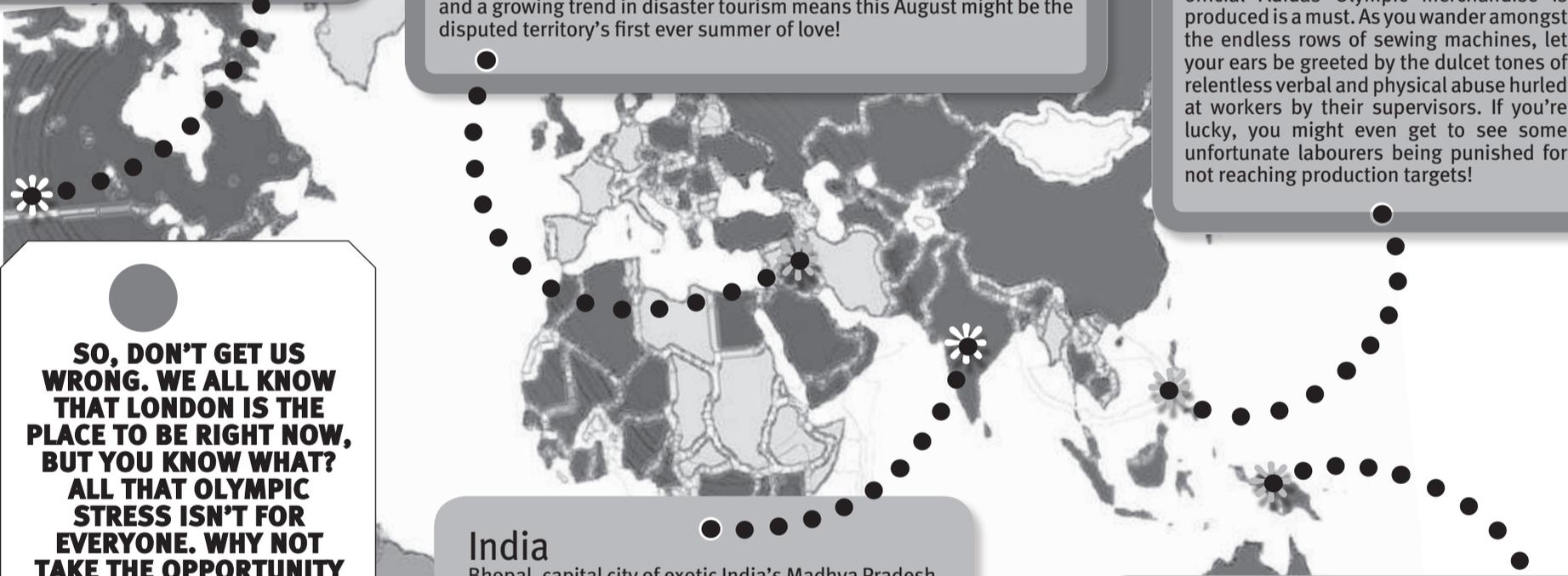
An undisputed must for any visitor is a trip to the spectacular Union Carbide Factory. Located right in the heart of the densely populated slums, this historic site of the world's worst industrial disaster allows you to inhale the sweet smell of toxic fumes that still permeate the haunted ruins. After you've had your hit of toxic radiation, grab a cocktail and end the day with a stroll in the surrounding area, where as many as ten thousand Bhopalis died when the factory spewed its gas all over their homes one historic night in 1984.

West Papua

For those who prefer to be swept along on an adventure with minimal planning, our tailor-made Rio Tinto mining destruction tour of colourful West Papua could be just the ticket.

The tour kicks off with the beautiful Grasberg Mountain, once sacred to indigenous peoples and now the site of an enormous copper-gold Rio Tinto mine. Next up, beat the heat with a refreshing swim in the local river, packed full of toxic waste from the Rio Tinto mine and sure to give your skin that full-body toxic disintegration treatment you've been craving! The tour wraps up with a visit to the homelands of local farmers, where you can hear the heart-wrenching tale of how the West Papuans' land and livelihoods have been destroyed by Rio Tinto's mining. Sure, it may make you cry, but what with all the toxic fumes in the atmosphere, you'll barely even remember your name, let alone your morals!

SO, DON'T GET US WRONG. WE ALL KNOW THAT LONDON IS THE PLACE TO BE RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? ALL THAT OLYMPIC STRESS ISN'T FOR EVERYONE. WHY NOT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE THE GAMES AND EXPLORE THE OLYMPIC LEGACY IN FAR FLUNG AND EXOTIC CORNERS OF THE WORLD? THERE'S A PLETHORA OF POVERTY, MISERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION BEING CAUSED BY THE CORPORATE SPONSORS OF THE GAMES THAT'S YEARNING TO BE EXPLORED. A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE ISN'T A MUST, BUT A SENSE OF ADVENTURE IS!



Late SCIENCE & SOCIETY

By **RICHARD SOLLY**

When the Olympic and Paralympic athletes mount the podium to receive their medals this summer, the light will glint on metal whose shine conceals its darker origins.

The metal has been provided by Rio Tinto, the third biggest mining company in the world. Many working people in Britain unwittingly invest in the company through their pension funds, bank accounts, insurance premiums or council tax.

The last time Rio Tinto hit the headlines in the UK was during the anti-apartheid struggle, for running a uranium mine in Namibia, which it still owns today. When Namibia was under South African occupation, the company violated United Nations sanctions. Closer to home, the negative health impacts caused by the company's Capper Pass smelter near Hull were widely condemned.

But hey, that's all in the past, right?

Now Rio Tinto may be set to become a household name in Britain, thanks to its support of the London 2012 Games. And perhaps they have cleaned up their act. After all, what's past is past, and maybe companies, like people, should be given a second chance.

Right?

Some people certainly seem to believe this particular company has changed. In July, Rio Tinto became the first mining company to be 'certified' by the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC).

Rio Tinto were suitably delighted: "We are proud that our commitment to sustainability, integrity and environmental stewardship has been recognised and that we are the first mining company to receive this recognition from the RJC," said Harry Kenyon-Slaney, Rio Tinto's

"FOR YEARS, CREDIBLE ORGANISATIONS HAVE REPORTED ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE BY RIO TINTO IN ITS OPERATIONS AROUND THE WORLD."

chief executive of diamonds and minerals.

The RJC dutifully buffed the glistening shine on the company's reputation: "Rio Tinto currently occupies a unique position within the international mining industry of being the only certified gold and diamond miner," said RJC Chief Executive Michael Rae.

What a happy coincidence that this glowing certification was achieved just in time for the Olympics! Especially as some London campaigning groups had begun to question Rio Tinto's right to benefit from its association with the Olympic brand.

It soon transpired that Rio Tinto gained access to the Olympics through the back door. In June this year, the Daily Telegraph quoted Sean McCarthy, chairman



ILLUSTRATION: ANONYMOUS

BASE METALS

of the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 (CSL), saying Rio Tinto was the only Olympic supplier he was aware of that was able to start production without having an agreed audit in place.

"LOCOG's procedures say there has to be an audit but they allowed this company to slip through the net: they don't have an audit, they haven't been certified, and yet the metals have been supplied," he said.

The CSL had asked LO-

COG to arrange an independent examination of claims against the company made by campaigning groups over the pond in Utah, USA. In the Salt Lake City area, locals alleged that the Rio Tinto mine was responsible for hundreds of premature deaths each year as a result of air pollution.

Representatives of local campaigning group Utah Moms for Clean Air had met with the CSL in April to bring this matter to its attention, but LOCOG were content with the environmental approvals given by the Utah government, and unwilling to examine claims that Rio Tinto's operations were unsound.

At the same time just over the border, the North American United Steel Workers Union (USW) was also in dispute with Rio Tinto over the lockout of workers at the company's aluminium smelter in Quebec, Canada.

Ken Neumann, the USW's Canadian Director, said, "It is shocking that Rio Tinto was not audited by LOCOG, despite numerous red flags. For years, credible organisations have reported environmental damage and human rights violations by Rio Tinto in its operations around the world. Rio Tinto's Olympic presence and the lack of an audit clearly undermine the legitimacy of the process adopted by LO-

COG and the intent to make the London Games the most sustainable ever."

By this point, there was a powerful motive for LOCOG to ensure that Rio Tinto received the all-clear before the Games began. And who better to give this clean slate than the Responsible Jewellery Council? After all, they have the word 'responsible' in their name.

However, the RJC may not be as responsible or trustworthy as they sound: Rio Tinto is one of its founding members.

At its London AGM this April, Rio Tinto's shareholders were reminded of the company's less than shiny past as campaigners, union members and activists pulled together to speak out against corporate environmental destruction.

Cherise Udell of Utah Moms for Clean Air spoke about the impacts of the company's Bingham Canyon mine and smelter, where pollution was gravely affecting local children's health. Most of the metals to be used in the Olympics came from this very mine.

Zanaa Jurmed from Mongolia attacked the company for developing the Oyu Tolgoi mine in the Gobi Desert, an operation that requires huge quantities of precious water in an arid desert area.

Representatives of the USW followed suit, speaking about the lockout of the Quebec smelter workers, whose only offence was that they wanted job security and fair pay for both employees and subcontracted workers.

Plenty of other issues were raised at Rio Tinto's AGM, and it wouldn't have been difficult for LOCOG to find out about the company's controversial history had they bothered to do any research.

Essentially, any audit process that fails to investigate multiple allegations against a company is at best flawed, at worst a travesty. It's clear that Rio Tinto has been let off the hook for its spectacularly un-medal worthy operations. A shame you didn't do your homework, LOCOG.

No medals for you.

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It really works!!

www.waronwant.org



Late SCIENCE & SOCIETY

RIO TINTO INAUGURATE AWARDS FOR 'BRAND POLICING'

BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN MINING GIANT RIO TINTO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL BE HANDING OUT MEDALS TO REWARD 'HEROISM BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY' TO POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN PROTECTING CORPORATE REPUTATIONS.

The awards follow Rio Tinto's provision of metals for the 2012 medals – a sponsorship deal that earned the company positive column inches, associating their brand with sporting prowess rather than the usual accusations of pollution, shoddy labour rights and land grabbing.

The first such prestigious award will go to PC Craig Logan of the Metropolitan Police for his 'valiant endeavours' in arresting and cuffing seven perpetrators of custard-based brand damage at last month's Greenwash Gold Awards in Trafalgar Square.

In a mock ceremony staged in front of the Olympic clock, three actors masquerading as corporate representatives of Rio Tinto, Dow Chemical and BP had a green, dairy-based substance poured over them after having been voted the 'worst' Olympic sponsors.

After samples had been collected, police forensic units were able to confirm that the substance was indeed a potent cocktail of custard mixed with green food colouring, and verified it had not been supplied by an official Olympic sponsor.

Rio Tinto was nominated for the green-custard public shaming in part due to massive pollution it caused in the State of Utah from the mine providing the Olympic medals metals, with local residents blaming the pollution for high rates of respiratory illness and even premature deaths.

Met officer PC Gonemad spoke to us for the first time about the bravery of the officers involved in protecting the Rio Tinto brand:

"When we arrived at Trafalgar Square and saw that people were wiping up small quantities of custard from the floor with paper towels, we knew that urgent action needed to be taken. We suspected that a serious expression of dairy-based democratic dissent had taken place, so the 25 officers present utilised their emergency 'street theatre crackdown' training to efficiently neutralise the seven offenders who had either been performing or daring to watch the performance."

Undercover reporters for the London Late overheard Rio Tinto spokesperson Trudy Tyler saying, "extractive industries are responsible for more and more environmental and human rights controversies the world over, so sponsorship deals are an increasingly important part of any corporation's strategy to detract attention away from all that icky stuff."

ADVERTISEMENT

At the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 Sebastian Coe ran 1,500 metres in 3 minutes, 32.53 seconds. Breathless, racked with pain, he won the Gold Medal and set a new Olympic record. That same year began the long torment of the Bhopalis. On a cold night in December they began running for their lives and many have not known an hour of comfort since. We see them at our clinics, breathless, racked with pain. Had Seb Coe not stopped after 1,500 metres, but kept running for 10,000 days, or 3,834,108 miles, or 148,000 marathons he would by now know what it feels like to be a Bhopali.

The Bhopal Marathon

A new publication

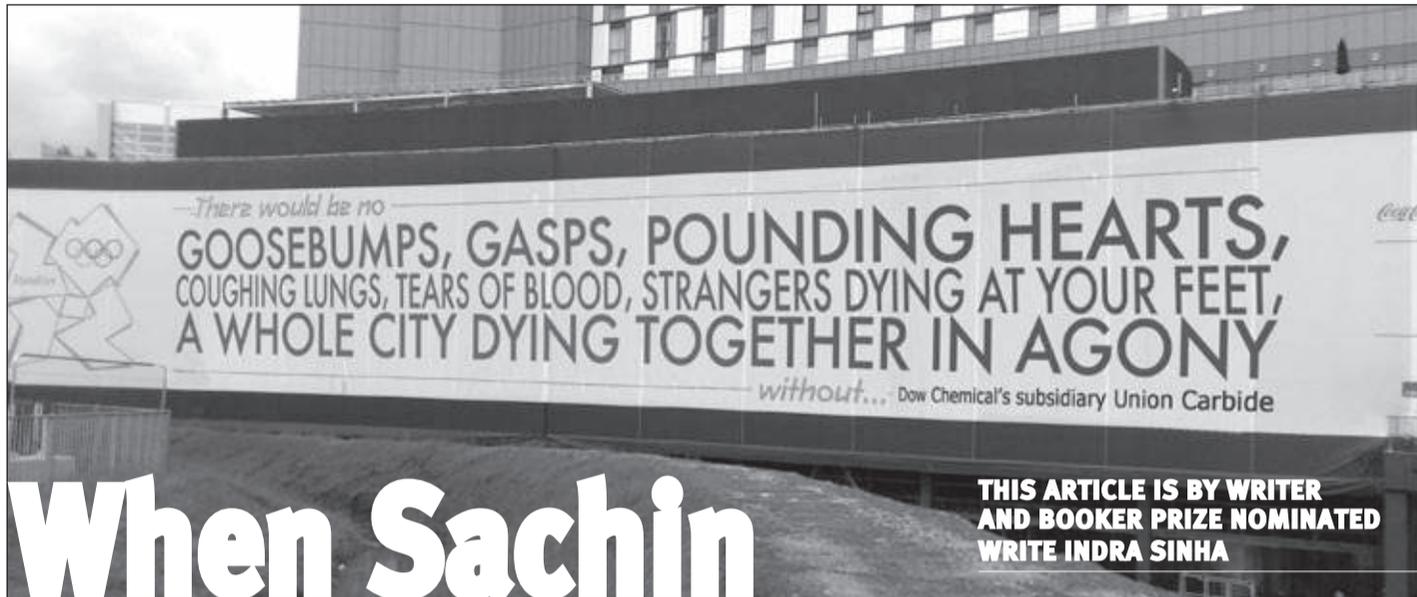
COMING SOON

www.bhopal.org



Late HEALTH

PHOTO-MONTAGE: BHOPAL MEDICAL CAMPAIGN



When Sachin Goes in to bat...

ON THE NIGHT OF 2 DECEMBER 1984, TOXIC GAS ESCAPED FROM A POORLY MAINTAINED UNION CARBIDE PESTICIDE FACTORY IN BHOPAL, INDIA. THE GAS KILLED BETWEEN 8,000 AND 10,000 PEOPLE WITHIN JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS. TO DATE AN ESTIMATED 25,000 HAVE DIED FROM EXPOSURE TO THE GAS, MAKING BHOPAL THE WORLD'S WORST INDUSTRIAL DISASTER. OLYMPIC PARTNER DOW CHEMICAL NOW OWNS UNION CARBIDE AND, 27 YEARS ON, THERE ARE STILL OUTSTANDING COURT CASES RELATING TO THE DISASTER. UNION CARBIDE IS WANTED IN INDIA ON CRIMINAL CHARGES OF 'CULPABLE HOMICIDE' BUT DOW CHEMICAL WILL NOT PRESENT IT TO THE INDIAN COURTS.

PHOTO: BHOPAL MEDICAL CAMPAIGN



Nowhere, not at Lords nor any Indian ground, is there a better game of cricket to be seen than those played in the green and pleasant corridors of the Chingari Trust Clinic, where children who cannot stand bat and bowl with elan and scrupulous fairness.

Sachin, he-of-the-bat, is 16. When he grows up he wants to be a professional cricketer.

Zaid – here bowling – is 10. He plans to study to be an ear specialist. He will have a house, one with a big garage so he can keep a car and give his granny and granddad rides.

Sachin's mother was exposed to Carbide's gases. He and Zaid both come from areas where the water is contaminated and many children are born physically or mentally damaged.

Both lads come daily to the Chingari Trust Rehabilitation Centre where, between physiotherapy and lessons, they engage in spirited games of cricket.

A TALE OF TWO SACHINS

Every Indian lad dreams of being cheered to the wicket, taking his stumps, turning to frown at the bowler, tapping the heel of his bat, lifting it ready to strike. That's

how Sachin Tendulkar does it. For Sachin Yadav it's not so easy.

'Sachin! Sachin!' his friends do indeed shout as he hobbles out to the crease leaning on his bat, but if he lifted the bat he'd fall.

Our Sachin can't stand unaided. His legs don't work. So he settles on the ground and takes his line from a notional leg stump. All too easy for a fellow who can't move his legs to be out low.

SACHIN'S BESPOKE BAT

Sachin loves to quote a line he heard once on the radio, 'The Indian team without Sachin is like a kiss without a squeeze.'

As befits a serious batsman – and the namesake of the world's top scorer – his bat was specially made for him, carved by his grandfather from a piece of pine. It is slim, light enough to be wielded with one hand. Its blade is extra long so Sachin can reach balls tipping outside the off-stump and bouncers flying over his head. In particular it enables him to take a line well outside the leg stump and so avoid any possibility of being out leg before.

BOWLING A WRONG 'UN

Zaid, gallantly bowling because it is Sachin's turn to bat, has issues of his own.

Zaid has scoliosis of the spine. We met him two years ago, after a badly botched operation on his spine had left him unable to stand.

Now he crouches on the floor planning his attack.

Fast bowling is not an option when you're effectively 18 inches high, and leg-spinning is impossible when your wrists, like all your other joints, are painfully swollen.

JUST WOULDN'T BE CRICKET

Zaid bowls again. Sachin strokes it powerfully to the leg boundary, which for the nonce is Physiotherapy Room Two.

'Shot sir!' cries Zaid sportingly. The boys pick up these English

phrases from the TV, and the green corridor echoes to cries of 'Cow shot!' and 'Sixer!'

Balls ricochet wildly round the corridor, thumping on doors behind which Mahima and Ayaan, 7 and 8, both born with cerebral palsy, are learning to recognise and say letters.

'Well bowled!' cries Sachin.

This last when Zaid delivers a ball that catches the great batsman on the knee. 'Owzee?! Out! Out!'

Given that Sachin is unable to stand at the wicket someone suggests that he be exempted from the lbw rule. Sachin looks appalled. 'If I am playing cricket I want to keep all the rules.'

'Well, I don't,' says Zaid. 'I like to bat, bat, bat. I don't want to be out.'

Zaid's hero is West Indies and Royal Challenger Bangalore batting ace Chris Gayle, and wielding the willow is his deepest love.

This small person is the most determined batsman we have ever known. In vain does his great pal Sachin chuck down yorkers, off breaks and doosras. Be he caught, lbw, clean bowled, or (notionally) stumped, Zaid is never out.

'I never get out,' says Zaid.

'He doesn't,' says his mother, 'because if he gets out he cries.'

ZAID'S OPERATION

Zaid has not taken the field for a while as in April he had corrective surgery on his back and is recuperating at home.

We go round to see him every few days. Last time we found him able to sit upright and swing his legs. He can stand with help. His legs are wobbly, he has a way to go, but the outlook is hopeful.

Zaid was cheerful, excited about his new baby sister. He had watched every match of the Indian Premier League cricket championship and gave as his opinion that, despite a few stumbles, Bangalore would triumph.

THE SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY

Sachin and Zaid have no illusions about the difficulties of their lives and are determined not to be defeated.

'People ask if I'll play in cricket matches for special children,' says Sachin. 'Yes, but what I really want is to play normal cricket and to earn fame like Sachin.' He pauses. 'Or maybe being myself Sachin, I should say Dhoni.' These boys would laugh if you said that they are – in their own way – superstars. But they are.

Late ENVIRONMENT

By **MARK GEE**

Since London won the bid for the Olympics in 2005, companies have been jostling for prime position in the sponsorship race. Sustainability is a major theme of London 2012, and in 2007 LOCOG chose certain companies as their first ever 'sustainability partners' for the global sporting event.

Sustainability status offers corporations the chance to highlight their ethical work; presumably to make us feel good about them so that we continue buying their products.

It's no secret that these companies rely on advertising to sell us their products. From EDF's green Union Jack to BP's 'Fuelling the Future' advert, eco-inspired commercials for London 2012 have already been embedded in public consciousness. These ads promise us that companies care about the environment and sustainability. At least, that's what they want us to think.

In 2007, BP began extracting oil from the tar sands in Alberta, Canada. Described by Greenpeace as "the biggest environmental crime in history", this form of oil extraction produces up to five times more CO₂ than traditional methods of extraction, killing off swathes of boreal forest, which in turn drives climate change. Local water supplies in the Alberta area have been contaminated, prompting a sharp rise in illness in local indigenous communities. BP continues to develop environmentally damaging projects in the region, whilst axing its far more sustainable solar division. Anyone see that on a glossy advert?

So, how did we get to the point where the likes of BP are considered a 'sustainable' partner?

Before selecting their partners, LOCOG drafted a sustainability plan for London 2012. This plan was based around five priority themes: climate change, waste, biodiversity, inclusion and healthy living.

Some may question how BP were offered the Olympic gig, considering their dubious environmental record. It seems that there is little to suggest that London 2012's sustainability partners fit into the five priority themes.

It is worth noting that the chemicals used to 'clean up' the Gulf of Mexico spill in 2010 have significantly damaged the ecosystem and the health of those living in the region.

Asked for an interview in the hope that they would explain the 'sustainable' selection process, LOCOG declined. They did provide a statement, however, which is about as illuminating as an uncharged solar torch in a coal mine:

"WITHOUT THE PRIVATE INVESTMENT BY OUR SPONSORS, THE STAGING OF THE GAMES SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE. OUR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND POLICIES WERE CLEARLY SET OUT BEFORE OUR SPONSORS SIGNED UP AND WE WORK WITH COMPANIES TO COMPLY WITH THOSE STANDARDS. SOME COMPANIES HAVE CHOSEN TO CONNECT THEMSELVES WITH THAT ELEMENT OF OUR PROGRAMME AS A SUSTAINABILITY PARTNER."

"BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS, FROM NGOS SUCH AS WWF AND BIOREGIONAL TO OUR COMMERCIAL SPONSORS, WE ARE SETTING NEW STANDARDS AND CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING OUR SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE."

The Commission for a Sustainable London is an assurance body overseeing the provision of sustainability for London 2012. Chair Shaun McCarthy has said that London 2012 sustainability partners face little in the way of sanctions for not fulfilling their sustainability commitments. This is because LOCOG is only a temporary organisation, and so companies do not fear losing out on future bids. Essentially, all the power lies with these companies because they are helping fund the Olympics.

BP is providing the fuel for the fleet of official London 2012 vehicles.

The company has been advertising its alleged use of sustainable fuel under the banner 'Providing advanced biofuels for London 2012'. However, one recent report states that 99% of this fleet will be using conventional fossil fuels.

When electricity company EDF failed to deliver their low carbon torch, the Commission for a Sustainable London made a point of embarrassing them. As McCarthy pointed out last year, "The promise of a low-carbon torch was made in 2007 and so the excuse of 'we ran out of time' is not acceptable".

The Committee for a Sustainable London is in a difficult position. It receives 30% of its funding from LOCOG, and so is part-funded by the very companies it is supposed to be keeping an eye on.

Yet this hasn't stopped CSL from criticising LOCOG and the London 2012 sustainability partners in its pre-Games review. McCarthy concludes: "The innovative sponsorship opportunity for 'sustainability partners' has not been wholly successful and we would recommend that similar initiatives are much more explicit in their commitments, so the partner 'earns' the right rather than just paying for it."

Apart from giving LOCOG money, how and why BP and EDF were chosen as sustainability partners remains a mystery.

"THE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR 'SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS' HAS NOT BEEN WHOLLY SUCCESSFUL AND WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SIMILAR INITIATIVES ARE MORE EXPLICIT IN THEIR COMMITMENTS, SO THE PARTNER 'EARNS' THE RIGHT RATHER THAN JUST PAYING FOR IT".

**SHAUN MCCARTHY,
COMMISSION FOR A
SUSTAINABLE LONDON**

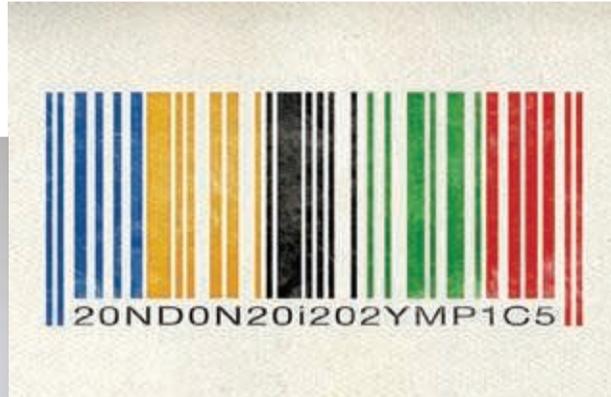
PHOTO: JIRI REZAC / GREENPEACE



Late STREET ART

For street art credits please visit <http://issuu.com/platform-london/docs/londonlate>





Late FEATURE

By **MURRAY WORTHY**

The Olympic Games are far more than a celebration of sporting achievement. As conceived by Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, the Games embody the highest ideals of our common humanity: fair play, decency and respect for all. The London 2012 Olympics have reaffirmed this spirit, and promised us an event whose “lasting legacy” will be lived out for years to come.

The modern Olympic Games are, clearly, much more than a sporting event. They are a shared global experience, with over four billion people expected to watch this summer’s event on television. This enormous global audience attracts huge interest from corporate sponsorship and advertising, which has in itself become an intrinsic element of the Games.

For London 2012, there are 25 official corporate sponsors and another 28 official corporate suppliers across industries as diverse as food, cars, banking and electronics.

However, the Olympics are of particular significance to the global sportswear industry, where sponsorship of the Games, individual teams or athletes is worth hundreds of millions of pounds and is vital to maintaining a company’s brand image.

For multinational sportswear companies, the Olympics represent a unique opportunity to market their goods to worldwide audiences, and therefore associate their brands with the spirit of the Games. It is the association with the Olympic values of human achievement, fair play and respect that are worth most to their brand image.

There is, however, another side to this particularly shiny coin. In the run up to and during what its promoters call ‘the greatest show on earth’, Indonesian workers producing goods for Adidas, London 2012’s official sportswear partner, will earn as little as 34p an hour – far less than a living wage. Some Indonesian factories supplying Adidas do not even pay the legal minimum wage, and labourers report being routinely forced to work overtime.

A LEGACY WORTH CELEBRATING

These conditions are not unique. In China, researchers for the Playfair 2012 campaign found people regularly work from 8am to 11pm making Adidas’ official sportswear for the Games.

In Sri Lanka researchers found that people producing Adidas goods were being forced to work overtime in order to meet production targets.

More than half the workers interviewed in the Philippines said that in order to cover their basic needs they are forced to pawn their ATM cards to loan sharks for high-interest loans.

In Cambodia, workers making Adidas official Olympics merchandise are paid just £10 a week, less than a third of a living wage.

At every single one of the Adidas supplier factories researchers visited, workers reported that they were not paid a living wage that covered their basic needs.

Not only do these workers face appalling conditions, they also face repression and harassment if they try to secure their rights. In Indonesia the trade unions that do exist are not given bargaining rights by the factory management. Workers also face individual harassment and punishment for union organising; at one factory in Indonesia supplying Adidas 10 workers were suspended earlier this year and face losing their jobs – believed to be as a result of their union activism.

At Adidas’ Chinese suppliers, trade union activities are even more repressed. In one factory, the staff manual details that any activity to educate or organise the workers to secure improvements in working conditions is a punishable offence; if workers hand out leaflets they will be fired immediately.

Perhaps worst of all, workers are also effectively gagged from speaking out. Managers at Adidas’ Indonesian suppliers told workers they must lie about their pay, hours and conditions during Adidas factory audits. At a factory in China a worker was dismissed simply for telling an auditor she worked until 10pm on a daily basis.

Adidas has spent £100 million on the Olympics, securing its place as the only official sportswear partner. In return for this financial commitment, Adidas has already sold over £100 million worth of its Olympic clothing lines alone, and more importantly, the company hopes to use the Olympic boost to its brand to overtake Nike as the UK’s sportswear market leader.

While Adidas strives for the profile and association with the positive values of the Olympic Games, in practice the “respect for universal fundamental ethical principles” enshrined in the Olympic Charter does not go much further than the company’s public relations and advertising.

It has been over a decade since the major sportswear brands signed up to voluntary ‘codes of conduct’ in response to campaigns against the widespread exploitation and abuse of workers producing goods for them. Yet all too little has changed for the 775,000 workers in 1,200 factories across 65 countries making Adidas products.

If it wanted to, Adidas could end the appalling exploitation of workers in its supply chains. It could oblige all its suppliers to pay a living wage: covering basic essentials like housing, food, healthcare and education. Through engaging with their supplier factories, Adidas could work to ensure decent working conditions and guarantee

a fairer environment for trade union organising. If workers are free to organise to secure their own rights, without fear of repression or harassment, then we would start to see huge shifts in the whole process.

No company should be allowed to wrap themselves in the Olympic flag unless they guarantee their workers basic rights. London 2012 is our opportunity to extend the Olympic spirit of fair play beyond the Games themselves, so that all workers producing goods for multinationals around the world can benefit, both now and into the future.

Now that would be an Olympic legacy worth celebrating.

PHOTO: WAR ON WANT

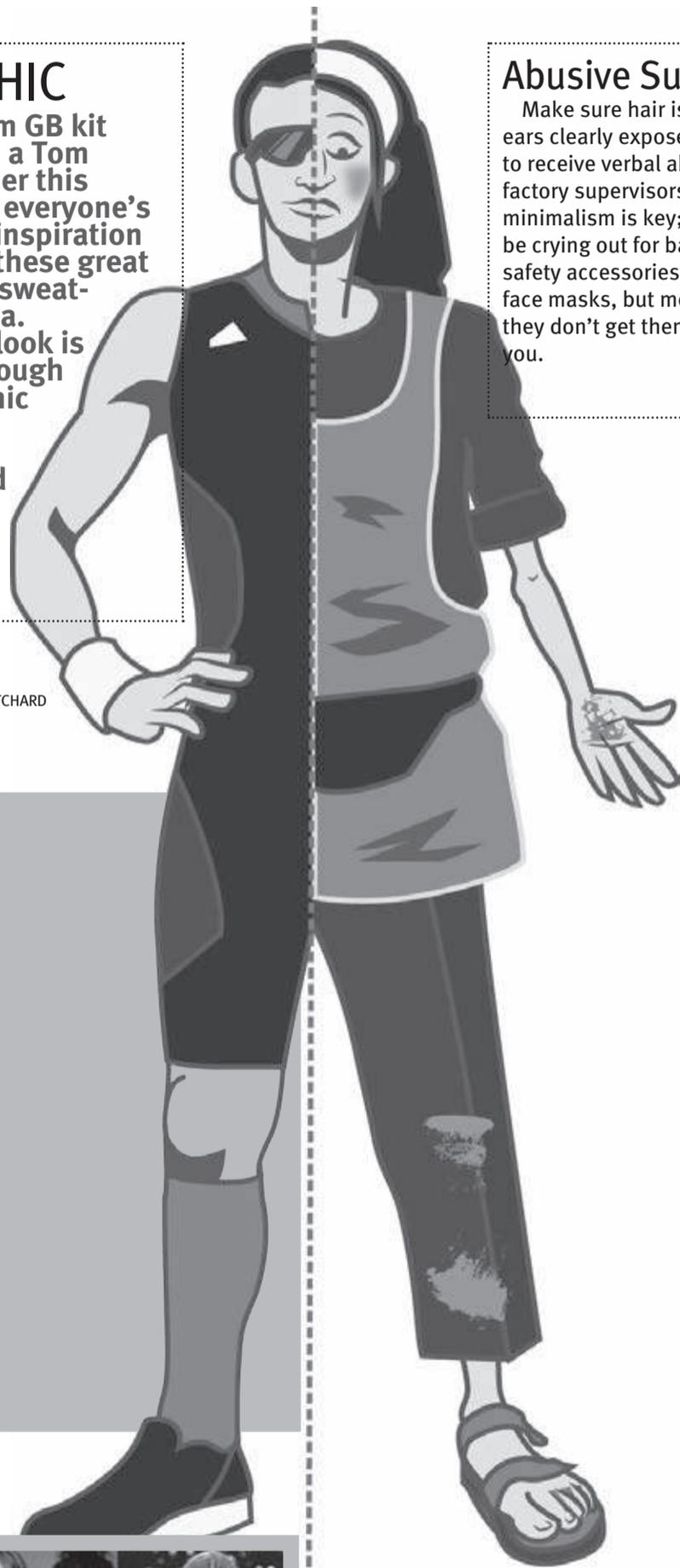


Late FASHION SPECIAL

SWEATSHOP CHIC

Stella McCartney's Team GB kit might have landed with a Tom Daley-style splash earlier this year, but the new trend everyone's talking about takes its inspiration directly from the place these great kits are made – Adidas sweatshops in South East Asia. The sweatshop worker look is currently spreading through East London like an ironic fashion bushfire, and predictably our native hipsters have embraced the look's dystopian minimalism with style and panache.

ILLUSTRATION: TOM PRITCHARD



Abusive Supervisor

Make sure hair is tied back, ears clearly exposed and ready to receive verbal abuse from your factory supervisors. Remember minimalism is key; workers might be crying out for basic health and safety accessories like ear plugs or face masks, but most of the time they don't get them – so neither do you.

No Sweatbands Just Sweat

The sweaty nylon smock is the new little black dress. Yes it's shapeless. Yes it's unglamorous. But low self-esteem is exactly what keeps workers on the factory line, so strike a downtrodden pose and you'll set the look right off.

Dirty Work

Banish the blusher and bin your bright colours! A heavy dose of eyeliner under the eyes can go a long way to giving you that 16 hours a day, seven day a week working gal look. Why not smudge some filth on your clothes for that extra step towards pauper authenticity? Remember sweetie, it's the luxury of dirt.

Malnutrition

Sorry, plus size ladies and gents: this look is strictly for the naturally petite or forcibly starved! An Adidas sweatshop workers earn about £10 a week - which doesn't go far anywhere in the world. If these guys want to pay the rent, they've got to skip some meals. Why not take a leaf out of their book and skip lunch altogether? But be warned: side effects include a weakened immune system, fainting, exhaustion and hair loss.

Dead On Your Feet

Ask any garment worker over the age of thirteen – they'll tell you that comfortable footwear is key for long days working sewing machine pedals. Plain white plimsolls are a good safe bet here. Steer clear of the big name brands; while these workers make shoes for the big brands, it's not like they could ever afford to wear them!.

GET THE LOOK!

OUR STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO ROCKING THE SMOCK THIS SUMMER.



ROCK THE SMOCK!

THE LITTLE NYLON NUMBER HAS BEEN A KEY PLAYER ON THE CATWALKS OF LONDON, MILAN AND PARIS THIS SUMMER.

Late PROPERTY

EAST LONDON Special Edition

IT'S NO SECRET THAT EAST LONDON IS THE PLACE TO BE THIS SUMMER, AND TOURISTS HAVE FLOCKED FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE TO WITNESS THE SPECTACLE OF THE LONDON GAMES. AT THIS MONTH'S EVENT, IT'S NOT JUST SPORTING PROWESS THAT'S GOING TO LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON VISITORS: MANY WILL FLY HOME HAVING LEFT THEIR HEARTS IN EAST LONDON.

OR SO LOCOG ARE HOPING.

Many were initially sceptical when it was announced that the bulk of Olympic action was to take place in Stratford and the surrounding areas. Back in 2007, property journalist Richard A. Snob, of The Gentrification Station, commented, "What's the sense in bunging the Olympic stadium in the middle of one of the ugliest, most socially deprived areas of London? We'll never be able to spruce that dump up in time, let alone be able to shift the locals before the global elite arrives."

How wrong you were, Richard.

Since winning the bid in 2007, East London has been subjected to the kind of rigorous makeover that would make Trinny and Susannah proud. Over the past weeks, months and years, entire boroughs of East London have been painted, buffed and polished. Cracks have been papered over, rioting youths thrown behind bars, and local residents turfed out of their own homes in preparation.

Much of the area's increased desirability has been attributed to the creation of the Olympic Gift Shop (referred to by some as Westfield Shopping Centre). This bastion of consumerism now stands proudly over Stratford station, its bright lights and super billboards ensuring that tourists won't veer off the beaten track and discover what East London is actually really like outside the designated Olympic shopping zone (DOSZ).

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

Welcome to the Carpenters Estate in Newham (pictured). Situated on the fringes of the Olympic Park, the Carpenters enjoys a five star view of the stadium and Anis Kapoor's Orbit tower. Newham council, acutely aware that the world's gaze would soon be fixed firmly on their area, has long since begun an epic process of regeneration, and recently revealed plans to demolish most of the estate. The building is home to around 250 people, all of whom were suitably shocked when they were told they were being kicked out of their gaffs.

The master plan, led by Newham council's Labour mayor, Sir Robin Wales, is for the Carpenters to make way for a new campus for University College London, which gentrification advisers say will "enhance the life prospects of the neighbourhood, and drag Newham kicking and screaming from the gutter to the stars".

The immediate area around the estate was formerly a hub of local industry and the home to many soap factories, and was once upon a time referred to as 'the street of a thousand smells'. A Newham resident campaigning against what he described as 'social cleansing' in the area commented, "The only thing you can smell around the Carpenters estate these days is a rat."

MEDIA SUITES

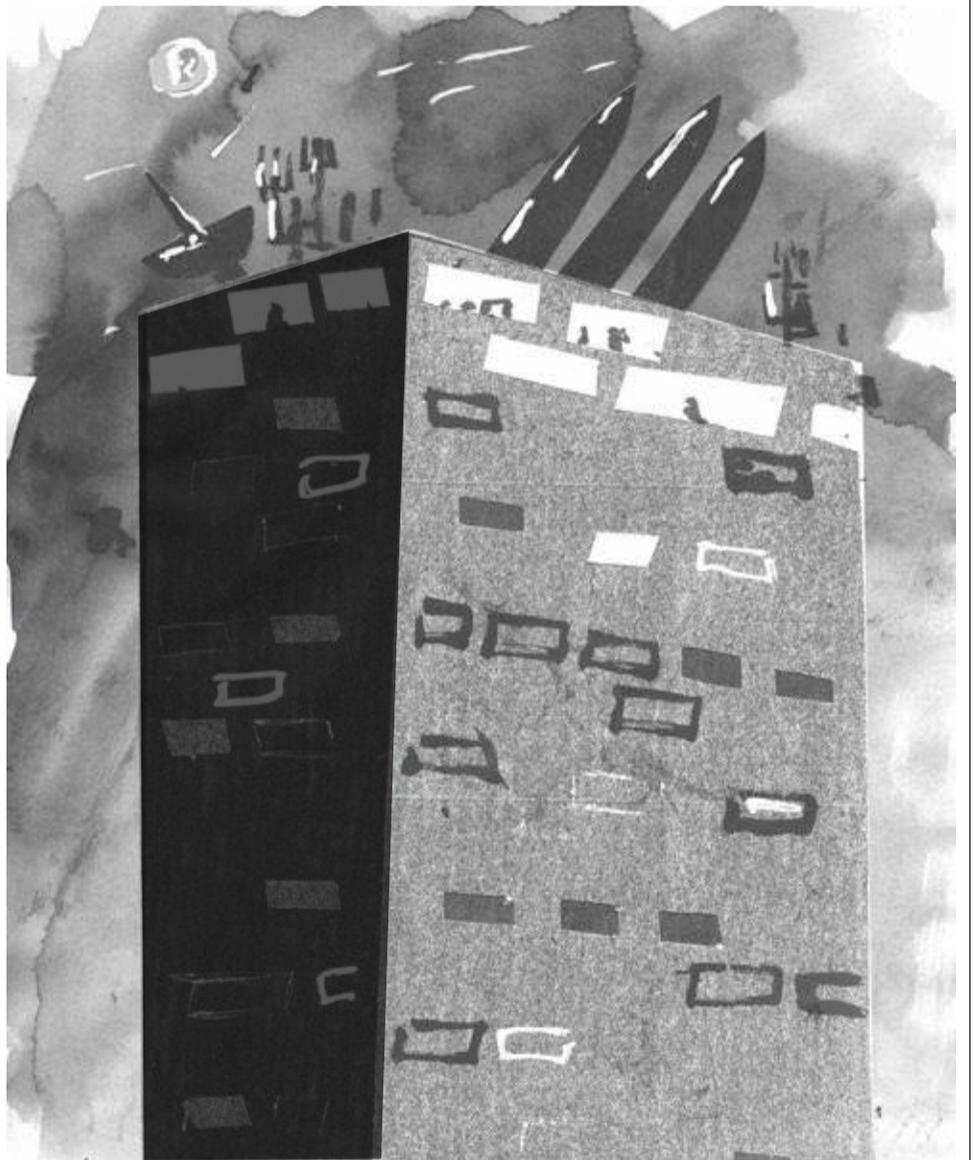
Residents of the Carpenters Estate were even more miffed when they learned that the top five floors of two tower blocks were to be converted into luxury media suites used by the BBC. Sports journalist Mark Jammy exclusively told the London Late, "The view is incredible. We're so close to the stadium you can hear the athletes bitching about each other in the changing rooms." The suites will be sublet, via the BBC, to other media companies for undisclosed sums.

IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A PLANE? NO... IT'S A SUPER MISSILE!

Residents of the Fred Wigg Tower in Leytonstone were not best pleased when they learnt that surface-to-air missiles were to be installed on their roof. Locals were concerned the missiles would make their homes a target for terrorism, and attempted legal action to stop the security measure. If you don't want to know the outcome of this story, look away now.

They lost.

ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS



HACKNEY MARSHES

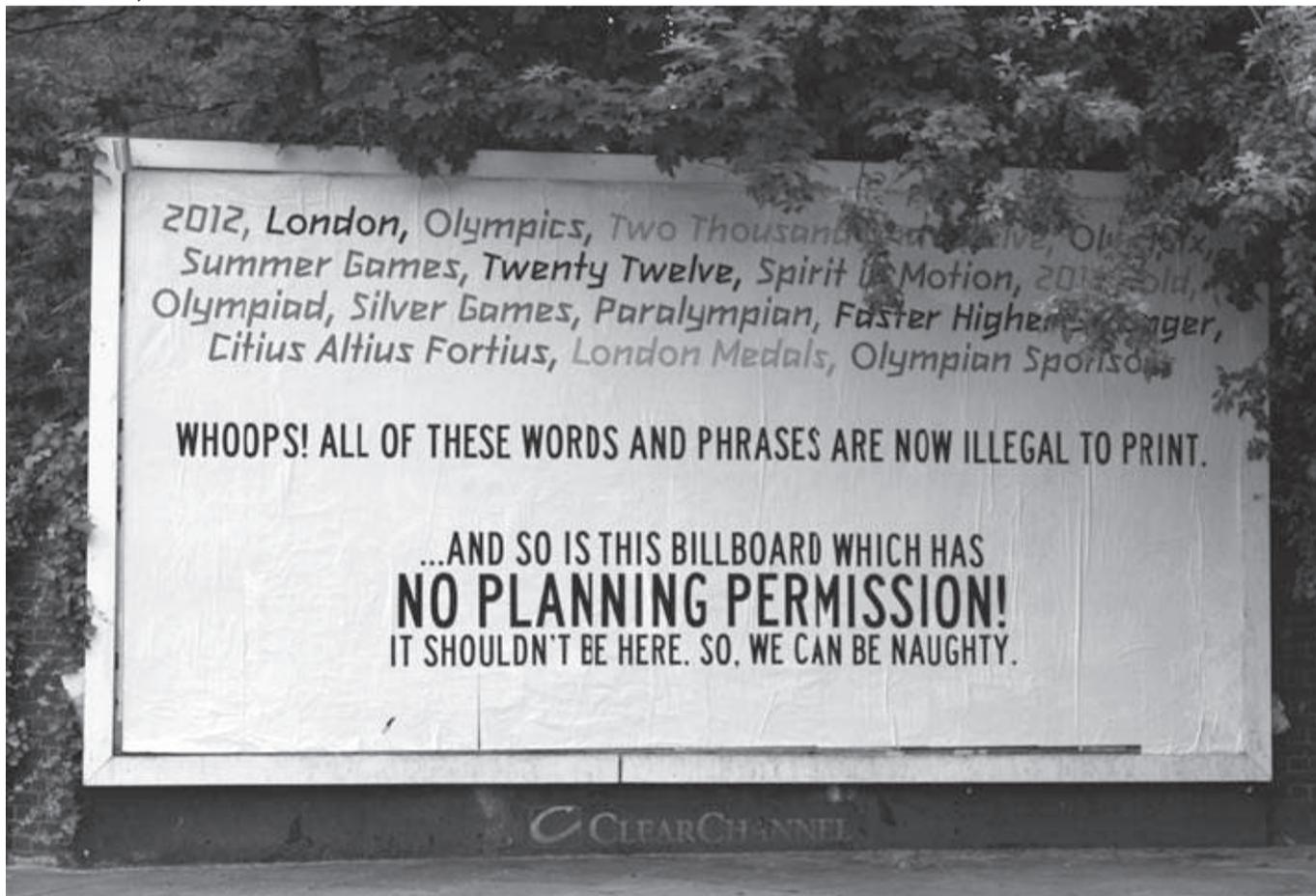
Olympic chiefs have also been criticised for putting people's health at risk by digging up deadly asbestos at an Olympic building site on Leyton Marsh, where a massive basketball training hall has been built. A report commissioned in January this year said the land, used as a dumping ground

for World War Two rubble, was contaminated with lead, arsenic and possibly asbestos. A Hackney tenant commented: "I do find it ironic that an organisation that is supposed to be about health and fitness is playing fast and loose with the health and fitness of our local residents."

Late MEDIA

LOCOG VS THE SPACE HIJACKERS

PHOTO: SPACE HIJACKERS



“THEY HAD OFFICIAL CHOCOLATE BARS, OFFICIAL FAST FOOD OUTLETS, OFFICIAL LOGISTICS COMPANIES – OFFICIAL EVERYTHING – ASSOCIATED WITH THE OLYMPIC GAMES. SO WHY NOT HAVE OFFICIAL PROTESTERS?”

Situationist artists The Space Hijackers have dubbed themselves the Official Protesters of the London 2012 Olympic Games in reaction to regulations set up by LOCOG to protect branding and trademarks for official sponsors.

A spokesperson for the Hijackers commented, “They had official chocolate bars, official fast food outlets, official logistics companies – official everything – associated with the Olympic Games. So why not have official protesters?”

“LOCOG had not only trademarked the use of the word Olympic but ‘London’ and ‘2012’. We were told this was to protect brands who’ve pumped in money to pay for the Games but we’ve not only discovered that it’s mostly being paid for by the public purse, but that the corporations who have vested interests in the Games were given tax-free status!”

Famous for making acute political points with subversive wit, the Hijackers promptly set about redesigning the London 2012 Olympic logo. They then plastered their @spacehijackers Twitter account with the logo to bait LOCOG’s branding monitors, made t-shirts for their friends and set up a website: <http://protestlondon2012.com> detailing the top ten reasons why people should protest the Olympics. The Hijackers were explicit that they were “not opposed to the sports events” and were in favour of having a big party, but “only if everyone’s invited”.

A week of tongue-in-cheek comments proudly declaring their ‘Official’ status landed the Hijackers with a notice from Twitter stating that their account had been suspended due to copyright and trademark infringement.

Index on Censorship soon caught wind of the story and released it to the wider media, leaving the activists to sit back and watch the story spread. In the end, the Space Hijackers got exactly what they wished for: to be made the Official Protesters of the London Games

MEDIA LIST

 THE BHOPAL MEDICAL APPEAL	 WAR ON WANT	 PLATFORM	 UK TAR SANDS NETWORK	 LONDON MINING NETWORK	 LONDON LATE STAFF
<p>www.bhopal.org</p> <p>Twitter: @BhopalMedAppeal</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/bhopalmedicalappeal</p> <p>Email: info@bhopal.org</p> <p>Phone: 01273 603278</p>	<p>www.waronwant.org</p> <p>Twitter: @waronwant</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/waronwant</p> <p>Email: support@waronwant.org</p> <p>Phone: 0207 324 5040</p>	<p>www.platformlondon.org</p> <p>Twitter: @PlatformLondon</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/platformlondon</p> <p>Email: info@platformlondon.org</p> <p>Phone: 0207 403 3738</p>	<p>www.no-tar-sands.org/</p> <p>Twitter: @NoTarSands</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/notarsands</p> <p>Email: info@no-tar-sands.org</p> <p>Phone: 07807 095669</p>	<p>www.londonminingnetwork.org</p> <p>Twitter: @LondonMining</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/londonminingnetwork</p> <p>Email: contact@londonminingnetwork.org</p> <p>Phone: 07929 023214</p>	<p>Editor: Maria del Mar</p> <p>Graphic Design: John Walleit</p> <p>Additional Graphics: Tom Pritchard</p> <p>Cartoons: Tim Sanders</p>

Late CULTURE

A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

A REVIEW OF "THE GIFT" BY LIBERATE TATE

All the best art has the power to surprise. Usually though, it's the exhibition visitor who expects to be surprised, not the art gallery itself.

On Saturday July 7th, a horde of art activists from Liberate Tate delivered an unexpected present to the Tate; a 30-metre wind turbine blade in protest against BP's sponsorship of the gallery.

Artists often invite us to re-examine objects in new contexts (think Marcel Duchamp submitting a urinal to an arts exhibition in 1917). The Gift, however, invites onlookers to re-examine an entire gallery space – what if Tate Modern's Turbine Hall actually contained a wind turbine? What if the name of this famous space stopped being a throwback to the building's past role as a fossil-fuelled power station, and instead became a reference to a cleaner energy future? The blade was an invitation for Tate to embrace that clean green future.

After a brief struggle with the gallery's security, the wind turbine was installed on the Hall's oil-sponsored floor, and the artists stood back to survey their work. The artists wanted to point out the absurdity of relying on oil companies to fund arts institutions; using money made from destroying the climatic conditions that make life – and therefore art – possible in the first place.

The Gift is not currently on public display (other than as a photo and video installation at <http://liberatetate.wordpress.com>), so if you'd like to see it you should write to Nicholas Serota (c/o Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG) and request that it become part of the Tate's permanent collection.

BP OR NOT BP, THAT IS THE QUESTION

SHAKING UP SHAKESPEARE: A REVIEW OF THE RECLAIM SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S SUMMER SEASON OF ANTI-BP GUERRILLA PERFORMANCES

It was April 23rd 2012 – Will Shakespeare's birthday. The audience at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon were settling into their seats before a BP-sponsored performance of *The Tempest*. Five minutes before the show, two shadowy figures strode on stage, speaking the words: **WHAT COUNTRY, FRIENDS, IS THIS? WHERE THE WORDS OF OUR MOST PRIZED POET CAN BE USED TO BEAUTIFY A PATRON SO UNNATURAL AS BRITISH PETROLEUM?**

And so the first-ever performance of the Reclaim Shakespeare Company opened, a troupe brought together by a shared love of the Bard and a loathing of badly behaved oil companies. BP's decision to sponsor the World Shakespeare Festival (part of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad) sparked the formation of RSC's anarcho-thespians.

The *Tempest* intervention was compelling, drawing upon the play itself while making the players' feelings around BP perfectly clear:

THEY, WHO HAVE INCENSED THE SEAS AND SHORES FROM A DARK DEEPWATER HORIZON WHO HAVE UNLEASHED MOST FOUL DESTRUCTION UPON FAR CANADA'S AGED FORESTS, CLAWING OUT THE LUNGS OF OUR SICKENING EARTH. DO WE SLEEP? I FIND NOT MYSELF DISPOSED TO SLEEP. LET US BREAK THEIR STAFF THAT WOULD BEWITCH US! OUT DAMNED LOGO!

With that, the performer ripped the BP logo from his programme, and his colleague invited the audience to do the same. There were some gasps, and a couple of boos, but they were soon drowned out by cheers and applause. A nerve, it seemed, had been struck, and the protest received some sympathetic press.

The next performance took place on 28th June, with three new players taking London's Roundhouse for *The Comedy of Errors*. The narrator told a tale of meeting "two wyrd brothers", one of whom was a green-clad patron of the arts, the other a "noxious, treach'rous, belching oily rogue". Wearing an



PHOTO: ZOE BROUGHTON

enormous ruff in the shape of BP's logo, he made an emphatic appeal to the audience:

YET HERE SIT WE, BELIEVING THIS CONCEIT: THAT BP SPONSORS SHAKESPEARE AND TH'OLYMPICS, AS PARTNER IN SUSTAINABILITY, A GREEN AND PLEASANT BRAND FOR ALL TO SEE AND NOT A VILLAIN IN A POET'S MASK, WHO WITH HIS DARING FOLLY, BURNS THE WORLD. ENOUGH! NO MORE! NOW IS THE SUMMER OF OUR DISCONTENT! OUT, DAMNED LOGO!!!

The audience was packed with BP employees on a staff trip, together with senior figures from the Royal Shakespeare Company. But the applause was no less rapturous.

For the troupe's final performance, a lone performer took the stage at the Riverside Studio before a production of *Romeo and Juliet* in Baghdad by the Iraqi National Theatre. He castigated the World Shakespeare Festival for presenting itself as a friend of Iraqi culture by staging this play, whilst simultaneously taking money from an oil company that lobbied hard for – and profited heavily from – the UK invasion of his country. "BP is a beast" raged the performer, "that fuels the fire of climate change... I hate that company as I hate hell". He left the audience with one final appeal:

O ROMEO, ROMEO! WHEREFORE ART THOU ROMEO? DENY THY SPONSOR AND REFUSE THY LOGO.

Emily Linnemann of the Shakespeare Institute said "Suddenly, the World Shakespeare Festival was... site where performances had the potential to be unstructured, impulsive and radical. BP's sponsorship provided the catalyst for the festival's spontaneity."

BP-sponsored plays are running until October 2012, and the Reclaim Shakespeare Company will be storming another stage soon. You can enjoy videos of the performances at www.bp-or-not-bp.org.

Danny Chivers is a poet and climate change activist

PHOTO: IMMO KLINK



Late CULTURE

LIBERATE TATE COMMUNIQUE #3 THE GIFT

by **LIBERATE TATE**

"IT IS EASY TO SEE," REPLIED DON QUIXOTE, "THAT THOU ART NOT USED TO THIS BUSINESS OF ADVENTURES; THOSE ARE GIANTS; AND IF THOU ART AFRAID, AWAY WITH THEE OUT OF THIS AND BETAKE THYSELF TO PRAYER WHILE I ENGAGE THEM IN FIERCE AND UNEQUAL COMBAT."

DON QUIXOTE, MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

DEAR TATE

There may not be much to celebrate these days, but we have given you a gift anyway. This is perhaps the largest present you have ever received, the most unexpected and the most disobedient, the strangest and the hardest to get rid of. What we have given you is a new work of art, which like all the best works is wrapped in the selflessness of creativity, an act of gratitude that keeps on giving.

Despite recent reports that our biosphere is approaching a 'tipping point' where ecosystems are close to a sudden and irreversible change that could extinguish human life; despite years of creative protest and thousands of signatories petitioning Tate to clean up its image and let go of its relationship with a company that is fuelling catastrophe; despite all these things, Tate continue to promote the burning of fossil fuels by taking the poisoned 'gift' of funding from BP. This is why today we have given you something you could not refuse.

The law of this island requires that all "gifts to the nation", donations of art from the people, be considered as works for public museums. Consider this one judiciously. We think that it is a work that will fit elegantly in the Tate collection, a work that celebrates a future that gives rather than takes away, a gentle whispering solution, a monument to a world in transition.

'The Gift', weighing one and a half tonnes, has been moved hundreds of miles from a Welsh valley, lovingly prepared and carried by hand by hundreds of people across London to be deposited in the Turbine Hall, a space where oil was once burnt to light this city. The journey of 'The Gift' bears witness to an epic of cooperation and points to a time beyond fossil fuels.

Resting on the floor of your museum, it might resemble the bones of a leviathan monster washed up from the salty depths, a suitable metaphor for the deep arctic drilling that BP is profiting from now that the ice is melting. But it is not animal, nor is it dead, it is a living relic from a future that is aching to become the present. It is part of a magic machine, a tool of transformation, a grateful giant.

What we have brought you is the blade of an old wind turbine, sixteen and a half metres long, beautifully sharpened by the weather. It is a blade to cut the unhealthy umbilical cord that connects culture with oil, a blade that reminds us that when crisis comes, when the winds blow strong, the best thing to do is not to build another wall but raise a windmill...

**YOURS, IN GRATITUDE,
LIBERATE TATE**



Tate calls BP a 'friend', but does it know what that friend is up to all over the world? With stories, music and comedy, *Tate à Tate* is an alternative audio tour for Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the Tate Boat running between the two galleries on the River Thames. This sound artwork is a participatory intervention into the relationship between Tate and BP.

Go solo or get together a group of friends to take part. Where do you stand on oil sponsorship of the arts?

Download the mp3 for free from www.tateatate.org.

You bring the iPod, *Tate à Tate* will bring a whole new experience of the gallery.

"portable piece of cultural activism
for the modern age."

Art Monthly

"Thomas Crown Affair meets eco-warrior
sabotage in audio hijinx from *Tate à Tate*,
casting your favourite masterpieces
in new and oily hues."

Don't Panic

www.tateatate.org



Keep up to date with cultural life in the capital, follow @LiberateTate and @ReclaimOurBard



WHY DO OIL COMPANIES LOVE ART?

Companies like BP spend a pretty penny on sponsoring art institutions like Tate, as well as sporting events like the Olympics. But why?

Internal documents from oil companies and their PR agencies often stress the importance of constructing a 'social licence to operate.' This is a kind of subliminal seal of approval from the masses, which enables oil companies to keep on with their (dirty) business, despite the environmental and human rights controversies they cause.

Sponsorship deals provide a social legitimacy amongst an elite audience that distracts people from the devastation of climate change; something too big and too scary to even imagine.

Late (DIRTY) BUSINESS

“Our job is to make a profit”



“LEAST LIKELY TO SAY?”
WE JUST WISH THE GAMES WAS MORE ABOUT BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER RATHER THAN FILLING THE POCKETS OF BIG COMPANIES.

ADIDAS CHIEF EXEC HERBERT HAINER

“WE’RE NOT IN THE WELFARE BUSINESS”

Official Olympics sponsor Adidas recently reported that they are unable to provide evidence that they pay their Indonesian workers any more than 34p an hour, and confirmed that in at least one supplier factory they are failing to pay even that amount. However, it would seem that chief executive Herbert Hainer has missed a memo. Speaking to the Independent recently, he flat-out denied paying workers that rate, before adding: “We are not in the welfare business. Our job is to make a profit.”

OLYMPICS BOSS ADMITS SELLING OUT TO MCDONALDS AND COCA COLA

The president of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, has admitted in an interview with the Financial Times that it “was not an easy decision” to allow McDonald’s and Coca-Cola to sponsor the Games until 2020. While he acknowledged that consuming their unhealthy products would not be a good step towards becoming an Olympian, he confessed that financial concerns won out. As the FT reported: “The growing financial demands of the Olympics were making it harder for the movement to hold on to its long-cherished values, which include taking care of one’s health.”

DOW CHEMICAL SLUMP

Dow Chemical Co. have announced that their 2012 second-quarter net income has fallen by 34%. The company’s share price also took a hit, falling 3.7%. Dow are blaming weaker demand and the ongoing economic crisis, but they’ve also been contending with one of the world’s worst ongoing PR failures: their handling of the Bhopal tragedy. In December 1984, a United Carbide pesticide plant in central India began leaking poisonous gases and other toxic chemicals, eventually killing 20,000 people, poisoning 500,000 more and causing decades of disease. Union Carbide was bought by Dow Chemicals in 2001, but Dow have refused to assume any liability for the tragedy. The Indian Olympic Association has tried to pressure LOCOG to drop Dow as a sponsor, saying Dow’s stance conflicts with the ethical standards of the Olympics.

RIO TINTO TARNISH OLYMPIC MEDALS

Global mining giant Rio Tinto have the prestigious and lucrative job of providing all of the official Olympic medals at London 2012. However, they’re also guilty of human rights violations across the globe. In China, for example, Rio Tinto executives were found guilty of bribery and stealing commercial secrets and subsequently sentenced to lengthy jail terms. Over the sea at the Kelian Gold Mine in Indonesia they’ve been accused of forcible evictions, contamination of local waterways and other human rights violations. Hardly medal-worthy behaviour.

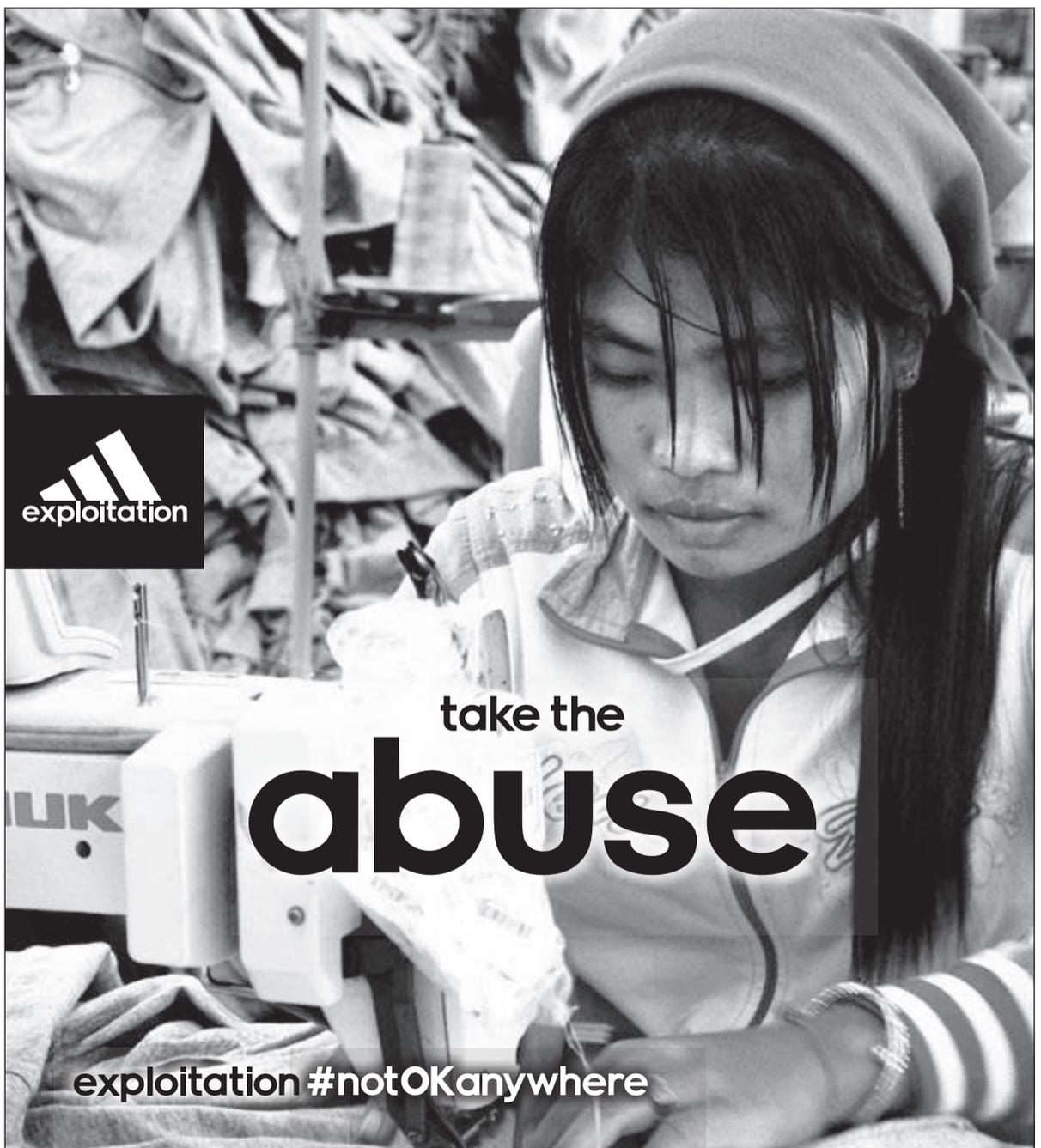
WOULD ATOS ALLOW ATHLETES TO CLAIM SUPPORT?

Atos, the private company behind the controversial computerised test which judges whether benefit claimants are unable to work, have drawn the ire of disability activists by sponsoring the London 2012 Paralympics. The company is paid £100m a year under a contract from the Department for Work and Pensions and tests around 11,000 incapacity benefit claimants every week. However, MPs and disability campaigners alike have highlighted their “flawed” approach which has already left thousands of genuinely disabled people unable to claim essential benefits. Tanni Grey-Thompson, who won 11 Paralympic gold medals as a wheelchair athlete, has said that disability benefit cuts will affect the development of top athletes, while Tom Greatrex, Labour MP for Rutherglen and Hamilton West, pointed out: “It is a cruel irony that the company causing so much distress to thousands of disabled people across the country is now sponsoring the Paralympics.”

CARTOON



CARTOON: TIM SANDERS




exploitation

take the
abuse

exploitation #notOKanywhere

Late SPORT



PHOTO: BHOPAL MEDICAL CAMPAIGN



PHOTO: BHOPAL MEDICAL CAMPAIGN

BHOPAL PARALYMPIC GAMES

On a muddy playing field inside a run-down concrete stadium, just metres from an abandoned pesticide factory and site of the world's worst industrial disaster, the children of Bhopal, India, show the London Olympic organisers what sport is really all about.

The participating children, who are between 5 and 18 years old, all have birth defects, a legacy from their parents' exposure to the gas released in the 1984 Bhopal

Disaster. Either that, or from their long-term use of the contaminated drinking water around the abandoned factory.

With a refreshing absence of sponsors and a distinct lack of expensive branded sportswear, the games opened with a parade of children, some with cerebral palsy, partial paralysis or mental disability; others with twisted or withered limbs.

The children carried brooms, a symbol of their demand that

multinational Dow Chemical take responsibility for cleaning up the plant. Others in the concrete stands held banners reading 'Dow Poisons' or 'Don't let Dow Chemical Contaminate Olympics'.

As the events unfolded, dozens of giggling children raced for gold in wheelchair races and an 'assisted walking' 25-metre sprint. Jamila Bi brought her 11-year-old grandson, Amaan, who has cerebral palsy. "Today these children are

participating, in spite of what Union Carbide did to them," said Jamila. "In spite of what they did, these children are still participating."

Dow Chemical refuse to acknowledge responsibility for any of this toxic waste, despite acquiring Union Carbide in 2001.

DOW CHEMICAL IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE LONDON PARALYMPIC GAMES.

MEAT ON THE BONE

British longjumper Greg Rutherford is 'fat and has too much weight', according to a 2012 Coach, who is sponsored by fast food and fizzy drinks companies that make people fat and have too much weight. A single Big Mac contains over a third of the daily-recommended fat and nearly half the salt of a healthy diet. A can of Coke contains the equivalent of 10 sugar cubes. Speaking last week, the unnamed coach said Rutherford was too chunky to win Gold. Days later, Greg Rutherford has won gold.

Ennis Fever NOT Sweeping BP-Impacted Communities

Celebrations about the remarkable victory of BP-ambassador Jessica Ennis have failed to materialize in large regions of the Gulf of Mexico coastline and Alberta, Canada, home of tar sands extraction.

"It's remarkable what she's accomplished, and all power to her," said Clayton Thomas-Muller of Indigenous Environmental Network, "but when I see newspaper ads of her leaping out of the green and yellow BP logo, all I can think of are Indigenous Peoples who face the loss of lives, livelihoods and their fundamental human rights as a result of devastating tar-sands extraction in Canada."

RIO CALLING

Speculation is already mounting over which companies will sponsor the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. Campaigners have claimed that the London Games could not have come up with less appropriate partners. However, some think the International Olympic Committee might choose even worse partners for Rio's 'greatest show on earth'. Contenders include US agrichemical corporation Monsanto, whose GM seeds face nationwide opposition from Brazilian small-scale farmers. Monsanto supplies GM terminator products which prevent farmers from maintaining their traditional reuse of seeds. Here's hoping South America's first ever Olympics won't see the IOC going nuts in Brazil.



**DO YOU
SEE A
LOGO
ON THIS
PICTURE?**