

Foreign news

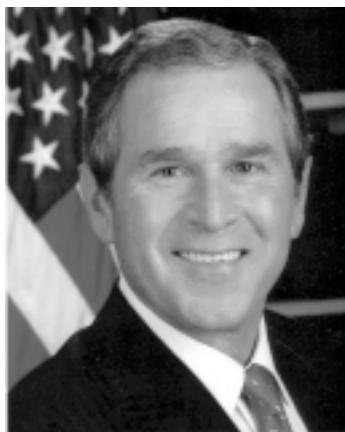
BRITAIN TO OFFICIALLY BECOME THE 51ST STATE

It was confirmed last night that the United States takeover bid of the United Kingdom has been accepted. With news that the UK is to sign up to George W Bush's missile defence programme, the US moved up to hold the crucial 32% of stock that would make it the largest shareholder in the United Kingdom. The case was referred to the Competition Commission (formerly the Monopolies and Mergers Commission) who have given the takeover the green light.

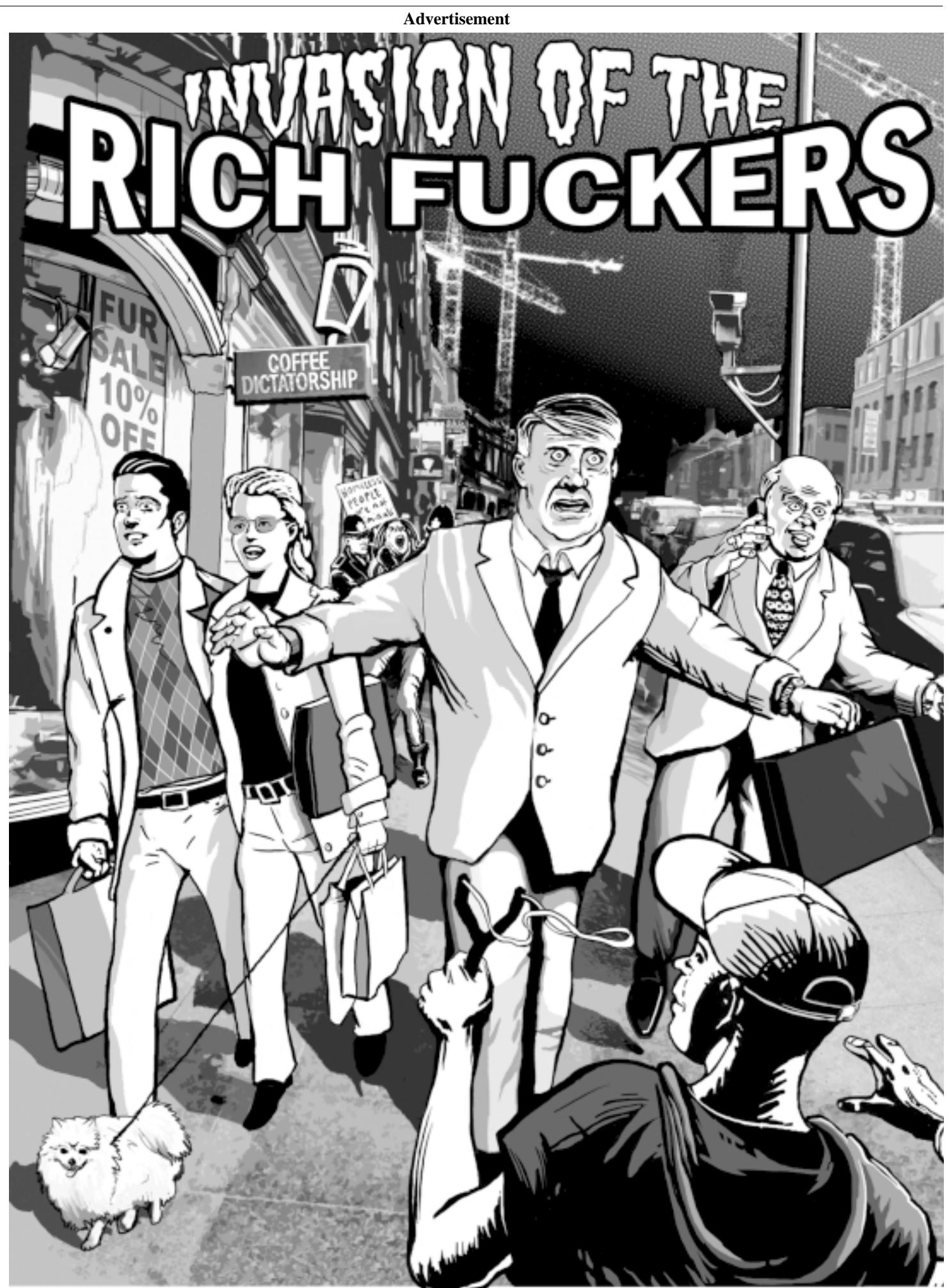
The United Kingdom will now trade under the US brand name and will be officially inaugurated as the 51st state in a special ceremony attended by George W Bush and the former Queen. The replacement of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes started with the new flag being hoisted at Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament. It is thought that parliament will not be dissolved completely but will be allowed to continue in a symbolic capacity, retaining sovereignty over the repair of traffic lights and park maintenance. However, on the point of the monarchy George W Bush stood firm arguing there was only room for one extremely wealthy poster figure as head of state.

Many analysts argue this simply formalises a process that has been in place for some time. The policy of replacing British shops and restaurants with US corporations is well developed with McDonalds officially the most popular restaurant in the UK and with the buyout of ASDA by US retail giant Wal-Mart. The nine US military bases in the UK ensure that large areas of land are officially in the control of the US defence secretary. All property on the land already belongs to the US military and US law applies on the bases ensuring that here the takeover will be a simple process. For years Britain has been bringing domestic policy in line with the US following the privatising of health and transport services, prisons and higher education. Control of foreign policy and military use has already effectively been in US hands for years ensuring that the official transfer of power will involve nothing more than a change in name.

Tony Blair said at a press conference last night: "The transformation of Britain from a separate entity to becoming the 51st state is the logical conclusion of the special relationship. Sovereignty has become nothing more than a bureaucratic obstacle to the free development of the economic marketplace." He added he was looking forward with relish to his new role as George W Bush's personal dog-walker.



HRH Queen George VI



DON'T STAND BY AND WATCH AS OUR CITY'S SOUL IS SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. WHILE GREEDY DEVELOPERS AND THEIR RICH CLIENTS TURN OUR STREETS INTO BREEDING GROUNDS FOR OVERPRIVEDGED YUPPIES AND OVERPAID CORPORATE CRIMINALS. ONCE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES ARE SQUEEZED OUT BY HUGE PROPERTY PRICES AND RENT HIKES. WHILE STREET WARDENS TRAWL THE CITY CENTRE, THE PRIVILEGED HIDE BEHIND GATES AND GUARDS. NOW THE BEGGERS AND THE GRAFFITI ARE CLEANED AWAY. INSTEAD 4X4s FILL THE STREETS WITH THEIR FUMES. ALL THE NEW SHOPS ARE OVERPRICED AND THE BARS GUARDED BY NAZIS. THE ONLY TIME LOCAL FOLK GET IN IS TO CLEAN THE FLOORS. LET'S TAKE OUR CITY BACK. EVICT THE IVORY TOWERS, SWITCH OFF THE CCTV AND SQUAT THE DESIGNER SHOPS. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

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Manchester City Council



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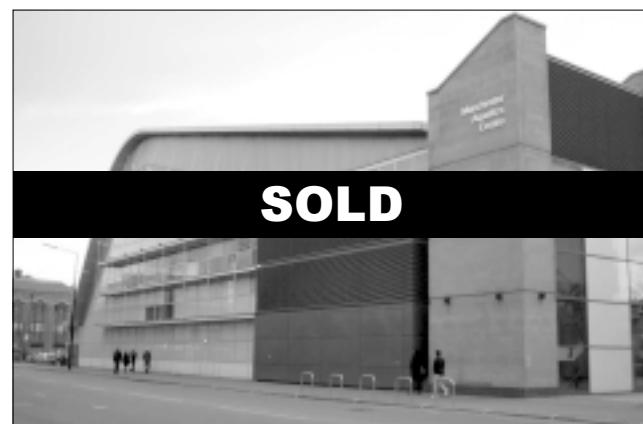
HISTORIC SITE: FREE TRADE HALL

Why not take a pick from one of Manchester's many historic sites for your new corporate venture? We can take care of any potential legal or monument protection issues, as the case of the Free Trade Hall shows: In 1819 record numbers turned out at the site of the former Free Trade Hall to support the demand that every man should have the vote. The event took a turn for the worse when soldiers charged into the crowd killing 11 and injuring 400. This went down in history as the infamous 'Peterloo massacre'. The original Free Trade Hall went up on the site 21 years later, giving Manchester citizens a forum to debate ideas that changed the way world trade worked. But the deeds committing it to use by the general public were conveniently 'lost' by us and the Free Trade Hall was sold and knocked down to make way for the £45 million Radisson Edwardian luxury hotel.



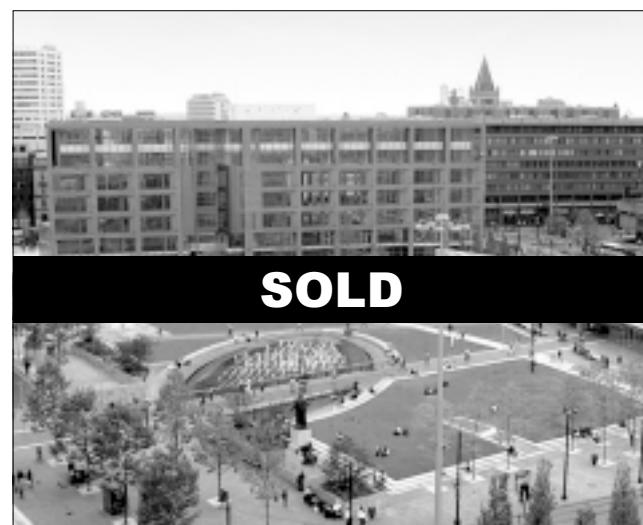
SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

There are plenty of spaces in Manchester which are being misused and are crying out for redevelopment, take Loreto College's playing fields, for instance: Formerly scandalously wasted as playing fields for school kids, this area has now been successfully sold off by us to be redeveloped for residential housing. This is incidentally another example of land that was left by testament to people of Manchester – he he he.



LEISURE FACILITIES

Is your corporation involved in dodgy undertakings such as arms trade and nuclear weapons? Don't worry! Despite Manchester's 'Nuclear Free' status, we can turn a blind eye to that! Take our successful dealings with Serco, for instance: Joint responsibility for Manchester's leisure facilities lies with Serco, a company that also runs prisons, asylum seeker and youth detention centres and police speed camera systems. With contracts in education and transport as well as leisure, Serco just loves the UK's formerly public services. According to its executive chairman: "We are well placed to benefit from significant growth opportunities as the trend towards private sector involvement in public services continues." Serco's background is in the arms trade. Its many current contracts include running the Atomic Weapons Establishment, the only site in the UK that actually manufactures nuclear weapons.



CITY CENTRE GARDENS

Think you should be keeping your fingers off the few remaining public green spaces in the Manchester city centre? Think again: Nearly 250 years ago Piccadilly Gardens was donated to the city on condition that it would remain in public use. However, despite the attraction of having some of the largest trees in the city centre we have completely levelled it and successfully sold off a large chunk for developers to build No.1 Piccadilly. Worried about having to justify your property's use? Don't worry: Like London's Millennium Dome, No.1 Piccadilly serves no particular purpose. It could end up an office block. Or private apartments. Or a hotel. In the meantime it's looking pretty vacant.

WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER:



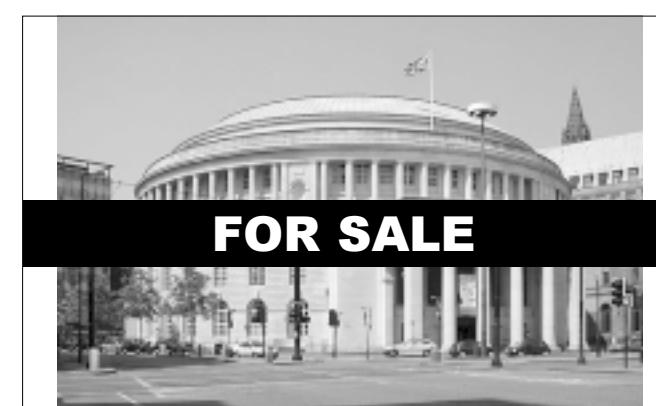
MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

Historic building, perfect for developing into a luxury hotel!! Still not convinced? We can throw in Albert Square at no extra cost!!!



MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

We all know art is a waste of time, but the imposing architecture of this building lends itself to being redeveloped as a casino!!!!



MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

Unique architecture. Currently wasted as a storehouse for books. Obviously, as such, not making any money, but could be converted into a theatre for tacky musicals!!!!

IF YOU'VE GOT CASH AND DON'T MIND A BIT OF PUBLIC ROBBERY CALL: 0161 234 5000

Cartoons by Polyp



Poem by Kofi Annan

As I wandered, nearly napping, poring over dead and dusty volumes of forgotten law

Suddenly there came a rapping, as of someone quietly tapping, tapping in the cause of war

'Tis some visitor, I wondered, looking to unbalance the score

Get early warning ere I take the UN floor

Said the eagle: 'GO TO WAR'

Only this – and nothing more

WHAT Do YOU THINK?

THIS WEEK: WHICH COUNTRY SHOULD WE INVADE NEXT?



MYRA, 23, DIDSBURY:
I've always disliked Switzerland: Small-minded people, very hilly and an extortionate exchange rate. I think it's time we taught them a lesson.

JAMIE, 6 MONTHS,
STOCKPORT:
Ruled by a brutal dictator and backed by the world's dirtiest corporations, with a history of military interventions in other nation's affairs and the biggest stockpile of WMDs on earth, I suggest we avoid America and target somewhere winnable, Greenland for instance.



BOB, 34, WIGAN:
I read somewhere that if the current birth rate is maintained and economic development holds up, Wales will become a major military threat within the next 50 years. Let's act now and march on Abergavenny before it's too late.



We've got away with fighting to make Iraq a seed-bed for Anglo-American interests and now the world is our oyster and the pickings are rich, so where next for our brave boys under their valiant leader, Geoff Hoon?

HANNAH, 30, TRAFFORD:
Although small, Liechtenstein lies at the doorway to a secret world, accessed via wardrobes and populated by talking lions, witches and dwarves. As the oil runs out and our economic priorities shift, access to magic worlds such as this will become more important to our strategic interests. Occupying Liechtenstein would be the first step in securing these interests for Queen and country.



Next week:
Should homosexuals be hacked to death with machetes?
What do YOU think?
Write to us at recyclingbin@manchestereveningnewt.com

Gardener's Question Time

THIS WEEK - WHAT WILL

CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE

MEAN FOR MY GARDEN?

I've noticed that spring is coming earlier and earlier each year. Why is this and what will this mean for my garden?

Spring has indeed been coming earlier. This year flowers bloomed a full two weeks earlier than they did 30 years ago. This is one of the



Photo caption: A garden in Ancoats next year

symptoms of climate chaos where we can expect hotter, drier weather with more extremes like drought and flooding. For the gardener this means lots of new opportunities and challenges. True, most of our traditional well loved species like aster, delphinium, lupin and phlox will die out, native woodlands will be unable to survive and garden lawns will be a thing of the past but a whole host of exotic species will be able to thrive here. Until of course soil erosion and drought kill them off as well.

Is this weather nonsense something to be worried about?

Nooo. You've got to look on the bright side. There will always be doomsayers suggesting that just because we've messed up the most fundamental aspect of our lives, the weather and climate that support and feed us and our entire ecosystem that we should be getting worried. But just imagine - coconuts, palm trees - the possibilities are endless. In the reassuring words of Simon Thornton-Wood, Head of Science and Advice at the Royal Horticultural Society: "Gardeners are adept at coping with the weather and the likely climate change over the next 80 years will present exciting opportunities". So that's OK then.



Global Warming: we're all going to die horribly

What about British birds and wildlife? Will they be affected?

Well its true we may have to say goodbye to much of our native wildlife. If the early springs and dry summers don't get them the lack of food supplies, as most of their traditional supplies and

habitats die off, will. But just think – pineapples, mangos – it's going to be great! Until of course it all goes Siberian in 20 years after we lose the warming Gulf Stream. Then we're fucked.



Weather

