Seraing is a down-at-heel steel town that is effectively a suburb of Liège, in eastern Belgium. It has an unemployment rate of about 25%, and most of its smelting furnaces and rolling mills have closed down, although two chimneys on the banks of the Meuse still belch out sulphurous yellow fumes. In the lower town, at the foot of a hill, conveyor belts and ramps hang over the festival circuit for the first time. But it's no accident they have been Belgium's best-kept secret: they're none (...)

People power overcomes atomic power

Japan's nuclear power industry suffered a historic defeat yesterday when one of the country's biggest utilities was forced to scrap plans for a power plant that it has been trying to build for 37 years. The stunning setback - less than six months after the country's worst nuclear accident - underlines the growing hostility to atomic energy in Japan and raises questions about (...)

Sellafield

Isn't Sellafield just another nuclear power plant? Oh no. It's the site of the world's first commercial scale nuclear power station, Calder Hall, opened by the Queen in 1956, and it generates enough electricity to supply a city the size of Leeds. Sellafield also has a host of other plants, including two reprocessing plants - one to reprocess the waste from the old so-called (...)

Rising tides threaten ageing nuclear stations

Government scientists and experts in the nuclear industry are preparing for a doomsday scenario caused by rising tides around Britain's ageing atomic power stations. As British Nuclear Fuels prepares to close down some of the oldest reactors, nuclear engineers are worried that abandoned plants will be inundated by the sea. The nuclear waste discharged in a flood would contamini
Society

Load of trouble

guardian.co.uk, Wednesday January 26 2000
Paul Brown
Europe's most heavily armed police are dressed from head to foot in black, the visors of their riot helmets down, ready for any form of attack. They carry rifles and have grenades and gas masks dangling below their body armour. In self-defence, they can use the 30mm rapid fire naval cannon or, at close quarters, shotguns. This th

World news

Turkish villagers mobilise against nuclear plant plan

The Guardian, Saturday January 15 2000
Chris Morris in Buyukeceli
"Who's going to want to buy these?", asked Mehmet Bey as he reached out to pluck lemons from a row of trees heavy with the fruit. "Once people know they come from the nuclear village, they'll look elsewhere." Buyukeceli nests in a valley on a remote stretch of Turkey's Mediterranean coast. Apart from the occasional lorry which rumbles through from Syria on its way to Ankara (...)

Technology

Chaos theory proves unfounded - for now

The Guardian, Monday January 3 2000
David Teather, Rory Carroll and Jane Martinson
Many of the world's busiest financial markets will open for business today providing arguably the sternest test yet for the estimated £360bn immunisation against the millennium bug. While the worst fears of planes dropping from skies and nuclear meltdown appear to have been avoided, experts said many undiscovered problems could be lurking in wait for people returning to w

Technology

Global meltdown fears recede

The Guardian, Saturday January 1 2000
Jamie Wilson
Fears of a millennial meltdown caused by computers crashing at the turn of the new century appeared to be receding last night as the first countries to greet 2000 reported no major problems. In New Zealand, the first industrialised country to pass into the new millennium, aviation, telecommunications, electricity and water systems were all working as normal. The Australian (...)

Business

'The best business to have now is a candle factory'

The Guardian, Friday December 17 1999
David Gow in Chernobyl
Gradually, life is returning to Chernobyl. The exclusion zone around the entombed reactor is teeming with new species of plants and birds; elks, wild boar and even wolves roam within the 30km-wide area set aside after the Soviet-built reactor exploded on April 26, 1986, killing at least 31 people. Beyond the army-guarded border crossing, out of the grim mist, slogans appear b

Business

Chernobyl's experience put to work

The Guardian, Thursday December 16 1999
David Gow in Kiev
Chernobyl, scene of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986, will be transformed into a company specialising in the decommissioning of Soviet-built nuclear reactors throughout eastern Europe under plans drawn up by Ukraine's state-owned nuclear generation company. The Chernobyl complex will close next year when its third and last operating reactor is shut down. It is the s
(...is worst nuclear accident in 1986...Ukraine's power, made plain...113m) that plant directors (...)}