Public

**Quangos: back in the firing line**

Guardian.co.uk, Monday March 8 2010
Nick Huber

As politicians fine tune plans for public spending cuts in the run up to the general election, quango leaders could be forgiven for feeling that they have a big target sign on their backs. Quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations, which deliver services ranging from nuclear commissioning and teacher training to arts grants and national savings, have long been accused of...

(...)their backs. Quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations, which deliver services ranging from nuclear commissioning and teacher training to arts grants and national savings, have (...

Comment is free

**Where Michael Moore dared ...**

Guardian.co.uk, Monday March 8 2010
Megan Carpentier

At this year's Oscars, Kathryn Bigelow won best director and her film, Hurt Locker, won best picture despite criticisms from veterans that it failed to take into account much of the daily life of the men and women serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and criticisms that the film itself was as pro-war as it was pro-soldier. Although Bigelow dedicated her award to the men and women (...

Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, he had no access to nuclear materials or technology and his administration had no contact with (...

World news

**Joe Biden and George Mitchell arrive to kick-start Israeli-Palestinian talks**

The Guardian, Sunday March 7 2010
Rory McCarthy in Jerusalem

The US vice-president, Joe Biden, is due in Israel tomorrow for an American diplomatic initiative to start indirect negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The new round of so-called "proximity talks" could be announced as early as tomorrow, but there is scepticism on both sides about the chance of any agreement. George Mitchell, the US special envoy to the Middle Ea...

Discouraging Israel from any military action against the Iranian regime over its nuclear ambitions. Abbas won the support of the Arab League and today (...

Art and design

**Richard Hamilton at the Serpentine**

The Observer, Sunday March 7 2010
Laura Cumming

Mordechai Vanunu is disappearing through the Jerusalem streets in the back of a police van. He is on trial for exposing Israel's covert nuclear arsenal to the west. Unable to communicate with the outside world, he presses his palm against the window in the hope that the message written there will tell his story to anyone with a camera:
"Vanunu M was hijacked in Rome ITL (...) 

(...ja police van. He is on trial for exposing Israel's covert nuclear arsenal to the west. Unable to communicate with the outside world, (...) 

Business

BNFL memoir revives nuclear safety fears

The Observer, Sunday March 7 2010 
Terry Macalister

The autobiography of a former director of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) is likely to reignite fears about the safety of nuclear power, as Britain prepares for a new generation of reactors, by exposing the panic that rocked the industry two decades ago when a link was suggested between radiation and childhood leukaemia. At its height, workers at Sellafield were advised not to

(...The autobiography of a former director of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) is likely to reignite fears about the safety of (...) 

Comment is free

The painful limits of localism

The Guardian, Sunday March 7 2010 
Julian Glover

Every field of endeavour produces its classic conundrums, the tough nuts it never quite cracks. For centuries, engineering sought the secret of perpetual motion. Applied physics keeps looking for an efficient means of storing electrical power. In democratic politics our age is not the first to struggle to devolve decision-making without throwing sand into the wheels of big (...)

(...had voted no not to a supermarket, but a windfarm, or a nuclear plant needed to meet low carbon targets? Courageous locals would be (...) 

Politics

Michael Foot, the last in a long line of radical polemicists

The Observer, Sunday March 7 2010 
Tristram Hunt

"I judge a man by one thing, which side would he have liked his ancestors to fight on at Marston Moor?" So said Isaac Foot, West Country bibliophile, Liberal MP, Nonconformist and father of Michael. The former Labour leader's death last week has shone a light on the recent past of the British left ? the winter of discontent, the split with the SDP, the Bennite vandalism. But i

(...)in the aftermath of the Peninsular war ? in his campaign for unilateral nuclear disarmament. What Foot loved about history was the polemical forcefulness found (...) 

Music

Dizzee Rascal

The Observer, Sunday March 7 2010 
Kitty Empire

Vindication may be an abstract concept, but it looks a little like this: five thousand delirious Brightonians of various hues and ages, hollering along to "Bonkers", Dizzee Rascal's appositely named No 1 hit. Pyrotechnics pop; confetti pirouettes through the air and Dizzee – possibly the happiest man to hail from the benighted borough of Bow, east London – grins goofily. Ten y

Business

Government must 'take back control' of North Sea oil and gas production

The Guardian, Sunday March 7 2010 
Terry Macalister

Ministers must wrench back control of oil and gas production from the private sector if Britain is to maximise the value of the remaining reserves in the North Sea, a respected petroleum academic has warned. Peter Odell - whose area of expertise is the economics and politics of energy, and who remains emeritus professor of international energy studies at Erasmus University Rot

Business

EDF nuclear reactor carries 'Chernobyl-size' explosion risk

The Guardian, Sunday March 7 2010 
Kim Willsher in Paris

French anti-nuclear campaigners claim a new power plant being built in Normandy carries an accident risk of "Chernobyl proportions". Sortir du Nucléaire, a protest network, says leaked confidential documents show that tests on the third-generation pressurised water reactor present a potentially catastrophic scenario. The network has eight internal papers showing the results o

French anti-nuclear campaigners claim a new power plant being built in Normandy carries (??)