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1. Irish pylon protest group NEPP (North East Pylon Pressure) has raised over a million Euros. Actually it's over a million pounds – there's not much difference nowadays! In one initiative they sold over 7,000 raffle tickets at 100 Euros each and gave a top prize of a quarter of a million Euros. Winners announced in Feb 2009: www.pylonpressure.ie

2. Risk of cancer from night shift work is in the news 16-3-09 as Denmark begins compensation. This risk is IARC class 2A (uncertain, but a “probable carcinogen”), compared with power-frequency EMF in class 2B (“possible carcinogen”). See news247.7 and its Appendix C. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7945145.stm>

3. The new SAGE Phase II website has been set up by Golder and can be found at <https://www.efacility.co.uk/sage/>

4. World blogs are enjoying research on magnetic alignment of cows and their disturbance by fields from power lines. http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/03/17/non_aligned_cows/
Publication in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences is serious stuff! The latest is by Burda et al in Vol. 106, No. 11, *PNAS published online before print March 19, 2009, doi:10.1073/pnas.0811194106*, <http://www.pnas.org/>. A previous paper from the same team, by Begall et al in *PNAS* 105(36), 13451, is available.

5. Magnetic alignment of cows may not be as daft as it sounds, viewed in the context of the rapidly growing topic of animal navigation. That includes birds, reptiles, fish and insects engaged in migration and homing. New genetic science is unearthing molecular mechanisms of magneto-reception. There has been much discussion in the Animal Navigation Forum run by the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN), to which Denis Henshaw and I have variously contributed. <http://www.rin.org.uk/>

6. An English translation of the French (Angers) court ruling (news269.2) of 5 March is now available at <http://www.next-up.org/France/Maine-et-Loire.php>
For political reaction, and a confidential EDF document about harm from powerlines, see <http://www.next-up.org/Newsfromtheworld/Medias.php#1>

7. Growing world population will cause a "perfect storm" of food, energy and water shortages by 2030, the UK government chief scientist is warning. This Revolt "column" has often flagged the sometimes taboo subject of over-population (news267, 243, 218, 204, 193 etc.). Over-population is an even bigger issue than energy sustainability and climate change. Gradually recognition is emerging in the UK, through the Optimum Population Trust, Jonathan Porritt (but disowned by the Sustainable Development Commission), the All Party Parliamentary Group and now the UK Chief Scientist.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/-/1/hi/uk/7951838.stm>

8. Some may see the Chief Scientist's statement as a bid for funds for GM and other science. I do not share the techno-fix optimism that science will solve the problems – at least not adequately in time. Improving production and efficiency will not stop population growth, rather it may encourage it. Our children and grandchildren seem likely to face direct problems of "adaptation" to the population crisis in their lifetime as well as difficult policy problems of "mitigation" for the longer future.