

THE ANARCHIST



CRITIC

ISSUE 68 SEPT. '08

www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk

DAMPNESS KILLS, IT'S OFFICIAL!!!

Is there anyone out there who believes that removing dampness and mould from a person's home and improving the temperature would not improve their health? Once again the experts set out to prove the obvious creating the impression that something is being done about the problem.

"The effect of improving the thermal quality of cold housing on blood pressure and general health: a research note
Objective: To examine the effect of improving the thermal quality of housing on blood pressure (BP) and general health.

Design: A before and after study comparing the changes of the intervention with controls.

Setting: Four blocks of flats in the Easthall area of Easterhouse in Glasgow.

Participants: Residents of the four blocks who agreed to participate.

Intervention: Two blocks of flats were upgraded from being cold, damp and mouldy to being comfortably warm, dry and mould free throughout.

Main outcome measures: Changes in BP, general health and financial status.

Results: In the intervention subjects, systolic and diastolic blood pressures fell very significantly ($p < 0.000$). There was also an improvement in general health as reported subjectively, and as indicated by a reduction in the use of medication and in hospital admissions. In addition, there was a markedly reduced expenditure on heating costs and other previous expenses. There were no changes in the control subjects in any of these measures.

Conclusion: Improving the thermal quality of housing to eliminate damp and mould and produce a comfortable temperature throughout the house has a major impact on the health of the residents. There are also financial benefits for the residents, and indirectly for the NHS."

However, the citizens of Glasgow are still living in damp cold houses and the situation will get dramatically worse this winter as the fuel bills go through the roof. This winter all the resultant health problems of cold damp houses will, as usual, peak, high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, asthma and a host of other avoidable health problems, some resulting in death. The reason? Because we live in a system where money matters more than the health of the people. The solution is there, this system says it costs too much. There is a choice, capitalism; a system for the benefit of the shareholders, or anarchism; a system for the benefit of the people

MORE ON BIG BROTHER.

The British government who already monitors its citizens by CCTV cameras, e-mail, text messages and phone calls, now wants to make the monitoring data available to "security and law enforcement agencies, local councils, and 'other public bodies'". How secure is your personal data as it is shunted around the country, and imagine the possibilities for abuse by whoever want to do a character assassination on a political opponent or prominent dissident??. There doesn't seem to be any checks and balances, and no way to protect the individual against the obvious possibility for false positives. Just because I google "terrorist" doesn't mean I am one. What is there to protect the public from some misinterpretation or interference or error in the collected and 'made accessible' data of text messages and emails, and a not too distant future home-grown version of Guantanamo Bay for people whose pattern of phone calls does not fit the police definition of acceptable?



CAPITALIST SOCIETY?

"You're obliged to pretend respect for people and institutions you think absurd. You live attached in a cowardly fashion to moral and social conventions you despise, condemn and know lack all foundation. It is that permanent contradiction between your ideas and desires and all the dead formalities and vain pretences of your civilization which makes you sad, troubled and unbalanced. In that intolerable conflict you lose all joy of life and all feeling of personality, because at every moment they suppress and restrain and check the free play of your powers.

Octave Mirbeau

THE STATE AND FEAR.

As far as the state is concerned the politics of fear is the most effective way of gathering support for the state apparatus. People's fears, manufactured by state propaganda, lead them to accept all manner of draconian measures that they are told will protect them from the foreign enemy. Terrorism, the faceless, invisible threat, is the perfect candidate for the state to further its control over its citizens. In the eyes of most of its people the state is seen as protecting them from that faceless, invisible threat while tightening its control over them. Because the Orwellian state, the desired outcome of all modern states, will only be accepted through a fear from which the state is believed to be protecting us, it is therefore not foolish to expect that the state will create and foster such fears.

Since the 9/11 affair we have seen the state in this and most other countries pass more and more control legislation that they could never have attempted had there not been a climate of fear, a fear fanned by their propaganda. In this country we now have more CCTV cameras per head of the population than any other country in the world, mass surveillance of the ordinary people on a scale never before envisaged and it is readily accepted because of this climate of fear. With this control and mass surveillance we see our right to peaceful protest being stifled, dissent being labelled suspect or even terrorist in nature. We now have to ask ourselves, is this fear justified, what is the **REAL** evidence, are we prepared to see our lives being tied in ever tightening controls, our every movement monitored and our avenues of protest being closed down? Is this acceptable in a so called democracy? It is now more than ever time to challenge the state before there is no right to peaceful protest, no voice of the people to rein in the obtrusive power of the state. Later could be too late.

USE YOUR POWER, OR GIVE IT TO THE NUMPTIES!

Unlike the ballot, where you have pre-selected choices, with direct action you have limitless possibilities for creation and resistance. These are just a few.

You can become the media by writing, photographing and filming your own news and posting or printing them through Indymedia.org network.

You can plant community gardens on unused plots of land, reaping both fresh food and solid bonds with your neighbours.

You can find ways to resolve conflicts and address abusive behaviour through community accountability groups of peers, rather than invoking more violence through the police.

You can reclaim the roads for bikes through Critical Mass rides that challenge the strangle hold of the car culture.

You can organise non-hierarchical self-education groups and skill shares to teach each other the knowledge your community wants, without schools.

You can occupy abandoned and unused buildings for housing and community projects and defend people facing eviction from their home.

You can create all sorts of goods and services exchange for free and cultivate a culture of mutual aid.

You can refuse government and corporate regulation of public space through Reclaim the Streets parties.

You can collect food that would otherwise go to waste and share it with your friends and neighbours through a Food not Bombs group and other grocery distribution programs.

You can organise bike collectives to share tools, parts and skills, decreasing your reliance on the car.

You can connect with people and communities in resistance all across the world, we are one people, we are everywhere, it is our world.



QUOTES FOR THE DAY.

EDUCATION; *"The teacher stands in front of the class with a lesson plan he can't recall /The students eyes can't perceive the lies bouncing off every fucking wall/His composure is well kept/I guess he fears being played the fool/The complacent students sit and listen to that bullshit he learned in school."* **Zack de la Rocha:**

IMAGINATION; *"In vain do I try to soar in fancy and imagination above the dull reality around me but beyond the roof of the factory I cannot rise."* **anonymous Mill worker, 1826**

REVOLUTION; means exploding the constraints that keep us locked into this one compressed point of possibility of how we can live together, and allowing all of us to expand outwards into the limitless possibilities that exist beyond hierarchy. **Anon.**

YOU CAN START YOUR OWN REVOLUTION

9/11 --- 12/16??

Say 9/11 and everybody will know what you are referring to and as the 7th anniversary passes, heads of state will pass their comments similar to Tony Blair's words, "*the worst crime ever committed against humanity.*" It was indeed a dreadful crime and many suffered and died with many more carrying the loss of loved ones for the rest of their lives. On the pretext of hunting for its perpetrators it also unleashed brutal violence and wars in other countries backed up with all the might of the Western world. That violence still continues in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, there is no comments from Western leaders on the brutal crime committed on 12/16??

December 16, 2008 will mark the 10th. Anniversary of an even more brutal crime against humanity than 9/11. A crime that caused more deaths and more destruction than 9/11. It will pass without any wall-to-wall media coverage, without the bowed heads of those political Western Leaders, I doubt if it will even get a mention. Its perpetrators will not be hunted down and brought to justice. Why, because they were Western leaders and not a vague foreign organisation.

Three years before 9/11, December 16, 2008, Clinton and Blair set in motion Operation Desert Fox and for four horrendously terrifying nights, defenceless civilians were brutally assaulted by an invisible enemy. 10,000 people died, mostly women and children, more than three times the number on 9/11. The "military" targets that were obliterated included Baghdad's residential area, Hal Adel, the Baghdad Museum of Natural History, Baghdad's Teaching Hospital, the Tikrit Teaching Hospital and the home of Saddam's daughter Hala.

What rained down on the civilians of Iraq those four nights included, 325 cruise missiles launched by the US Navy, 100 launched by the US Air Force. On top of this UK and US bombers flew 650 sorties. The pentagon had calculated on a "medium-based scenario" of 10,000 civilian deaths. A calculated, state perpetrated kill that had no legal sanction, no UN mandate, no form of international authorisation.

Tony Blair has often used 9/11 as a support for the attack on Iraq, but Operation Desert Fox, 16/12 was three years before 9/11.

Why are the perpetrators of the 16/12 "*the worst crime ever committed against humanity*" not being hunted down and brought to justice, we know who they are and where they are.

- **Bertrand Russel** "*Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth -- more than ruin -- and even more than death.... Thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible, thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habit. Thought looks in to the pit of hell and is not afraid. Thought is great and swift and free, the light of the world, and the chief glory of man.*"



G8 AND ALL THAT!!

Some questions that I think should be asked about the G8 protests.

1. Has the protests ever altered any of the G8 decisions?
2. Has the protests every prevented a G8 summit from taking place?
3. Has any of the publicity from the G8 protests been beneficial to the cause of the ordinary people?
4. Has any of the publicity from the G8 protests ever portrayed the richness of anarchist philosophy?

I consider direct action as the cornerstone of anarchism, I don't however see the G8 protests as direct action, I see it more as civil disobedience in an attempt to claim the moral high ground. I believe that direct action in anarchist ideology refers to the actions of ordinary people in an attempt to correct an imbalance of power, action by the people to try to create new rules and structures and new ways of living their lives. There is a difference between militancy and direct action. Working to rule is direct action, forming cops is direct action, the IWW tactic of all clocking off early to bring about a change in working hours is direct action. Organising what will be nothing other than a confrontation with the police is not in my mind direct action. Merely expressing your anger is not direct action. At the front of the G8 protests will be agents provocateurs and some mindless angry individuals setting the scene for the media to have a field day, others will be there merely to make a point, not to actually change anything, this is not the collective action of ordinary people. The media will always see that you don't have the moral high ground in the eyes of the public at large, that will go to the authorities trying to keep "law and order."

Perhaps as the G8 approaches we should all stay at home and organise as much publicity among the ordinary people informing them of what exactly the G8 is, who are the power mongers, where the power will be directed, the reasons behind those decisions and how it will impact on their lives and the lives of others. Raising awareness and trying to formulate strategies to combat those decisions at grass roots level. We sure as hell wont influence the decision makers by shouting outside their police ringed hotel.

ANARCHISM ONLINE.

www.radicalglasgow.me.uk

Local resource and home of the Anarchist Critic

www.iwwscotland.org

Revolutionary trade union run by its membership.

www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com

Libertarian socialist organisation building strength in communities and workplaces.

www.libcom.org

Anarchist/libertarian/communist news and resource site.

www.classwar.uk.org

Militant anarchist group, publishers of the newspaper of the same name.

www.freedompress.org.uk

The oldest British anarchist newspaper, going strong since 1886.

www.anarchistfaq.org

Infoshop.org's Anarchist FAQ, details what anarchism is and why you should help it come about.

www.solfed.org.uk

The Solidarity Federation, British section of the International Workers' Association.

www.katesharpleylibrary.net

Library of Anarchist history.

www.schnews.org.uk

Free alternative news site.

www.citystrolls

Think of your City and make it happen.

www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk

Glasgow anarchist's website.

www.redpepper.org.uk

A radical independent magazine.

www.akuk.com

Anarchist publications.

BUCHANAN STREET STALL..

Most Saturdays in Buchanan Street just across from Borders bookshop there will be an anarchist stall displaying anarchist literature, pamphlets, posters and books, with plenty of free handouts. At the stall we will have friendly, enthusiastic and informed individuals who will be eager to engage in conversation, dialogue, discussion, and any exchange of ideas. This is the place to come to voice your dissatisfaction with today's world, say what you think is wrong about our society, find out how you can become involved in doing something about those complaints. A chance to discuss the alternatives to this corrupt and greed driven society. Drop by, we want to hear what you have to say.

www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Handle every stressful situation like a dog.

If you can't eat it or play with it,

Just pee on it and walk away

BIG BROTHER IS STALKING YOU.

Heard this one before...." If you're not doing anything wrong you've nothing to worry about". How's about..." I'm not doing anything wrong so **STOP FILMING ME!!**"

It has recently been revealed that the police in Britain now have the capability to read 10 million car licence plates *a day* and will be rising to *50 million a day* in the near future and they will keep all these car journeys for up to a year!

In these days of "no money available" the government spent £32 million on Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras to help identify drivers who pick their noses at traffic lights or have a nodding dog in the back of their car....oops sorry, apparently its to stop "terrorism".

Oh well, now we can watch the fat polis stopping outside chippies and doughnut shops! Watch you're backs! **Svengali.**

Plutocracy: The rule by the wealthy, or power provided by wealth. In a plutocracy, the degree of economic inequality is high while the level of social mobility is low.

The UK is a plutocracy in which there is a merging of money and government.

Speak out:

Your news, views and ideas are welcome, what's on your mind, what gets up your nose about today's society, write and let us know at **annarky**

@radicalglasgow.me.uk

