

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC



Issue 69 October 08

We will try to produce this bulletin on a regular basis highlighting policies and events that influence our lives but are dictated by corporate institutions and governments beyond our control. If we, the ordinary people desire a world for all our children, we must resist, organise, and take control.

CREDIT CRISIS AND FEAR IN THE MARKET!!!

The headlines shout at you, "FEAR GRIPS THE MARKETS" what exactly are they talking about? Who's fear and what are they afraid of? Well it seems to be the fear of all those sweaty palmed greedy little billionaires, they are afraid that their billions will shrink to millions and they are trying to grab their loot and hide it somewhere until it is safe to bring it out and start to screw us again.

Governments always waffle about how they are trying to help the people but there is nothing like fat cat capitalist parasites squealing, for the government to show its true priorities. Governments have always intervened in the economy, but always on the side of the capitalist, the free market is a neo-liberal myth. This government has made a pledge to eradicate fuel poverty by 2010. In spite of it getting much worse, they tell us that they have done everything that can be reasonably done and since 2000 have spent £20 billion on the project, that is 8 years expenditure. However their capitalist friends shout "CRISIS" and with one throw of the shovel they toss £50 billion of our money at them shouting, "Save the spivs" oops sorry, "Save the bankers, save the bankers". The £50 billion of course is just the tip of the icing, oops sorry, iceberg. There is another £250 billion of loan guarantees and a further £200 billion to fluff out some other bits of banking petty cash, all our money. We are talking about £500 billion of tax payers money being flung in one mad throw of the dice in the banking charlatans game. We are talking about more than four years money for the entire health service, at approximately £106 billion a year. While we are throwing money around how about the 850 million human beings that are starving, or the 2.6 billion that lack proper sewage, then of course there are the other features of the free market, the 640 million children with inadequate housing or the 800 million people who are illiterate. The system stinks and what we are seeing is its sewage washing over us the ordinary people, who will be expected to pay for all this "bailout" with unemployment, foreclosures, cuts in social services and increase taxes. This is a bail out of the rich by the poor, welfare for the rich.

Now is not the time to protest asking our masters to try to ease our suffering a little while they play their crooked game. It is not the time to march from A to B with banners asking for more crumbs to allow us to work harder. This is an opportunity to once and for all trash this corrupt and unjust system of greed. We have to organise in an attempt to circumvent the system, to short cut the system, to work outside the system. To organise different types of co-operatives within our communities, and other forms of working class mutual aid schemes, defend those facing foreclosures. Why should we pay for their greed, it would appear that profits are private but losses are socialised. We have to stop playing their game to their rules, the dice is loaded.

It took the arms build up and the destruction of the second world war to pull the world's economies out of the last great depression 1929/33, perhaps that's what they have in mind for us this time round. Only the organising of the ordinary people can stop this.



Cartoon from the Independent Oct. 9.

GIMME GIMME GIMME

In a recent email to the Anarchist Critic, British Gas said the following.....Ahem "Obviously a company such as ours thinks long and hard about the effect on our bonuses before taking the decision to put profits up massively....but if we are to continue the boards massive investment program in second homes in Provence and first class holidays in the Caribbean then a rise in profits such as this is unavoidable"

They also confirmed they couldn't rule out another massive wave of profit increases in 2009. **Svengali**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS STRIKE OVER PAY CUTS

Local government workers in Scotland took strike action on 20 August and 24 September as part of their campaign for a fair pay offer from the employers. Many local government workers are carrying out essential jobs for low wages so union members were angered by a pay offer of 2.5% when inflation is running at 5%. They rightly felt that they were being offered a pay cut and support for the strikes was solid and widespread.

The employers claim that times are difficult and money for public services tight. This is a nonsensical argument! When economic conditions were “better” did the government make more money available to end low pay in local government? No, they repaid national debt, built the millennium dome and started a couple of wars. Why should we now accept their claims they can't pay a fair wage increase?

The other bogus claim made by government bosses is that to pay reasonable wage increases in the public sector would fuel inflation. Over recent years public sector pay rises have been at an annual rate of around 2%, the rate of inflation or less; whilst private sector pay rises over the last year have run at 3.8%. World commodity prices are fuelling inflation; but it's convenient to find a scapegoat in striking public sector workers.

Strike action in local government has been suspended to consider a revised pay offer of 3% this year and 2.5% next. There is no mention of any specific proposal offer a greater increase for the lowest paid. Chief executives will get the same rate of pay increase as those barely above the minimum wage. This offer was made immediately before a widespread programme of selective strike action was to start. We are in a position of strength, the danger is that the Union bosses will rush to sell us a deal that gives everyone a pay cut in real terms and does nothing to address the disgrace of low pay. **Local Government Worker**

DOORS OPEN AT GOVANHILL BATHS

On Sunday 21 September over 900 people queued for up to an hour to be given tours of the Edwardian baroque style baths building as part of the annual Doors Open Day.

The closure of the much loved facility by Glasgow City Council in 2001 caused much anger in the local community. An occupation of the building followed which led to the violent eviction of the occupation by the Council, Sheriff Officers and Police, which was seen on TV screens around the world.

This mass direct action by members of the local community has demonstrated the strength of this type of action. After spending what must total hundreds of thousands of pounds of our money to keep the community out of this building, the Council has now agreed to give the building to the Govanhill Baths Trust, which is on track to re-open the Baths in 2011.

A victory for the power of the collective action of ordinary people. The challenge now is to ensure that the management of the Baths Trust is transparent, democratic, accountable and responsive to the community it serves. **CL.**

www.govanhillbaths.com

www.glasgowdoorsopenday.com

GLOBALISATION.

Globalisation doesn't help people it only helps corporations, it will destroy incomes for the vast majority of the developed world. The west has been on a plateau for about thirty years, a descent to the global norm for similarly skilled/trained labour is inevitable. Globalisation means a reduced standard of living for the west and all developed countries, not necessarily a major increase in the living standards of the developing countries. The effects of this lowering of living standards for the developed countries without the compensating rising in living standards for the developing world helps to produce increased profit for the corporations and that is what it is all about Global corporations are not patriotic, they do not recognise borders, the planet is their sphere of operations. It can only be defeated if the ordinary people of the world adopt the same strategy, non patriotic, no borders and unite on a global basis. The world's resources belong to the world's people and should be controlled by them for the benefit of all, not controlled by a small band of greedy parasites with a short term view of profits before everything else and poverty for the majority.

PSYCHOPATH .

“There are only two types of psychopaths, there are inadequate psychopaths and there are adequate psychopaths. We usually find the inadequate psychopaths in hospitals or in prisons. We tend to find the adequate psychopaths at the head of large corporations or as leaders of governments”



ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST COUNTRIES??

Though it is obvious the the people don't enjoy those riches. According to a recent survey the UK offers among the lowest quality of life in Europe despite residents earning the highest incomes, We are among the highest price of fuel and other essential goods, while below average spending on health and education, short holidays and late retirement place the UK just above Ireland at the bottom of the uSwitch.com European quality of life index.

Although British families earn more than £10,000 more than the European average, they pay the highest prices for diesel, 18% above the average, and the second highest price for unleaded petrol, 6% more than average. They also pay 49% more for gas and 5% more for electricity - the third highest prices in Europe.

UK spending on healthcare and education is below the European average while life expectancy is the third lowest at 78.9 years, compared to 80.9 in France or 80.7 in Sweden.

Workers have the third highest retirement age and suffer the shortest holiday entitlement - a week below average, according to the study. A total of 41,026 residents left the UK in 2006, the highest number in Europe, with total emigration increasing by 30% from the UK since 2001.

The study assessed 19 factors to rank the UK in relation to nine other major countries across Europe. Spain offers the best quality of life in Europe, despite families earning an annual net income of just £16,789 - £8,500 below the average and less than half that of the UK. Spain enjoys low taxation, cheaper essential goods, higher than average life expectancy and a generous holiday allowance, uSwitch said. France came second, boasting the second highest spend on healthcare and the highest holiday allowance at 40 days.



WAR GAMES REAL DEATHS??

Image: Security, surveillance and 'Super Sangars', MOD Defence News, 2008.



So, what do you get when the British Army messes around with a few ISO shipping containers? Well, stack three, outfit the top one with bulletproof windows, then, rig a couple of daylight and thermal imaging cameras and a remotely controlled weapon station (RWS) that allows for some heavy dude machine guns to be fired by joystick from the inside, fence it off, and you got yourself one of these – the ‘Super Sangar’, a deadly new tower currently being used to protect forward operating bases in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Not exactly the kinds of “robotic snipers” we’ve spotted earlier creeping up in the NK DMZ, or along the IDF outposts in the West Bank, but perhaps part of the interim as military superpower continues its move more and more towards dependency on robotics and full scale automation. While the Super Sangar isn’t unmanned, it turns the turret into a kind of armored arcade made for war, at which point, perhaps (as we’ve dared speculate before), anyone with some badass joystick skills might be in there controlling this thing. I mean, I certainly don’t want to undermine the Army and the intense training that more than likely goes into manning such a tower, but it’s that bizarre architectural merger between gaming, robots, and warfare that continues to catch our attention, and this looming image of a war one day that could be fought by superpower from inside similar types of mobile military gaming cubicles. **Article taken from;** <http://subtopia.blogspot.com/2008/10/from-semi-to-fully-automatic-border.html>

Charles Bukowski; “For those who believe in God, most of the big questions are answered. But for those of us who can’t readily accept the God formula, the big answers don’t remain stone-written. We adjust to new conditions and discoveries. We are pliable. Love need not be a command or faith a dictum. I am my own God. We are here to unlearn the teachings of the church, state, and our educational system. We are here to drink beer. We are here to kill war. We are here to laugh at the odds and live our lives so well that Death will tremble to take us.”

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

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

WE HAVE THE POWER.

We now live in a world where the criminal actions of individuals are dealt with by aggressive warfare against entire nations and where child soldiers are tortured and tried as scapegoats, while the "supreme crime" goes unpunished, if not actually rewarded. This is popularly known as the progress of mankind and civilized society.

Continuing to believe that you and I can't impact the system is exactly what the corporatists, Wall St. The City and their corrupt bedfellows, state governments want you to believe. They want you to quit, to concede defeat, to accept your lot. However, never forget that you have kids, grand-kids and grand parents. Keep believing we can change things for the better, never stop believing that the people can move mountains and mountains will move.

THE NEED TO ORGANISE.

"No movement can survive unless it is constantly growing and changing with the times. If it isn't growing, it's stagnant, and without the support of the people, no movement for liberation can exist, no matter how correct its analysis of the situation is. That's why political work and organizing are so important. Unless you are addressing the issues people are concerned about and contributing positive direction, they'll never support you. The first thing the enemy tries to do is isolate revolutionaries from the masses of people, making us horrible and hideous monsters so that our people will hate us." **Assata Shakur**

"Nobody is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them. As long as we expect state's schools to educate us, we will remain ignorant." **Assata Shakur**

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.

STATISTICS.

Which is worse ?

1) Twenty eight years less than 300 deaths ?

2) Seven and a half years more than 1,000 deaths?

The first, trumpeted by the western media as a heinous crime, refers to the number of people killed attempting to cross the Berlin Wall in all of its 28 year history. The second, never mentioned by the Western media,, refers to the number of Mexican people who have died in the desert while trying to cross the Mexican/US border since the year 2000. Obvious the media consider European deaths as more news worthy than Mexican deaths.

Albert Einstein:

"It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education."

