

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 74 April 2009.

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.

FROM ANGER TO ACTION.

Around mid-day on Friday 3rd April parents in Maryhill area, angry at Glasgow City Council's attempt to close 25 primary schools and nurseries, occupied two schools adjacent each other, Wyndford Primary and St. Gregory's Primary, the occupations continue. An originally tense situation with police has been resolved through negotiation, and the peaceful protests are being allowed to continue unharmed. In support of the local parents action a well attended rally was held outside both schools at 12 noon on Saturday 4th April.

Why have the parents taken such action, I doubt if it is because they don't want to sleep in their own homes. It is simply that they are pissed off with a council that doesn't listen to the voices of those who elected them, the parents have had enough of a council that ignores the people that they are supposed to serve.

In this particular area, if the schools go the area becomes a desert with no facilities for the kids, no place for after school activities, the council does not have a mandate to inflict this type of environment on anybody.

The parents who are occupying the schools need your support, it is only by mass support of the local people that this battle can be won, it is your communities, your schools, take control, show solidarity and stop the closures, demand improvement of the local schools not their closure. If they want to save money don't let it be our kids and our communities that have to take the hit. What these parents are doing is showing a model for all the other areas to follow. Mass direct action is the only road left when an authority starts to bulldoze you in a direction you don't want to go.



SOLIDARITY.
WE HAVE THE NUMBERS
TO GUARANTEE
VICTORY.

A WASTE OF SPACE AND TIME??

Scotland is a relatively small country and it doesn't have a lot of people, but I suppose we produce our fair share of waste and by rights we should be responsible for its disposal. However what is surprising is that last year approximately 184,000 tonnes of waste arrived here from outside Scotland for us to dispose of, mainly from England (app. 70,000 tonnes) and Northern Ireland. Approximately 94,000 tonnes went into Scottish landfill sites.

This waste contains anything from contaminated soil, polluted dredgings, chemical/industrial waste to asbestos. Over 9,000 tonnes of this waste were disposed of in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area.

In waste disposal there is supposed to be the "principle of proximity" meaning that the waste should

be disposed of as near the source of its production as possible. Shipping it across the Irish Sea doesn't seem to fit this principle. Of the 9,000 tonnes from outside Scotland disposed of in the Glasgow area, it is difficult to see how this fits in with the principle.

When ever I read these sort of facts I get a sneaking suspicion that money and big business is at the heart of it all. Landfill charges are lower in Scotland than in England. What ever the cost of disposal it is wrong to ship what can be very dangerous waste over long distances, accidents do happen. It would be interesting to see how much waste is shipped from Scotland into England

Of course these sort of figures are kept quiet, the public don't need to know, after all it might be your neighbourhood that it is passing through and it might be getting dumped near you and you might complain.

YOUR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY POLICE!!



DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE STATE.

December 2008 in Athens a youth is shot dead by Greek police, this brutal act was the catalyst for the release of a wave of pent up anger and frustration of the Greek people, a wave that washed over Greece and many European cities for well over a month. April 2009 an innocent man walking home from his work in London is brutally assaulted and dies, again it is the hand of the police that is blood stained. Anybody who has been to demonstrations on a regular basis knows that the police are not there to keep the peace nor to enforce the law, their action is always provocative and intimidating. They are agents of the system and are there to stifle protest. The history of protest is written in the blood of ordinary people, blood shed by the various agents of the system. Each death causes shock among the ordinary people but our history is littered with such events. Who remembers Blair Peach? April 1979, he was clubbed on the head at a demonstration in London and died the next day, no charges were ever brought against the police officer responsible. Death by misadventure was the verdict.

It is time that the ordinary people woke up to the fact that the state kills workers who fight for a better life. Here in Glasgow we can go back as far as you want and the story is the same. 1787 Calton weavers strike, the strikers marched towards the Cathedral to make their point in a demand for a living wage, the military opened fire and killed 6 wounding many more. Jump forward to 1919 when workers were asking for a 40 hour week to try to soak up unemployment. They were baton charged in George Square and running battles ensued throughout the city the military with fixed bayonets were posted on the city streets, machine guns on the roofs at George Square and tanks stationed off the Saltmarket. Remember the brutal treatment hand out to the miners in the eighties? Our history is littered with such cases, struggle to improve your life and risk the wrath of the state, it's there to protect the wealth of that army of parasites that feed off our backs. Until we build a mass grassroots movement to replace the system of profit and exploitation, and to protect us from the ravishes of such a system we will continue to suffer at their hands.

LOCAL SCHOOLS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES SEGREGATION OR CO-OPERATION??

There is rightly anger across Glasgow as the City Council 'consults' on proposals to close another 13 primary and 12 nursery schools in order to save £3.7m. The proposals would see some children travelling much further to school and nursery and some areas will be left without a school at all.

As a parent and council tax payer I want to see good quality education delivered locally and accountable to the local community. In saying that, I accept that some schools may need to close. There seems to me to be no sense in keeping open half empty schools when roofs are leaking and many of the so called 'extras' like music lessons are being cut back for lack of funds. However, in drawing up it's proposals, Glasgow City Council seems to have had more important priorities than the needs of the city's children. Well used facilities in West Pollokshields, where land and property values are high, appear have been targeted for closure purely in a desperate grab for cash. Parents will need to take their children 1.5 miles to a replacement facility in Melville Street.

In Maryhill, both non-denominational Wynford and Catholic St Gregory's Primaries are threatened with closure. Parents are calling for the two schools to be merged. They can see clearly the nonsense of closing both and bussing the children to non-denominational and Catholic schools outside the area. The institutional segregation of education in Glasgow is the elephant in the corner of the room that politicians, particularly those in the Labour party, are unwilling to acknowledge. It is wasteful, perpetuates bigotry and is undermining the provision of local schools for local communities.

We need to support those parents and communities seeking to keep schools and nurseries in their communities and grasp the opportunity to end apartheid in education in Glasgow for all our sakes. **CL.**

AN EASY LESSON??



A FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN

You vigorously deny the existence of thousands of gods claimed by other religions, but feel outraged when someone denies the existence of yours.

You feel insulted and "dehumanized" when scientists say that people evolved from other life forms, but you have no problem with the Biblical claim that we were created from dirt.

You laugh at polytheists, but you have no problem believing in a Triune God.

Your face turns purple when you hear of the "atrocities" attributed to Allah, but you don't even flinch when hearing about how God/Jehovah slaughtered all the babies of Egypt in "Exodus" and ordered the elimination of entire ethnic groups in "Joshua" including women, children, and trees!

You laugh at Hindu beliefs that deify humans, and Greek claims about gods sleeping with women, but you have no problem believing that the Holy Spirit impregnated Mary, who then gave birth to a man-god who got killed, came back to life and then ascended into the sky.

You are willing to spend your life looking for little loopholes in the scientifically established age of Earth (few billion years), but you find nothing wrong with believing dates recorded by Bronze Age tribesmen sitting in their tents and guessing that Earth is a few generations old.

You believe that the entire population of this planet with the exception of those who share your beliefs -- though excluding those in all rival sects - will spend Eternity in an infinite Hell of Suffering. And yet consider your religion the most "tolerant" and "loving."

While modern science, history, geology, biology, and physics have failed to convince you otherwise, some idiot rolling around on the floor speaking in "tongues" may be all the evidence you need to "prove" Christianity.

You define 0.01% as a "high success rate" when it comes to answered prayers. You consider that to be evidence that prayer works. And you think that the remaining 99.99% FAILURE was simply the will of God.

You actually know a lot less than many atheists and agnostics do about the Bible, Christianity, and church history - but still call yourself a Christian.

QUOTE:

"Since we cannot wash the polluted words of hatred the same way we wash greasy dishes with soap and hot water, we the poets of the world, continue to write our poems to restore the respect of meaning and to give meaning to our existence."

Mourid Barghouti.



**Blessed are the Poor
Blessed are the Meek**

**What about
gold-plated, jewel-encrusted
former Nazi cult leaders?**

MAY DAY, WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

May Day, Labour Day, Workers Day, **our** day, a day when we the ordinary people of the world can celebrate the heroes from our ranks. Paying homage to the men and women who dedicated their lives to the cause of working class emancipation. People who sought nothing for themselves, many dying for their beliefs, individuals that sometimes stood like colossuses astride the political scene, others that worked tirelessly in the shadows, all for the greater good of all peoples, not more for themselves. Their statues, their plaques are nowhere to be seen, the establishment has them airbrushed out of history. Instead, the powers that be litter our public squares and parks with grandiose statues of arrogant warmongers, empire builders, kings of industry, rich merchants, all who made a fortune on the back of slave and/or cheap labour or the bloodshed of ordinary people. The establishment wants us to forget **our** heroes, no statues, no plaques, we mustn't be allowed to think that fighting for the betterment of ordinary people is a worth while cause,

MAY 1st. Must always be a festive day, a day of celebration and pride, a day when we can all come together and wave our banners, party, and remember those names and deeds. A day to revive that spirit of co-operation in struggle and hopefully push our cause to a higher plain.

Take to the streets this **MAY DAY**, bring the family, bring colour, bring music, bring the spirit of the working class, talk to people, have fun, remember why we are here, be proud and strengthen your resolve to do more to push the cause of co-operation in struggle with all **our** people. Keep alive the names and deeds of **our** past, not those of a corrupt, brutal, exploitative system. Keep alive the dream of a society of free association, voluntary co-operation, and mutual aid, a system of seeing to needs and not to the greed of the few.

May day tells us that tomorrow is ours.

ANARCHISM ONLINE.

www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk

Glasgow anarchist's website.

www.radicalglasgow.me.uk

Local resource 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.citystrolls

Think of your City and make it happen.

www.redpepper.org.uk

A radical independent magazine.

www.akuk.com

Anarchist publications.

www.schnews.org.uk

Free alternative news site.

Anarchy

Where do you want to go today?

FREEDOM

Britain's longest running anarchists national newspaper.

Established 1886--- Still fighting the system.

www.freedompress.org --- info@freedompress.org



Don't be shy, ann arky would like to hear your views, news, gripes and opinions, so drop a note to;
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FROM CCTV TO PRYING METERS?

It has recently been announced that the 6 big energy companies intend creating a new company to oversee the installation of 46 million new "smart" meters. These "smart" meters will allow the energy companies to monitor your meter 24 hours a day and will, of course, also dispose of thousands of those smiling meter readers, more people on the dole.

The project is expected to cost around the £10 billion, the new company will cost around £100 million a year to run and will employ hundreds of people. The cost will of course be passed on to the customer, who didn't ask for a "smart" meter in the first place.

Here we see the usual capitalist logic, pay off thousands of workers, start up a new company to employ hundreds of workers and pass the cost of running the company on to the long suffering customer.

When will we get round to getting rid of these parasites that get fat off the sweat from our labour. We don't need bosses devising new ways of milking us dry to fatten their salaries and pensions and keep a smile on their shareholders greedy faces.



BLIND OR STUPID!!!

Another example showing that the system fails those in the, so called rich developed countries as well as those in the poorer third world. The charity, "Save the Children" better know for its work in famine and war torn regions is starting to hand out cash to families in the UK. An obvious indication that higher energy prices and rocketing food prices are pushing many of the UK's poorest families further into crisis.

Last year food prices in Britain rose by 11.3%, vegetables alone have gone up by 18.6% and recent figures show that 35% of Britain's parents have cut back even further on food, that rises to 48% when it comes to the poorest families.

On the cash handouts Collette Marshal of "Save the Children" says, "This is how we would respond to an emergency overseas." While this goes on, the system hands out billions of tax payers money to the corporate world, and we watch malnutrition rise among our children. Are we blind, or really that stupid?