

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 80 November 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.

CHARITY.

We are all familiar with those can carriers that shake their can under your nose for some charity or other. It could be for a new something at some hospital, or save the children fund, and no doubt, being a caring human being, you are always inclined to give.

However if we look a little deeper we can see that the only reason we have to have charity funds for something so basic as the health and well being of children is simple because we accept the system of capitalism. We openly allow a system that puts a price on everything, including the lives of all children, to profit from the suffering of children. What other humane and just type society would put a price on the health and care of children?

So perhaps the next time you drop a few coins in a charity box you could open up a discussion with the can shaker on how we can eliminate the need for such a precarious method of caring for kids by suggesting that we come together to get rid of the profit motive that cripples our ability to give all our kids all the care and attention that they need and deserve.

Mutual aid, and co-operation should be the basis of any society, not the fat bank books of greed merchants in the corporate world. Why should a bunch of parasites get rich because children need help? Why should we gamble with any kids well being in the hope we can raise enough money to achieve a standard we know can be reached if we put enough cash in some corporation's bank account? It is profit and market share, or it is justice and well being for all, it can't be both.

CAPITALISM EXPLAINED.



PISSED-OFF!? YOU SHOULD BE.

Throughout history, real social change has happened when ordinary people get pissed off with business as usual, talk to each other, get organized, and take to the streets. We have surely reached the point when we the ordinary people are truly pissed off. We have seen the wealthiest section of society get a wee bit worried and been handed billions of tax payers money. While we have been told that cuts in social spending are unavoidable. We face massive unemployment at the time of these cuts and we get that shit, "We are all in this together". If we expect the corrupt politicians and the corporate world to sort our problems then we deserve all we get. So, we're pissed off, can we talk? Can we get organised? Can we take to the streets and bring about real social change?



Soldiers at Fort Jackson with their guns and Bibles.



Hamas suicide bomber with guns and Koran.

TWO THOMAS PAINE QUOTES;

1; "To establish any mode to abolish war, however advantageous it might be to Nations, would be to take from such Government the most lucrative of its branches."

2: "There are matters in the Bible, said to be done by the express commandment of God, that are shocking to humanity and to every idea we have of moral justice."

CHANGE!

Most of those with any insight into the political world we live in, would like me, have viewed the euphoria that surrounded Obama's election as President, with disdain and disbelief. We would have wondered how can the people be so duped. His trumpet call of "Time for change" made us weep and fear for the future. Well, there has been some change, more funding for war.

On Wednesday 4th November Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, (US), Admiral Mullen stated that the Pentagon would be seeking additional war funds for the Iraq/Afghanistan wars for coming year 2010. Though he didn't state an amount, some analysts are quoting \$50 billion. However the New York Times stated that on October 30th Jack Murtha, Chair of the Defence Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee said he expected supplemental spending 2010 to be around \$40 billion.

This of course would add to Obama's glories the dubious honour of rubber stamping the most expensive year for war funding since Bush's much trumpeted "Global War on Terror" though I believe Obama has now given it the much more civilised title of "Overseas Contingency Operations", now that's real change capitalist style.

THERE ARE LIES, DAMN LIES & POLITICAL LIES.

Naturally, common people don't want war, but they can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders.

Tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and endangering the country. It works the same in every country.

Herman Goering, Hitler's Reichsmarschall at the Nuremberg Trials.

ARE YOU BIG BROTHER??

One of the "shortcomings" with surveillance cameras, according to the spy merchants, is that there is an overwhelming volume of information and not enough people to watch and analyse the data. That problem might now be at an end. A company has recently developed an artificial intelligence system that can detect aberrant behaviour. This new system opens up the surveillance to the general public with you and I expected to be BIG BROTHER, and earn cash prizes for those of us who catch the most crooks, or could that eventually be, catch the most activists, or the most benefit cheats??

The system is about to go live next month in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, UK. You are being sucked in to watch your neighbour. Or it could be a new way to occupy that ever increasing army of unemployed, keeping them busy watching cameras in the hope of earning a few bob.

TIME TO RAGE?

As we look around at a world where poverty is endemic, war is pursued for wealth and power under the guise of protecting "us", the wealthy swan around floating on a sea of deprivation and death darkens every sunset, what do we do? We have created a system where the many struggle to heap privilege on a bunch of parasites and we talk to the parasites asking them to give us a few more crumbs. Isn't it time to change the way we address this world, isn't time to rage and as an old Korean saying goes, "Enjoy the ecstasy of your righteous anger? It is sometimes easier to say in a few verses of poetry what might take a few pages to otherwise say.

TIME TO RAGE.

Time to rage, like a river running wild.

Time to rise, to save the child.

Time to rage, like a mountain flood.

Time to rise, to stop the blood.

Time to rage, with righteous anger.

Time to rise, to point the finger.

Famine, misery, sickness, death,
stretch across these pleasant lands;

war, greed, hunger, blood,
sour the lovely desert sands,
charity, chat, quiet dismay

is not enough,

prayers, thoughts, what M.P.s say
is useless stuff.

Time to rage, like a river running wild.

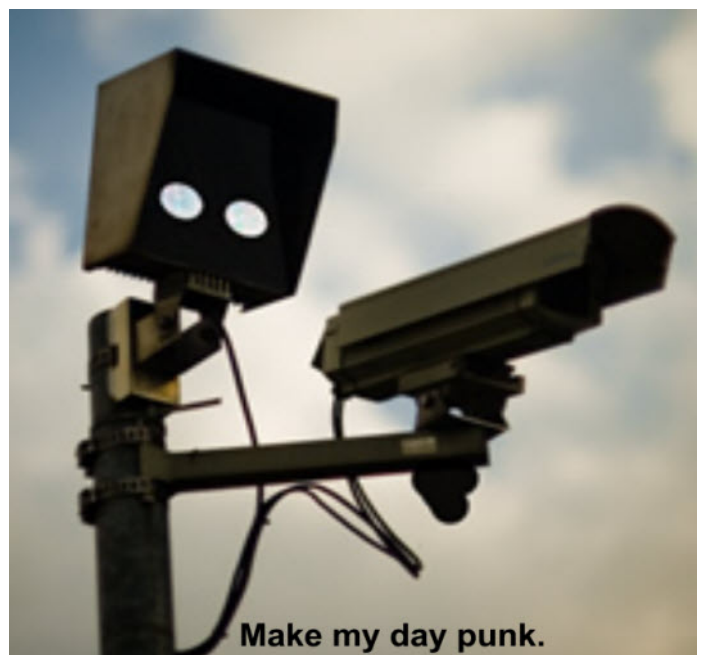
Time to rise, to save the child.

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BANKER'S BONUSES OR HEATED HOMES??

As the bankers and hedge fund managers recover from their pause in the greed feast and start to gallop away again with their stratospheric bonuses the rest of us can look forward to a cold winter.

The latest government figures show that the number of families in the UK affected by fuel poverty has risen from 2.4 million in 2006 to 3.25 million in 2007. As fuel prices soared through 2008 the projected figures for England alone are expected to reach 3.6 million for 2008 and 4.6 million for 2009. Add to this the rest of the UK and you have a shocking and unacceptable level of homes living in fuel poverty in a country that has just handed the bankers billions of our money.

These figures came as Citizens Advice announced the number of people falling behind with fuel bills had increased by nearly 50% in the past six months, and by more than 80% over the past three years. Between April and September Citizens Advice bureau in England and Wales saw a 46% increase in the number of people coming forward with fuel debts compared with the same period last year. The majority of people seeking help over debts to energy companies were of working age; 5% were over 65 years old, while 25% had a disability. We are in a society where the weakest and the most vulnerable suffer the most.

It is obvious that the government targets to end fuel poverty among vulnerable households by 2010 and among all households by 2016 is just so much "hot" air, as are their targets to end child poverty and all the other election propaganda. As unemployment soars and all the parties are showing an eagerness to wield the axe at the social services it should be obvious to all that this system is not for the benefit of the ordinary people.

We acquiesce to a system of privilege for the parasites and watch our children, elderly, and poor suffer the indignity of poverty at the same time as we watch the bloated parasites frolicking around in yachts and on sun drenched islands sipping the favourite Champagne. Is this the best we can do for ourselves and the rest of humanity? Surely we can devise a fairer system, we have the resources to see to the needs of all, all we need is the will to destroy this man made system of greed and create a society based on mutual aid and sustainability. A fairer system that sees to the needs of all those in that society based on free association, voluntary co-operation and is free from the profit motive.

Quote: " *Revolutions create genius and talent; but these events do no more than bring them forward. There is existing in man, a mass of sense lying in a dormant state, and which, unless something excites it to action, will descend with him, in that condition, to the grave.*" **Thomas Paine.**



IT'S YOUR LIFESTYLE, SILLY!!!

Our government is continually telling us that we are unhealthy and die young because of our lifestyle. Never do they mention that the real cause of early death is poverty. What they don't point out that being born into poverty means that you are predisposed to death from a wide range of diseases. A recent major study of 50 years of data covering Glasgow and Edinburgh showed that people in Glasgow die much younger than those in Edinburgh though the cause of death in both cities is roughly the same.

I'm not against a healthy lifestyle, but we have to realise that poverty is the real enemy. As we know, under this system of capitalism we still have children born into poverty and that very fact limits their life potential. Focusing on a healthy lifestyle shifts the blame from the system we live under onto the individual. Improving our lifestyle does not eradicate the real killer, poverty. By focusing on lifestyle it does however make the government look as if it is doing something about those who die young.

If we really want to do something about all those people predisposed to an early death by being born into poverty, then we have to change the system. A capitalist system of dog eat dog, winner takes all and to hell with the hindmost, is hardly likely to mean a decent life for all. We need a mass movement to bring about social change and eradicate the profit motive and replace it with a system of mutual aid, co-operation and sustainability.

In spite of the gloss, froth and plethora of brand name shops in our city, Glasgow has a large share of the poverty in this country, and eating bananas and going for a walk will not solve that problem.



Don't be shy,
ann arky would like to hear
your views, news, gripes and
opinions, so drop a note to:
annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk

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 anar-
chism 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

FREEDOM

Britain's longest running anarchist newspaper

Established 1886 ---Still fighting the system.

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

Anarchy

Where do you want to go today?

WORKERS, KNOW YOUR HISTORY.



Tanks and troops with fixed bayonets, Tron Gate 1919

Since the beginning of capitalism the workers lot has been one of continuous struggle against his/her employer. Any attempt to improve our conditions has been met with stiff and sometimes violent opposition, not only from the employers but also from the state on behalf of the employers. This is something that the ordinary worker should remember, but these struggles are however, never taught in mainstream education.

We have to write our own history and add to it the struggles of today. Each generation has to know it is a continuous struggle and they are part of that struggle. If we don't record our history and learn from it, then it never happened and we will never achieve that society of equality for all.

Calton Weavers Strike 1787, six weavers shot and killed at Drygate near the Cathedral.

1820 Insurrection, Hardie, Baird and Wilson executed.

Cotton Spinners Strike 1837, strikers sentenced to 7 years deportation.

The Rent Strike 1915, grassroots movement forced the government to freeze all rents until the end of the war.

Clyde Workers Committee 1916, members of the committee arrested by military authorities and removed from the city.

Bloody Friday 1919, mass demonstration in George Square, attempting to gain a 40 hour week, attacked by police, resulting in the largest military mobilization of the British state against its own people, with troops lining the streets of Glasgow and guarding the docks.

Upper Clyde Shipbuilders Work-in 1971/72, to save closure, shipyards occupied for 16 months.

Recently we have had school occupations to stop closures, factory occupations and strikes. These are not new struggles they are part of that continuous struggle to build a society that sees to the needs of all those in that society. A struggle that requires that we are aware that we are all in the same struggle and should support each other in solidarity for that common aim, justice for all. For more of Glasgow's working class history; www.radicalglasgow.me.uk and click "Strugglepedia."