

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 73 March 09.

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

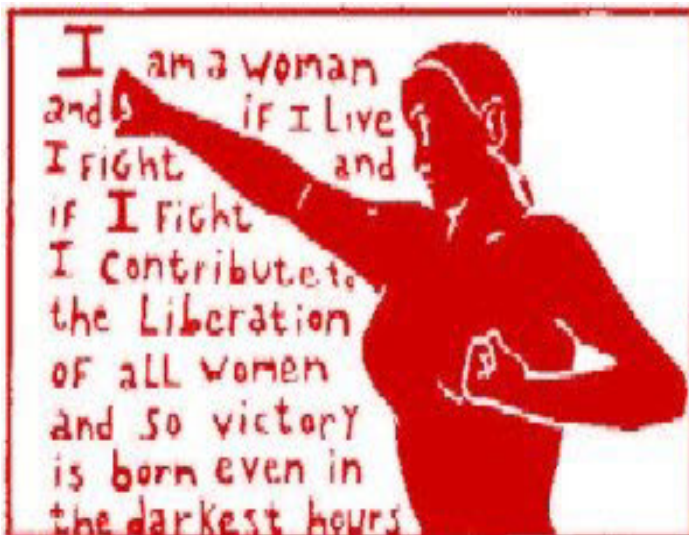
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

March 8, is celebrated as (IWD)'International Women's Day'. We can trace it back to March 8 1908, when 15,000 women marched through the streets of New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights. In 1910 the first international women's conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, under the aegis of the Second Socialist International. The originator of the proposal was German socialist Clara Zetkin. The conference called for the establishment of an international women's day, though no fixed date was set at this event.. Prior to this the Socialist Party of America in 1909 had called for such an event to be held on the last Sunday of February.

March 8 gradually became an accepted date because it commemorated an 1857 protest in New York by garment workers who two years later went on to establish the first labour union in the USA. March 8 was also the day when women in Europe held peace rallies in 1913 as the dogs of war were howling for the blood of WW1, Then there was the Commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire on March 25, 1911 when 140 garment workers were killed in a factory fire because the owners had locked the doors, to prevent anybody leaving.



Merely external emancipation has made of the modern woman an artificial being. Now, woman is confronted with the necessity of emancipating herself from emancipation, if she really desires to be free. **Emma Goldman**



MEN IN SUITS!!

"I live in the Managerial Age, in a world of 'Admin'. The greatest evil is not now done in those sordid 'dens of crime' that Dickens loved to paint. It is not even done in concentration camps and labour camps. in those we see its final result. But it is conceived and ordered (moved, seconded, carried and minuted) in clean, carpeted, warmed and well-lighted offices, by quiet men with white collars and cut fingernails and smooth-shaven cheeks who do not need to raise their voices."

C.S. Lewis

GLASGOW WOMEN.

Glasgow can boast of a strong tradition of women who have taken the front line when it comes to fighting for better conditions and facing up to oppression.

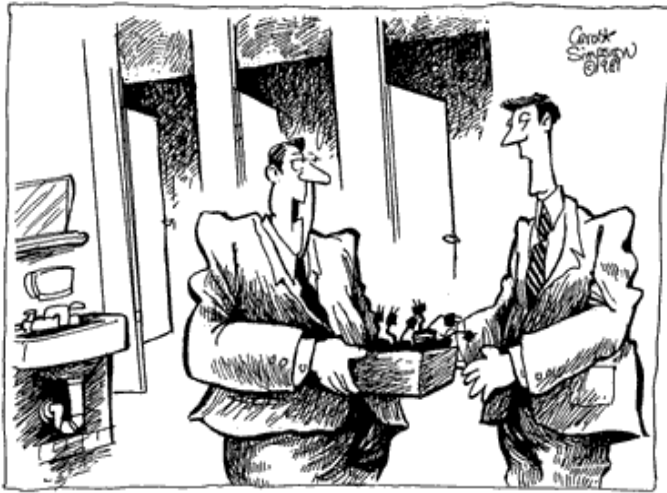
We should continually strive to remember their names and keep their tradition alive we should always be prepared to tell their story, their story is our history. Some were newspaper headlines, others were quietly struggling in the shadows, but fight they did. We could easily fill this paper with their names, however here are just a few, can you add to the list?

Mary Barbour, Helen Crawford, Ethel MacDonald, Jenny Patrick, Agnes Dollan

QUOTE:

T.S. Eliot:

"An election is coming. Universal peace is declared and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry."



"I want to open up better lines of communication with my employees. Plant these listening devices in all the washrooms."

A DAY AT THE OFFICE.

"I see a man of around 50, coming back from his work in the City of London. It's a soft summer's evening, so there's no need to put the car in the garage. He can hear the sound of his children's voices coming from the garden, and he feels an acute sense of wellbeing as he walks around the side of the house, only pausing to smell the exquisite scent of the white roses he planted last year. Earlier that day, the man, a senior accountant at one of Britain's leading oil corporations, had presented the final spreadsheets in the report which determined that a coastal area the size of Scotland in southern Nigeria would soon be developed. He cannot connect this fragrant evening in leafy north London with his work earlier that day. He cannot, or perhaps will not allow himself to, connect his life in London with the lives of those in Nigeria about to be devastated by his tapping at a keyboard.

Who was the senior accountant who looked at the spreadsheets for this project?

Who at the merchant bank dealt with the finance capital?

Who authorised the project to go ahead?

Who decided that they wouldn't negotiate with the Ogoni villagers?

Who telephoned the Nigerian Government to ask for the mobile police force to be sent?

How are we to show the violence of a spreadsheet?

How are we to show the violence of a set of minutes?

How are we to show the violence of an idea?"

from the performance 'killing us softly'

Page 2.

STUPID STATEMENTS.

You can always rely on our "great and good" to mouth off really stupid statements. Recently a British officer a certain Lieutenant General John Cooper stated that the provincial elections in Iraq were a turning point "-- and we leave Iraq a better place--". What the military guy seems to have overlooked is the price paid by the Iraqi people for his "better place". At least two estimates put the number of Iraqis killed at one million plus since our attempt to "liberate" them and we can add twice that number of injured and maimed. Add to this the two million plus Iraqi refugees that fled to mainly Jordan and Syria and have still to be returned. Then of course let's not forget the other one million plus internally displaced, bearing in mind that the Iraqi population was only 24 million. We have also massively increased the poverty and corruption and set set back the cause of women by at least 50 years. Then we have ever increasing curbs on the growing labour movements and recently the leaders of the largest teachers union in Iraq have been threatened with jail if they don't hand over their assets and membership lists. Welcome to Western democracy via the bomb, it seems a dreadful price to pay.

Then of course there is the fine Lieutenant General John Cooper's other stupid statement, The British army "-- leave Iraq with al-qaida largely defeated", perhaps somebody should give the Lieutenant General a wee history lesson and inform him that there was no al-qaida in Iraq before we made our illegal invasion to "liberate" the Iraqi people. Well "liberate" them from their oil.

ITS A TRADITION, ISN'T IT??

On July 5, 1861, the U.S. Attorney General endorsed Honest Abraham Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus. Over the next four years, 18,000 Americans were jailed and held without trial.

Less than a century later, we had Franklin D. Roosevelt signing Executive Order 9066, interning over 100,000 Japanese-Americans without due process ...thus, in the name of defending freedom and ending the German prison camps, he became an architect of American prison camps.

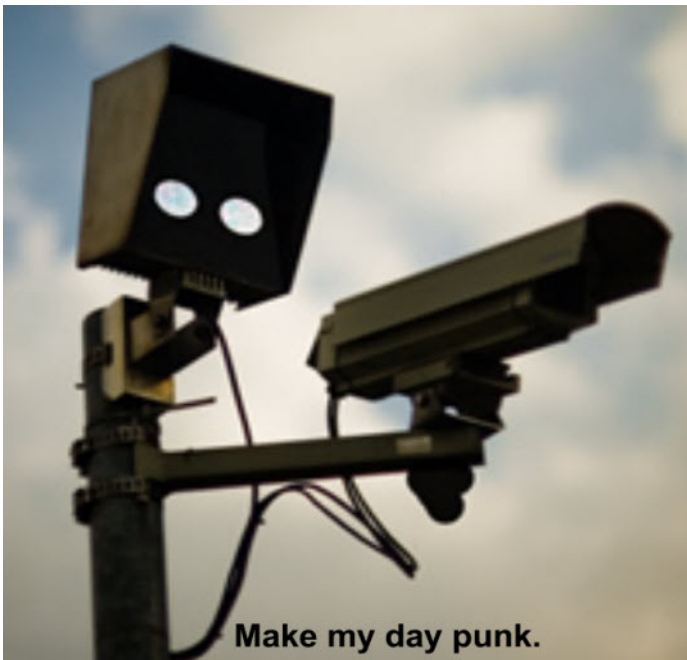
Press the forward button and we had George W. Bush giving us Guantanamo Bay and so carrying on that fine old state tradition of locking people up without trial or due process.

QUOTE:

Mahatma Gandhi once asked the question: "*What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?*"

WHILE YOU WATCH TELEVISION, THEY ORGANISE YOUR LIFE.

THEY'RE WATCHING YOU!!



PROPAGANDA.

Is there anybody out there who believes that newspapers have anything to do with news? Remember the Sun newspapers articles about asylum seekers being freeloaders on our system while they themselves through "clever" accounting had not paid any corporate tax for twelve years. What this meant was that for twelve years they were using our roads, infrastructure and other facilities, creating industrial pollution while you and I picked up the bill and they pocketed the profits.

Most large corporations work in this fashion, it's part and parcel of the way the system operates, "clever" accounting, another name for screwing the public.

First rule of understanding propaganda is don't believe anything they say, especially newspapers. You are being lied to. Of course most of you are aware of that. - A recent study found that only 23% of people in the UK count newspapers as "highly trusted" which means that 77% of you think they're shit.

WE CLOSE OUR EYES AND DRIVE OUR CARS!

"I accuse Shell and Chevron of practising racism against the Ogoni people because they do in Ogoni what they do not do in other parts of the world where they prospect for oil. I accuse the oil companies of encouraging genocide against the Ogoni people... The profits from oil come to Britain because it is their technology that is keeping Nigerian oil going. So they have a moral responsibility to intervene... My mission has been to inform the West of the truth of what is happening in Nigeria, which has been hidden from them. I believe if people knew they'd do something about it and stop this robbery and murder that is going on in broad daylight."

Ken Saro-Wiwa, Ogoni writer and anti-Shell activist, 1993, killed by the Nigerian Government on 10/12/95

Saul Alinsky: Change means movement. Movement means friction. Only in the frictionless vacuum of a nonexistent abstract world can movement or change occur without that abrasive friction of conflict.

In the UK between £150m and £300m per year is spent on the surveillance industry involving an estimated 300,000 cameras. Most UK towns and cities have CCTV surveillance of public areas, housing estates, car parks and public facilities. Market growth is estimated at 15-20% annually. Tens of thousands of cameras operate in public places, phone booths, vending machines, buses, trains, taxis, and inside ATM cash machines. Originally to deter burglary, assault and car theft, most camera systems are now used to combat 'anti-social behaviour', including such minor offences as littering, urinating in public, traffic violations, obstruction, drunkenness, and evading parking meters. When combined with observation of body language, the cameras are effective in detecting people using marijuana and other substances. The modern CCTV system involves a linked system of cameras with full pan, tilt, and zoom able to be operated remotely from a control room. The clarity often excellent, with many systems being able to recognize a cigarette packet at a hundred metres. The systems can often work in darkness, bringing images up to daylight level. Cameras may involve sophisticated technology including night vision, computer assisted operation, and motion detection facilities which allows the operator to instruct the system to go on red alert when anything moves in its view. Camera systems increasingly employ automated self defence mechanisms which, as in Liverpool, ensure that cameras under attack are covered by neighbouring cameras. These can be described as military style systems. Recent criminology reports (Home Office, Scottish Office and Southbank University) have discredited the conventional view on camera effectiveness. In a report to the Scottish Office on the impact of CCTV, Jason Ditton, Director of the Scottish Centre for Criminology, argued that the claims of crime reduction are little more than fantasy. *"All (evaluations and statistics) we have seen so far are wholly unreliable"*, The British Journal of Criminology described the statistics as *"...post hoc shoestring efforts by the untrained and self interested practitioner."* *In short, the crime statistics are without credibility.* In 1993 The Crime Prevention Unit of the Home Office suppressed the findings of a survey on the crime impact of camera surveillance on the basis that the displacement effect had been all but ignored. In other words, crime may be merely pushed from high value commercial areas into low rent residential areas. In an interview with 20/20, Leslie Sharp said *"--- I don't believe that just because you've got cameras in a city centre that everyone says 'Oh well, we're going to give up crime and get a job"*. More than 50% of people interviewed felt neither government nor private security firms should be allowed to make decisions to allow the installation of CCTV in public places. 72% agreed *"these cameras could easily be abused and used by the wrong people"*. 39% felt that people who are in control of these systems could not be *"completely trusted to use them only for the public good"*. 37% felt that *"in the future, cameras will be used by the government to control people"*. More than one in ten believed that CCTV cameras should be banned.



BIG BROTHER TIGHTENS HIS GRIP.

You are watched, listened to and spoken to by cameras fitted with audio functions and still they want more.

Trials of lie-detector tests for benefit claimants have been declared successful by the government, and it seems that this technology will be made available for use nationwide. So far, 25 local councils administering housing benefit to 500,000 claimants are using "voice risk analysis technology" to test whether a claimant is providing false information. You are guilty until proven innocent!! You can hear them muttering, "*We know you are a liar we are just trying to prove it.*"

And on a similar theme, UK police are to be armed with 10,000 Taser guns. That's one for every few thousand households. With those type of odds, to try avoid being hit with 50,000 volts we will need to devise a system so that the police will not mistake us for trouble makers. We could make sure we are home before dark and during the day walk about all dressed the same, touching our forelocks and mumbling "*Yessir yessir, yessir.*"

Each time you pass a CCTV camera, just ask yourself, "Who are they really protecting? Why are they watching you all the time, everywhere?"

QUOTE:

"We are looking into an unprecedented abyss of economic and social turmoil that confounds our previous perceptions of historical risk. Our vertigo is intensified by our ignorance of the depth of the crisis or any sense of how far we might ultimately fall."

Mike Davis, Historian and social commentator.



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

NATURALLY IT IS OURS.

We are naturally inclined towards co-operation and mutual aid in our dealings with our immediate circle yet draw back from using these principles in the wider world. Perhaps we should think of Ralph Chaplin's words. "*It seems the most logical thing in the world to believe that the natural resources of the Earth, upon which the race depends for food, clothing and shelter, should be owned collectively by the race instead of being the private property of a few social parasites*".

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.

FREEDOM

Britain's longest running anarchist national newspaper.
Established 1886--- still fighting the system.
www.freedompress.org -- info@freedompress.org