

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 81 Jan/Feb. 2010.

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.

BREAKING OUT OF THE ILLUSION.

As anybody who has even a minuscule awareness of history knows capitalism has never delivered what its proponents declared it would, prosperity for all. In developed capitalist countries it has created wealth for a privileged few, struggle for the majority and poverty for the remainder. Its "mission statement" is an illusion.

We are all aware of the endemic poverty in the "poor countries" the "Third World", most of it, if not all, due to international capitalism.

However, for capitalism's failings we need look no further than its "successes". In the world's biggest and richest economies, the developed capitalist economies, the proof that even at its highest developed level, the system of capitalism can't deliver prosperity for all.

In America, that pinnacle of capitalism, we see its glaring flaws and failings. according to recent figures, one in eight Americans now receive food stamps, with 6 million of them claiming to have no other form of income. 25% of children in America are fed on food stamps. Added to that is the fact that 1.2 million children live in homes with no income.

Japan, that other juggernaut of the capitalist economy can boast of approximately 10,000 people sleeping on the streets of Tokyo, with thousands more renting a "cubicle", not much bigger than a coffin, in the cities "Capsule Hotels". These places are fast becoming one step away from the street.

Some capitalist economists are proclaiming they have to make it worse for the many, insisting that governments must cut social spending to allow the money grabbers to start their greed feast all over again. While others state, the only formula to get the economy growing again is to cut social benefits and lower wages. Obviously the survival of the system is more important than the well being of the people.

Under these conditions the people have the right to defend themselves by whatever means possible. That doesn't mean marching in an orderly fashion to some government building and asking to be employed in some lousy job for a crap wage.

We have a better imagination than that, we can break out of the capitalist illusion. We can take control and shape society to see to the needs of all our people, instead of pandering to a greedy bunch of shareholders, financiers and corrupt politicians.

WESTERN CAPITALISM EXPLAINED.



A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY.

Lance Corporal Joe Glenton, the only serving British soldier refusing to fight in Afghanistan, was released from the Military Correction Training Centre in mid December and is now awaiting the legal hearings prior to his court martial. The initial legal arguments will be heard on Friday 29 January. The army has decided that the hearing will be held at Bulford Camp, about 10 miles from Andover, probably because it thinks holding it in Wiltshire will diminish media coverage. Stop the War will be organising transport to go to Bulford to give support to Joe on the day of his first court martial hearing. If you would be interested in going, please inform the **Stop the War office:**

Call 020 7801 2768

or email: office@stopwar.org.uk.

CLASS WAR

Recent statements from the representatives of the parasite group such as Tessa Jowell's statement "Most people don't give a thought from one day to the next whether Eton exists." and "Class war for votes is not our plan." and Cameron ridiculing any talk of class war, is how the parasite class would like us to think. However make no mistake the class war is in full swing with the parasite class plundering public resources and being "bailed-out" with workers money. According to the parasites, there is no class war when they take from us, it is only labelled class war 'nonsense' when we complain.

As for Eton and other institutions of privilege that support the parasites, perhaps we should take note of some figures. Although private education of young people only accounts for approximately 7% of the population, they go on to fill around 50% of places at the top universities. Then move on to account for 75% of judges, 70% of finance directors, 45% of top civil servants and let's not forget, 32% of MPs. From these positions they shape society to guarantee victory for the parasites in what they know to be a class war. In this society private education is the bricks and cement of the class system, it perpetuates privilege and poverty.

In the near future we will be expected to pay for the parasites "bail-out". We will be expected to quietly and with subservience accept higher unemployment, lower wages and pensions, accompanied with drastic cuts in social services. those who resist will be demonised and called destructive, trouble makers, hooligans, extremists, etc..

It is only if we accept that we are in a class war and take steps to organise accordingly can we hope to turn the tide. We must organise to take control in the community and work-places, to take back all that is ours, and that is all production and distribution. The bigger the crisis in the capitalist system the greater our opportunity to create a society based on mutual aid and co-operation freed from the greed and profit motive of this system of privilege and exploitation.

HAPPY FAMILIES, CAPITALIST STYLE?

Recent research by the insurance company Scottish Widows states that more than 60% of households with children are reliant on two salaries to keep their head above water and 36% of those with no dependent children still need to salaries to have a decent standard of life. It also states that families with dependent children on average have £8,653 short term debt, credit cards etc. and homes without children have £7,003. So much for the political parties spouting their family values illusion with daddy out working and mummy at home bring up the happy family.

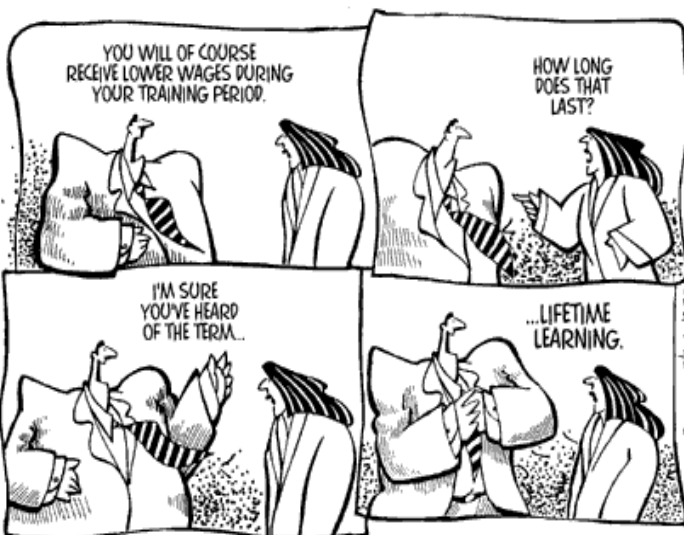


COMMUNITY ACTION.

"Parents at a closure-threatened primary school in North Lanarkshire have occupied the building and are refusing to leave. Four women are staging the sit-in at St Matthew's Primary in Wishaw. They are angry at proposals by North Lanarkshire Council which could see the school shut, along with three others in the region. The council said education officials were going to St Matthew's to in a bid to resolve the situation. The protesters stated that they had sleeping bags and food and were determined to remain in the school. A public consultation on the school closures is due to end on Friday.

Parents at the other threatened primaries – Belvidere in Bellshill, Gartsherrie in Coatbridge and St Francis of Assisi, Cumbernauld – have also staged protests, held meetings and arranged petitions in a bid to keep the schools open."

Where possible support should be shown by turning up at the school to boost morale, donating food etc. and picketing council offices. The communities belong to the people who live there, not a bunch of town planners who live elsewhere.



STATE INSANITY.

The British state moves with steady stealth at introducing compulsory ID cards to enable you to access practically all transactions, banking, social benefits, doctors, and all aspects of our National Health Service, not to mention libraries etc. in spite of widespread opposition from all sections of society, the knowledgeable in these matter and the lay person. Apart from the problems that would be created if some of the information on you card was wrong and the fact that the information could be compromised as it shuttles between the various institutions, there is the problem of mass errors when cards are produced.

A little glimpse of this is happening in Germany at this moment in time. On the 1st. January 2010 over 30 million holders of bank cards in Germany found that they could not withdraw cash from their accounts nor could they make any purchases with their cards. The problem lasted several days. The problem, a fault in the chip, the estimated cost of putting it right, approximately £210 million. Of course retailers are considering suing for the lost business which will of course add to the cost. Perhaps the Germans are lucky, it was just cash and purchases that were involved. If however it had been the British "super" ID card, that could have been 30 million people locked out of medical treatment and health care, prescriptions, benefit cash, as well as their bank accounts.

Only the paranoid, authoritarian, control crazy state apparatus would push such an insane scheme knowing the possible chaos and life threatening situations that could arise under such conditions.

Let's not drop the drive for a mass anti-ID card movement. Don't believe any of the crap coming from the government on this matter, no matter what they say, they are intent on getting these life threatening cards into everybody's wallet.

A SUGAR COATED BUSH.

I have always maintained that voting at elections to change a leader is much the same as voting for a new suit for a psychopath. Nothing really changes, it is just at first it looks a bit different. Watching the hysteria after the election of Obama, The Pope of Hope, I felt saddened that so many people could be fooled by this switch of clothes, same old shit, nice new suit. Now we have Obama, a sugar coated Bush, preaching the "just war", extolling the self sacrificing America giving up its young folks to help the world, and for this duplicity he receives the Nobel Peace Prize and you can feel your stomach churn. Since coming to power this Obama, the man of peace, has authorised more than 50 predator drones and in the process killing more than 500 people, more than Bush authorised throughout the whole of his last term.



DEATHS FROM "FRIENDLY FIRE".

In war we always seem to accept killing but deaths from "friendly fire" are always considered more deplorable. They will make headline news and the inevitable enquiry will follow. But how much more "friendly fire" can you get than being killed by your own family?

According to the United Nations Population Fund there are an estimated 5,000 women killed each year in what distorted minds call "honour" killings. Figures from The United Nations Development Fund for Women state that 22 women a day are killed in India because of dowry related affairs. While in South Africa one woman is murdered every six hours by a family member or partner. United Nations special adviser, Asma Jahangir, in a report to the the Commission on Human Rights said, *"The perpetrators of these crimes are mostly male family members of the murdered women who go unpunished or receive reduced sentences on the justification of having murdered to defend their misconceived notions of family honour."*

No country seems to be immune to these male murders of females, a recent survey of cases that received media coverage between 1998 and 2007 concluded that in the UK there were an average of 12 cases investigated a year.

What state has our civilization reached when we still have male family members killing their own female family members on some personal and transitory notion of honour?

Of course it will continue as long as we have two classes of citizens, one the so called dominant and the other, the expected to be, submissive. It will only change when each human being respects and accepts as equal all other human beings, giving to each the rights that they claim for themselves.

Of course you and I know that the present system doesn't lend itself to all being equal, we are graded according to our consumer ability, our macho attitude, our success at exploiting others, possessions mean power, power gives you extra rights.



Don't be shy,
an arky would like to hear
your views, news, gripes and
opinions, so drop a note to;
anarky@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--- 114 years of resistance
www.freedompress.org info@freedompress.org

Anarchy
Where do you want to go today?

WORKER'S, KNOW YOUR HISTORY.



In a quiet cemetery in Abercrombie Street in the East End of Glasgow, you'll find the memorial in the photograph above. It was raised to the memory of the six weavers shot in 1787 by the military at Drygate near Glasgow Cathedral. Their crime? They were part of a protest march making its way to the Cathedral in support of a wage increase. Then, as of now, the city officials, the military and the judiciary put 100% support behind the employers. They had no hesitation in using what ever power they had at their disposal.

In this type of society nothing changes. The harshest of treatment is still handed out to strikers and protesters while the employers are protected by the powers of the state. If we jump forward a couple of hundred years to the 1980's they were still at it with the brutal and harshest of treatment handed out to the striking miners during the Thatcher era.

This is what they call democracy, a system where the employers can exploit the workers with the protection of all the power of the state but a demand for a decent living can be met with all the force of the state.

Today's struggles are linked to all those struggles of the past and we should learn the lessons. It is the workers against the state and the employers. They fight to keep their privileges and power, while we struggle to get a decent living. The two are incompatible it is either their privilege at our expense, or a decent living for all with the end to the power and privilege of the parasites.

