

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC



ISSUE 72 FEBRUARY 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.

A FOUL SMELL IN ST. ENOCH'S SQUARE!!

Saturday 31 January there seemed to be a foul smell in St. Enoch's Square, a quick look round and it wasn't difficult to see where it was coming from. There standing between two flags was the source, the BNP Nazi scum were selling their toilet paper, oops, newspaper. There were about six of them and the scumbags seem to have the blessing of the establishment as they were flanked by their minders, about six police officers, there was also at least two police vans parked in or near the Square.

As we all know, the racist BNP scum will be looking to make capital out of the coming difficulties facing the working class in

rising unemployment. They will be pointing to the usual scapegoats, mainly immigrants, and heaping on them all the blame for the conditions we are facing in the very near future. They will divide the working class weakening its ability to fight back at the same time taking the blame off where it lies, it lies at the feet of this greed driven system of corporate capitalism. If we are to defend our class and change the system to a fairer one of co-operation and mutual aid we cannot afford to be divided and fight among ourselves. One group of workers blaming another group of workers for what is inherent in the system, poverty and unemployment, will only perpetuate the problems we live under. Our problems are class orientated, not race oriented. Immigrants are trying to do what you and I are trying to do, survive in a ruthless system of corporate greed. As long as we squabble among ourselves, the Nazi BNP and other reactionaries win every time.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves why a bunch of Nazi scumbags selling their rancid toilet paper on the street should merit a police ring equalling their own numbers. Up and down Buchanan St there are numerous groups all pushing their ideas and selling their papers with no problems with the public and no police presence. Perhaps the authorities are afraid the ideas that the Nazi BNP are pushing are such that the public might take into their own hands to rid the streets of our city of this foul smelling rancid bunch of scumbags, by some direct action or other.

THE POPE OF HOPE.

So, St. Obama, the pope of hope, is closing Guantanamo Bay torture camp within a year. Every fair and reasonable human being believes it should be closed but most seem to think it is some sort of aberration within Western society. However they seem to overlook the fact that locking up people is what states do. When America entered the 2nd. world war it locked up thousands of Japanese and Japanese Americans. They were locked up for years without trial or representation. When released at the end of the war they had lost everything, jobs, homes, in some cases their health and in most cases their friends. So perhaps St. Obama could make it different this time round by closing Guantanamo immediately, releasing all the inmates, paying them financial reparations and apologise for their mistreatment. He could then follow that up with indictment of all government officials responsible for or connected to secret prisons, extraordinary rendition, extra-judicial killings and punishments. While he's at it he could pull out of Guantanamo Bay and hand it back to the Cubans. It is not a lot to ask, after all, it is just being fair.



FACTS OF CAPITALISM

Roughly 36 million Americans live below the official poverty line and 46 million are without health insurance.

FACT.

In the UK 10% app. 8,243 of the prison population are held in private prisons making money for big business.

In the US there are 506 prison inmates per 100,000 US residents. The highest number of any country in the world

FACT.

In Edinburgh app. 55 homes are repossessed a week. Multiply that across Scotland??

FACT.

Last year 23,000 people in Scotland died from cold related deaths. Most were pensioners.

1 in 3 pensioners live in fuel poverty. App. 6 million Scots live in fuel poverty.

Every time fuel prices rise by 10% 400,000 more people fall into fuel poverty.

In 2008 fuel prices rose by 35%

FACT.

The 6 big energy providers profits have risen by 538% to more than £3bn. since 2003.

The energy companies paid their shareholders £1.6bn. in 2007, up 19% on the previous year.

FACT.

Parking fees still operate at three Scottish hospitals because they were built with public/private agreements which specified that the contractors would receive the fees from the parking for the next 30 years.

KETTLE, POT AND BLACK??

During this financial mess, (rip-off) everybody is running around blaming the other, the banks came in for some stick, they of course blamed the hedge funds and now the hedge funds being questioned before a Commons Committee are blaming the banks. Cameron blames Brown, Brown blames the world economy. The obvious seems to escape them, the system is flawed and has come to its inevitable end. The people who managed this ridiculous creation of wealth out of nothing for the few and misery for the many have of course been well paid. Take a wee look at the earnings some of the chiefs in charge of the rip-off piled up for themselves. These are the total remuneration since 1999 or during their term with the company.

Andy Hornby, HBOS £7.6m.

Eric Daniels, Lloyds £10.2m.

John Varly, Barclays £11.8m.

Stephen Green, HSBC £12.5m.

Bob Diamond, Barclays £39.8m.

Chuck Prince, Citigroup £77.5m.

And now some of the big earners, Hank Paulson, Goldman Sachs £119.9m.

Sandy Weill, Citigroup £121.7m.

Dick Fuld, Lehman Bros £134.5m.

Lloyd Blankfein, Goldman Sachs £163.1m.

Jimmy Cayne, Bear Stearns £164.2m.

Stan O'Neal, Merrill Lynch £196.7m.

12 greedy and arrogant men and a cool total of £1059.5 million, a wee fortune over 1 billion pounds!!!

The government in its attempt to get things back on to the rip-off track have called in a team of experts to advise them, a team of bankers. Of course what was the advice given by this team of bankers, you guessed it, throw billions of pounds at the banks. I wonder what the advice would have been if the government had called on a team of builders and engineers for advice??



20TH CENTURY SLAVERY.

Primark is bucking the trend as they say. Of course you and I know that in capitalism that means somebody is being screwed. It seems that TNS Knitwear which supplies Primark with approximately 20,000 garments a week has been accused of employing, if you can call it that, illegal immigrants and paying them £3 an hour and it is a 12 hours a day 7 days a week job.

Don't you think the system stinks?? I wonder what the directors of the company earn??

They want PAID for overtime???



BANKING SYSTEM OR MIDDEN??

THE Royal Bank saga continues, each disclosure further eroding the pittance that is now shareholder value, and Gordon Brown implies even he does not know what lies undisclosed beneath the surface I can offer him an analogy from the farming community of yesteryear. Then every farm had its own RSB: it was called the dungheap, or more commonly, the midden.

This was built up gradually over the previous years from deposits, albeit from the animals, but so long as it was properly maintained and managed, it provided fertility and nourishment for the fields and crops in time to come.

However, occasionally an individual would become more ambitious as to the size of his midden at the expense of its solidity and content. This failing was exacerbated by the arrival of the straw shredder, which allowed a bigger pile, but with no meaningful content.

Worse was to come. The lack of consolidation encouraged internal combustion, and a fine warm nest for rats. They quickly took over the dungheap, feeding on and absorbing the nutrients for themselves, until all that remained was an edifice emitting hot air and a bad odour. (a letter to the Herald 21 Jan.)

THERE TO PROTECT US??

American taxpayers pay \$1m a minute on war.

The American military is the biggest polluter in the world, producing more hazardous waste than the five largest American chemical companies combined. Lucinda Marshall, founder of the Feminist Peace Network writes; "In the US, one out of every ten Americans lives within ten miles of a military site that has been listed as a Superfund priority cleanup site," she adds, "The health problems that have been documented as being attributable to these various toxins in military use include miscarriages, low birth weight, birth defects, kidney disease, and cancer. Military pollution most directly affects those who are targeted by our weapons, soldiers and anyone living near a military base, both in the US and abroad."

Of course don't think that our nice military are any cleaner, they're just smaller. You have been warned.

CAPITALISM AND POVERTY.

In households with less than 60% median income a/c in Scotland today are:

980,000 20% or one fifth of all individuals,

250,000 24% of children,

150,000 16% of pensioners,

590,000 19% of working age adults

• **Inequality:** the share of the income of the richest ten per cent is the same as that of the bottom fifty per cent;

• **Poor Health:** differences in life expectancy between the poorest and richest areas of Glasgow can be up 25 years for men and 15 years for women;

• **Debt and financial exclusion:** Only 1 in six people whose household income is less than £10,000 has a bank account. More than half do not have any savings

• **Bad Housing:** 360,000 homes in Scotland are affected by dampness, more than 70% of Scottish social housing is below the Scottish Quality Housing Standard and over 125,000 children live in overcrowded houses

• **Fuel Poverty:** an estimated 650,000 'fuel poor' households in Scotland and more than 2,000 (rising to 5,000 in severe winters) people aged over 65 die as a result of cold related illnesses during winter months

• **Disadvantaged young people:** nearly 1 in 5 young people leave school without SVQ2 level (Higher education entry level) qualifications, increasing their risk of poverty in later life



DIY.

The phrase DIY, meaning "do it yourself" though it has a long history, really came into common usage in the 1950s and referred to jobs people could do around the house without calling on the professionals. Big business of course, not being one to miss an opportunity to exploit a situation, seized on it and we saw the mushrooming of stores like B&Qs, etc. This in turn meant that the DIY enthusiast could be seen as just a different type of consumer. However DIY is a much richer vein than feeding the B&Qs and such, it is a whole way of seeing the world. It is a principle of challenging the accepted method of delegating work to the usually expensive so called experts. It is not just about new kitchens, it also includes growing your own food, arts and crafts, political and social action, self publishing and a host of other activities, one good example of DIY is the Indymedia network. It also includes using public transport, biking, walking as well as sharing, using and re-using, instead of buying a new product and increasing the amount of waste we produce. It can free you from the grip of the consumer culture.

In essence it is about increasing our individual skills, self reliance and empowering ourselves, building our self confidence and our ability to co-operate. It also helps us to realise that we as individuals are the agents of change, we can and must act to create the change we want. If we want that better world then we can only get it by being DIYers. We can't get it by calling in the "expert" politicians nor can we buy it from the corporate world.

POLL TAX--COUNCIL TAX??

Courts were used in 1.2 million cases to recover council tax arrears last year, and 2.5 million households received courts summonses. Of 19,156 bankruptcy petitions, one in five was lodged by local authorities. Pensioners and poor families have even had to sell their homes to meet huge legal costs arising from bankruptcy orders that dwarf the original debt, according to Citizens Advice.



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.

QUOTE: He who negates present society, and seeks social conditions based on the sharing of property, is a revolutionary whether he calls himself an anarchist or a communist. **Johann Most**



BIG CHEATS--WEE CHEATS!!

According to Neil Bateman, a welfare rights specialist, most benefit fraud is exaggerated. In a letter published by the Guardian (5/12/08), Bateman claims that out of 41 cases of alleged fiddling which he investigated, only three were correct. He writes of "an alarming trend for prosecutions to be based on fundamentally flawed evidence". And in cases where fraud has occurred, eg with people working while claiming, they often would have received as much, or more, in legitimate (but unclaimed) tax credits. However you and I know that the real BIG cheats in the banking and financial sector walk away with millions, never get prosecuted and we don't see posters asking us to snitch on them. They belong to the club, you and I don't, that's the difference. Let's close their club once and for all.

Poem by Michael Dickinson 2005

"The man

Of virtuous soul commands not, nor obeys:
Power, like a desolating pestilence,
Pollutes whate'er it touches, and obedience,
Bane of all genius, virtue, freedom, truth,
Makes slaves of men, and, of the human frame,
A mechanised automaton."

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