

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 82 March 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

ANN ARKY EJECTED, WELL ALMOST!!

Ann arky, an old wrinkly, boarded the bus at Hope St and placed the bus pass on the wee machine. Red light flashes, after umpteen attempts by myself and the driver, still no ticket. The driver then took the pass and said, "You'll need to get off the bus.". "You have to be joking" was my reply. However he was not joking, he said that I would have to leave the bus or he keeps my pass as he can't issue me with a ticket.

I let the queue that had formed do their thing and then tried again, this time correct light and ticket appeared. This might seem like a slight inconvenience but had this been the governments super-duper-all-in-one ID card, it could fail when I go to get my medication, sorry sir, no medication, I'm deid. Or perhaps I wanted to draw my pension to get some grub, no money, no food. You might say that it is a once in a million chance but on the 1st January this year in Germany 30 million cards failed to function. People couldn't draw money from ATM machines, nor could they make any purchases. As far as I am aware it took about a week to put things right. In this country if the government gets its way it could be a week without money, medication, no access to benefits, hospitals, dentists, etc. and of course if you're a pensioner, a long walk home at night. This ID insanity must be stopped to avoid a real disaster.

WAR WITHOUT END!!!

Well, there've always been people going around saying someday the war will end. I say, you can't be sure the war will ever end. Of course, it may have to pause occasionally—for breath, as it were—it can even meet with an accident—nothing on this earth is perfect—a war of which we could say it left nothing to be desired will probably never exist. A war can come to a sudden halt—from unforeseen causes—you can't think of everything—a little oversight, and the war's in the hole, and someone's got to pull it out again! The someone is the Emperor or the King or the Pope. They're such friends in need, the war has really nothing to worry about, it can look forward to a prosperous future.

~ Bertolt Brecht, *Mother Courage* (1938)

NO ID, NO BOOZE!!

There is no end to the creeping surveillance that is penetrating every fibre of our society. This wee piece from NO2ID, is what to expect to become the norm for visits to the cinema, supermarket and libraries etc. Unless of course we resist and refuse. They need us more than we need them.

"News that the Soviet Union is planning to introduce authoritarian ID checks for drinkers in Consett, County Durham may sound like the plot of a dodgy spy novel - but it's true. A 'No ID No Entry' scheme is being proposed in Consett which would mean visitors to the Soviet Union bar would have to have their passport or driving licence scanned into a computer system before they can enter".

The system called 'Clubscan' is increasingly being rolled out across the UK as civil liberties are traded for booze. Of course if enough customers refuse to submit to these arbitrary ID checks then the clubs and pubs will have to remove the systems. It's up to you!!



A NEW WORLD IN OUR HEARTS.

"We are going to inherit the earth . There is not the slightest doubt about that. The bourgeoisie may blast and burn its own world before it finally leaves the stage of history. We are not afraid of ruins. We who ploughed the prairies and built the cities can build again, only better next time. We carry a new world, here in our hearts. That world is growing this minute."
----Durruti



THE STATE'S MINDERS.

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. A history they like to forget. 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 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 march 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 asking for a 40 hour week to try to soak up unemployment. They were baton charged in George Square, running battles ensued throughout the city, the military with fixed bayonets were posted on city streets, machine guns on the roofs at George Square, tanks stationed off the Saltmarket. Remember the brutal treatment hand out to the miners in the eighties? Our history is a catalogue of 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, we will continue to suffer at their hands.

GLASGOW ANARCHISTS.

Anarchism in Glasgow has a long tradition and can trace its roots back to the late 1800s. Since then Glasgow anarchists have been involved in all the major struggles of the Glasgow people. Whenever Glasgow's citizens have been in conflict against exploitation, oppression, injustice the Glasgow anarchists have been at the forefront of that struggle. The support for anarchism, its ideas, its practice and theory have gone in waves, rising and falling as circumstances within society have changed.

Today, in common with the rest of the world, Glasgow is seeing a revival of anarchist ideas. It is not difficult to understand why there is such a revival. More and more people are becoming completely disgusted at the blatant greed and deceit of the very politicians who are supposed to be their representatives. They are angry at a party political system that sees the power of the party and it's leaders as more important than the people. A system that is in cahoots with and does the bidding of the corporate world whose greed is running rampant across the world destroying our communities and the environment in the name of profit.

Anarchists have always pointed out the fact that the party political system will always fail the people, as it removes power from the people to an elite group. Changing the party or the leader will not interrupt the power of the corporate world as they fund the politicians.

If you are aware of the corruption and deceit, of the plundering and rape of our planet, and you want a better world for all our children and our grandchildren why not join us in trying to create an alternative, based on the will of the people. Based on free association, voluntary co-operation, mutual aid and sustainability

QUEENSLAND ABORIGINE ACTIVIST QUOTE.

If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

UK, NO.6 IN WORLD'S REPRESSIVE REGIMES

A report from the US internet security company Cryptohippie puts the UK at number six in the list of the world's most repressive regimes in terms of the electronic surveillance of its citizens. The report 'The Electronic Police State, 2010 National Rankings' says: "*The UK is aggressively building the world of 1984 in the name of stopping 'anti-social' activities. Their populace seems unable or unwilling to restrain the government*". The report defines an electronic police state as being characterised by "*State use of electronic technologies to record, organize, search and distribute forensic evidence against its citizens*". The report can be downloaded at:

<http://secure.cryptohippie.com/pubs/EPS-2010.pdf>

SHORT CIRCUIT THE STATE INSTITUTIONS.

To today's activists in the communities it must be perfectly clear by now that you can't make a dent in the institutions of the modern state in the hope of changing them. The modern state is so entwined with the corporate world that they function as one and the same and the corruption of the political world is matched only by the corruption of the corporate world. To become involved in any of these institutions in the hope of change must eventually corrupt the ideals of those working for that change. You will be sucked in and become part and parcel of the system that you are trying to change.

In the hope of changing society for the better it becomes necessary to work outside those institutions, working in the community seeking alternative ways to shape those communities, circumventing and short circuiting the institutions of state and the corporate world. Eventually hoping to replace them.

Howard Zin explains it more fully in the following extract; *"If you work through the existing structures you are going to be corrupted. By working through political system that poisons the atmosphere, even the progressive organizations, you can see it even now in the US, where people on the "Left" are all caught in the electoral campaign and get into fierce arguments about should we support this third party candidate or that third party candidate. This is a sort of little piece of evidence that suggests that when you get into working through electoral politics you begin to corrupt your ideals. So I think a way to behave is to think not in terms of representative government, not in terms of voting, not in terms of electoral politics, but thinking in terms of organizing social movements, organizing in the work place, organizing in the neighbourhood, organizing collectives that can become strong enough to eventually take over – first to become strong enough to resist what has been done to them by authority, and second, later, to become strong enough to actually take over the institutions. –"*

I would say "replace with new structures" rather than "take over the institutions." We don't need institutions based on privilege and power, funded by greed. Tell annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk your ideas on trying to change society for the benefit of all.

A FAIR SYSTEM!!!

Last year Linda Cook, former executive of Anglo-Dutch Oil, had her pension pot more than doubled to app. £16.5 million, and on leaving the company was given a "golden-goodbye" of app. £5 million taking her annual earnings, not counting the wee pension, to app.£6.5 million. At the same time the company announced that it was to axe a further 1,000 jobs, making a total of 7,000 jobs axed since last summer. Bonuses for them, dole for us!!



WHO CALLS THE TUNE???

Since devolution, corporations and business groups have been very active in Scottish politics. This helps explain the emergence of numerous pro-corporate think tanks, lobbyists and corporate/state partnerships across Scottish public life. The problem with a small country such as Scotland is that big companies can exert a disproportionate influence on the political system. They have colossal lobbying influence and produce information and advice that is used by the administration to frame and formulate its policies. However this is not impartial advice from disinterested observers of the political-economic scene. This is special pleading from very interested participants who have much to gain.

For example, **Irvine Alan Stewart Laidlaw, Baron Laidlaw** (born 1943 in Keith, Banffshire) is a Monaco-based business services tycoon who almost single-handedly bankrolls the Scottish Conservative Party and a member of the House of Lords.

Then there was the "keep the Clause" campaign run by Media House International PR agency created by **Jack Irvine**, a former editor of the Scottish Sun. It came to national attention when running the 'Keep the Clause Campaign' (against the repeal of Section 28 / Clause 2a, preventing local authorities teaching school children about the acceptability of homosexuality) on behalf of Stagecoach tycoon **Brian Souter** in 2000.

Why should two men have such influence over the Scottish political scene just because they are rich. What influence would you and I have over the political institutions of Scotland? It is a stinking system where money counts and deals are done behind closed doors and rules are set by which you and I are expected to play. Now seems a good time to start to organise to set up a system where the people govern, not a bunch of privileged parasites

DELUSIONAL TONY STILL COSTING US MONEY.

Tony Blair, delusional fundamentalist Christian, appeared at the Chilcot inquiry recently and it costs the tax payer £273,000, including £61,000 in overtime to protect him. This wasn't in Afghanistan or Baghdad, it was in the UK, They were protecting him from a handful of protesters who would have preferred to see St. Tony in a court, rather than an inquiry. How we honour and protect the delusional.

FREEDOM

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

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

www.annarky1.wordpress.com
Another ann arky spout.



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

WORKERS, KNOW YOUR HISTORY.

June 1725 - The malt tax riots

Due to the hatred of the 'Malt Tax' there were wide spread riots across the country. The most serious was June 1725 in Glasgow. When Revenue Officers arrived to assess the Maltsters, they were met by large angry crowds who barred their way. On June the 24th a large crowd decided to attack the house of Duncan Campbell of Shawfield believing that he had supported the tax in the Houses of Parliament. The angry scenes prompted the Lord Advocate Duncan Forbes to call in troops from Edinburgh.

15th February 1800

Unemployment and high taxes during this period caused wide spread demonstrations which culminated on the 15th. of February 1800 when angry and hungry crowds took to the streets. They marched along Argyle Street attacking meatsellers and grocers' shops. Meanwhile crowds in Townhead and Calton were also smashing into similar shops. The authorities called out the troops to disperse the rioters.

1812 weavers strike

1812 saw the largest strike in Scotland until that date. The weavers were on strike in an attempt to protect their living standards. The strike was on the whole peaceful, though the Magistrates and the Government claimed otherwise in an attempt to come down heavy on the strikers. The strike lasted three months, it eventually run out of funds and collapsed. Because of this strike Trade Unionism was declared illegal in Scotland and remained so until 1824. Seven strikers were arrested and charged with 'illegal combination' and sentenced to 18 months in prison.

6th March 1848

There was a serious riot in the city of Glasgow on the 6th of March 1848. It came about when the unemployed operatives had expected a distribution of provisions. The provisions never appeared and the starving and angry crowds set off up Irongate and other main streets of the city centre breaking into food and gun shops. Business in the city came to a stand-still and all city centre shops closed. The people continued to march through the streets shouting 'bread or revolution'. Eventually the 'riot act' was read. Other groups marched off in other directions entering food shops and demanding bread. The alarmed authorities, sent to Edinburgh for more troops.

1915 rent strikes

1915 saw Glasgow and Clydeside districts organise a massive grass roots movement against large rent increases. Over 25,000 tenants refused to pay rent increases. The struggle spread to the Clydeside engineering and shipyards, forcing the government to introduce the 1915 Rent Restriction Act.

1919 'forty hour week' strike

1919 the struggle for a shorter working week came to a head with a strike which had the support of practically all the workers in the area. Marches and demonstrations were organised. One massive demonstration in George Square caused the authorities some concern and the police baton charged the crowd creating mayhem. The government fearing revolution sent English troops with tanks into the city.