

every day a shirkers' holiday

The original idea behind this calendar was simply to uncover a reason for celebrating on every day of the year, an 'excuse' – if excuse were needed – for a holiday. As it stands as a datebook, it is both less and more than that. Hopefully, it still serves as an advent-calendar, both in the sense that 'advent' stems from the same root as 'adventure', and in the sense that it looks forward to better days than these – our 'ad-vent'.

The ideology of progress – of the development of capitalism – to which we all tend to subscribe, consciously or not, serves to obscure how much we have lost even with reference to the 'bad-old-days' of pre-industrial Europe. The 1536 Act of Convocation had tried to regulate the hydra-headed variety of English popular pleasures by ordering all village wakes and feasts to fall on the First of October. It was ignored, and a war of attrition had to be waged against a carnival culture incompatible with the needs of emergent business. In France, the process was even more marked:

Under the old regime (pre-1789), the laws of the church guaranteed the labourer 90 rest days, 52 Sundays and 38 holidays, during which he was strictly forbidden to work ... [Protestantism] dethroned the saints in heaven in order to abolish their feast days on earth ... Religious reform and philosophical free thought were but pretexts ... to pilfer the feasts of the people.

– Paul Lafargue, *The Right To Be Lazy*, 1880

Festal and free time have been progressively stolen from us as the intensification of exploitation has emptied the calendar of nearly all content save that of the deadening routine of the planetary work machine. Gregorian reform of the calendar in 1752 gave rise to the cry: "Give us back our eleven days". Hell, we'll take them and the 180 of the medieval French peasant, and that just for starters.

The attempt to throw off the yoke of forced work and reclaim the time of our lives has a history of its own. We can look to the long and continuing radical utilisation and reinterpretation of the Jewish Jubilee (by the Afro-American emancipation movement, for instance) and to the more or less forgotten 'Grand National Holiday' of 19th Century English proles. From these and other strands can be gleaned hints and inspiration for the struggle for today.

A holiday is, by definition, a day on which no work is done. And in the spirit of reclaiming that which we have lost, here are some

of the *hundreds* of 'excuses' – 'hey days' – you might choose to observe as part of the refusal of work:

Any Monday can and should be an occasion for slacking off, in keeping with the great tradition of the not-so-keen-on-working classes. Proletarians "keeping Saint Monday" (and, often, Saint Tuesday too) were the bane of the early factory masters, and this ingrained habit of resistance to regularised work-schedules and the

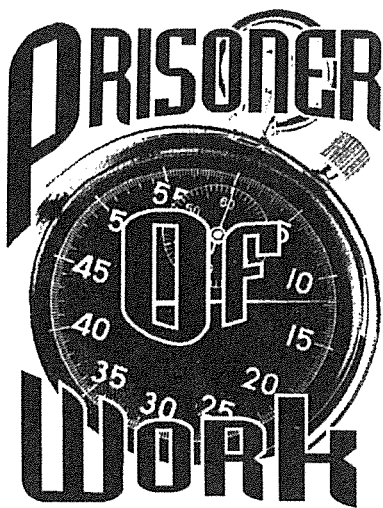
tyranny of the factory clock was one of the reasons why less empowered and so more malleable women and children had to be employed instead.

In addition, Monday is of course the **Shoemakers' Holiday**: erring on the side of caution, cobblers observed every Monday as a holiday in honour of their patron saint, Crispin, whose actual feast date was said to be obscure though it was known to fall on a Monday (see however 25 October in our calendar).

Sailors, who often worked seven-day weeks, had 'Rope-Yarn Sunday': a Sunday free from work, or a half-holiday usually on a Thursday.

Hearing the first cuckoo is the traditional cue for the start of Spring, and so naturally a holiday: on first hearing one, Shropshire miners downed tools for an instant 24-hour holiday known as Gaudy Day.

The Romans chalked up White Stone Days on their calendars: **days considered to be happy or fortunate**. And so we can do the same. Here are some specific dates: agitation for the Grand National Holiday produced on 21 March, 1832, 'Freedom's Feast and Folly's Fast': "*A grand holiday to liberty of mind and unity of action*", in which 100,000 dined and demonstrated in Marylebone. This was a direct counter and rebuke to a government call to observe a day of abstinence following a cholera outbreak.



Cornish tin miners kept up the ancient holiday tradition of 'Friday in Lide' (Lide is Old English for March) on the first Friday in March.

Shrove Tuesday was always a day set aside for games: mass football, knurr and spell, tugs of war and many others. In Norton-in-Hales, Shropshire, anyone reactionary enough to actually try to go to work would suffer bradling: being dragged back and forth over the Bradling Stone on the village green whilst simultaneously beaten.

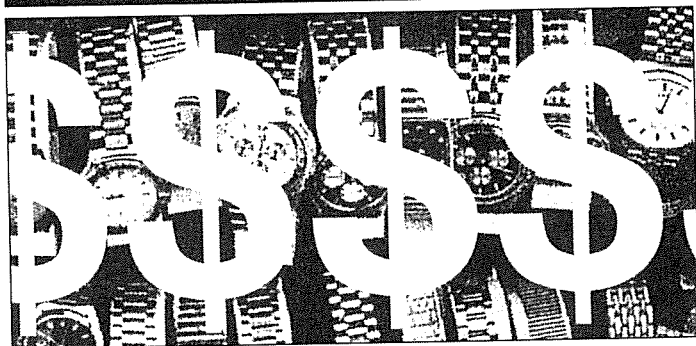
In Lincolnshire, the following Thursday was **Clerk Thursday** as children resisted their processing as the wage-slaves of the future and locked teachers out of school until granted a day's holiday. A countrywide 'barring out' – with teachers locked out and pupils giving themselves the day off – was also widely observed on 6 December.

The First of January is Adam's birthday – and so everyone's second birthday: a lot of English folk don't work 1 January anyway, so it's useful to recall that 25 March is also Adam's birthday (in the Old Style pre-reform calendar).

Another roving date is **Ascension Day** (which falls on the Thursday after the fifth Sunday after Easter): slate miners at Penrhyn, Gwynedd considered it bad luck to work and observed an unofficial holiday.

In **Orkney**, the excuse for slacking off on 24 August was that working the land would cause the furrows to bleed. The 24th was also the 'Wayzgoose': a printers' holiday (especially in London),

WE EXCHANGE THE TIME OF OUR LIVES



FOR A LIFETIME OF COMMODITY EXCHANGE

when a traditional annual payment by employers to pay for candles was used instead for a day off and a slap-up meal.

If all these single days-off seem too brief, invoke the old glorious revel of Whitsuntide (the week following the seventh Sunday after Easter) by sticking two fingers at the pinched 17th Century puritan Phillip Stubbes who whined:

Why should they abstaine from bodely labor, peradventure the whole week, spending it in drunkenesse, whordome, gluttonie, and other filthie Sodomiticall exercyses?

With prolonged enjoyment of festal time, a new spirit can be brought to whatever useful and necessary labour really needs to be done. 7 January was Rock / Distaff's Day, when spinning was resumed after the extended Yuletide festivities – or rather *not* resumed, since the day was enlivened by much horseplay with men setting light to the flax and women lurking in ambush with buckets of water. In a similar vein, on Plough Monday (the Monday after 6 January, Twelfth Night), when ploughing was supposed to start, ploughmen in weird costume or drag engaged in much merry mayhem. Fenlanders followed up with a further holiday-extender, Straw Bear Tuesday. This was echoed in the North when Handsel Monday (the Monday after 12 January and celebrated with whisky, plum pudding and treacle sandwiches), would sometimes be followed by Handsel Tuesday – the same fun all over again – also known as Roking Day, a Scots', and very late, version of the Saint Distaff "return" to work.

The Calendar of World Domination we survive under is designed to enforce uniform time, work and leisure. Attacks upon it can be many and varied. Consider this one:

Has it ever occurred to you that one month in three has five Mondays in it? That means an average of four superfluous Mondays every year. What better occasion to declare days of action against overwork?

Proclamation: The Fifth Monday of every month that has five Mondays, and each remaining day of the month following the fifth Monday, are hereby declared universal holidays. These shall be days of rest, civic rejoicing and solidarity between workers – employed and unemployed – everywhere.

Manifesto of the Fifth Monday Liberation Movement
– *We're not waiting for a month of Sundays*

Now here's the rub: the return to work. Enforced idleness is no challenge to the world of work: being on the dole 365 days a year may be better than working, but it's no holiday. And holidays are often just the lubricant that allows the work-routine to continue. More 'time-off' can remain just that, a reprieve badly spent:

time is the enemy



pleasure is the aim

The stores don't observe Lincoln's Birthday. They cash in on the fact that the other wage slaves get the day off. It's a big white-collar shopping spree.

This calendar might only be used like an exotic travel agency, to spice up a jaded and expanding 'leisure' time. But we want something quite different. We have looked to holidays that are celebrations because they contain the seeds of refusal, the rejection of forced work, and so hint towards another way of living. The abolition of work is the fulfilment, not the neglect of human needs. It is the condition for the resumption of free creative activity, productive play:

If ... the working class were to arise in its terrible strength, not to demand the Rights of Man, which are but the rights of capitalist exploitation, not to demand the Right to Work which is but the right to misery, but to forge a brazen law forbidding any man to work more than three hours a day, the earth, the old earth, trembling with joy would feel a new universe leaping within her.

— Paul Lafargue, *The Right To Be Lazy*, 1880

Earlier this century, the IWW agitated for a 16 hour working week, but what may have been radical then is no longer sufficient. Today, necessary labour – that required to provide everyone with sufficient food, warmth, clothing and shelter – works out at something under *twenty minutes a day for each of us*.

Festal time opposes itself to the established order of things, seeks to replace what is, with a different vision of life. A revel is a tumult and a celebration, deriving from the same Latin root as the verb to rebel. It suggests that the abolition of work – the destruction of society based on work – is not only possible, but necessary.

On this day there is no King in Stamford, we are every one of us high and mighty ... a Lord Paramount, a Lord of Misrule, a King of Stamford ... We are punishable for no crime but murder.

Stamford Bull Running, 13 November

make
EVERY DAY
extraordinary



you have the whole world
in your hands

without a trace

History records the patterns of men's lives, they say: who slept with whom and with what results; who fought and who won and who lived to lie about it afterwards. All things, it is said, are duly recorded – all things of importance, that is. But not quite, for actually it is only the known, the seen, the heard and only those events that the recorder regards as important that are put down, those lies his keepers keep their power by.

– Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Dominant culture rarely interests itself in evidence other than that which shows willing and enthusiastic complicity from its subjects. Acts of refusal and revolt are effaced from the historical record when they expose the tenuous control of authority. Even when they do appear, presence, motives and behaviour are all mediated through the lens of elite partiality which works to deny that we are capable of generating the ideas and means of our own liberation.

That much most of us recognize; it is the premise of the 'class history' developed in the Sixties by the likes of E P Thompson, Christopher Hill and Eric Hobsbawm. But their's is also a particularist history, focused as it is on the same level of *public* appearance as that of the Establishment. Just as real life is elsewhere than on television, so the 'history' of resistance is *at the very least* written between the lines of the official record of leaders, followers and climactic events. In the interests of self-preservation, the ruling class and its official recorders – journalists and other such vermin whose social position depends upon the maintenance of class society – invariably work to keep attention only on a protest's leaders (whether real or imaginary) and particularly on those with superior status or privilege.

But as well as those who lack the influence to have their words and actions recognized as important are those who have no intention whatsoever to be so identified. It is this realm of individual and collective refusal that has proved most resilient to exposure in the historical record.

A vast area of active political life is ignored for the simple fact that it takes place at a level we rarely recognise as 'political'. Trained by the mass media to applaud the spectacular action rather than the incremental and prudent, all is in the appearance, the *image* of revolt as reproduced through that same mass media. But much 'political' activity is elaborated among an inten-

tionally restricted public that excludes or is hidden from the gaze of authority. So it is not only that the historical record is kept by elites, for elites, but that subversives themselves have an interest in concealment of their activities (for starters, this gives us greater personal security and self-control). Such acts as these *were never meant to be recordable*, and they were often successful only insofar as they were invisible. The most successful poisonings of class oppressors, for example, are those never known as such. Just like the perfect crime, the subversive act seeks to escape all detection, cover its tracks and avoid appearance in the archives: for the perpetrators to strike (anonymously) and so survive to strike again (only those who wish to be martyrs, self-publicists or media personalities would wish to wait around to offer their names and have their picture taken).

A pestilent pernicious people ... such as take oaths to the government, but underhand labour its subversion.

— Bishop Trelawny, 1717

Though the point, by its very nature, is impossible of proof, *apparent* docility is the measure of subterfuge, and is only broken by those crises of ruling class confidence that allow insurrectionary breakthrough. Our ability to capitalise on these favourable moments must be understood in the context of a long-term struggle that is only successful insofar as it is invisible.

So a view of politics focused either on the official and formal relations of power (the command performances of consent), or on open protest and rebellion, represents a far too narrow concept of political life. The body of historical knowledge that we must grapple with is for the most part only a record of that which has broken through to the public sphere. There are undoubtedly important and instructive events and occurrences among them, which can give strength, through popular memory, to protest and resistance. But the lens of hindsight and reportage is a distorted mirror. 'History' records what is most spectacular and most easily located: 'the start', the 'peaks', the 'decisive break' with the past. We see the climax, the (only possibly decisive) invasion of public space. As such it implodes the development of movements of refusal and social transformation, for it freezes our attention on a single frame in time, disconnected from that which made it possible. As Dickens remarks in *Barnaby Rudge*: "*We note the harvest more than the seed time.*" Despite the claims of the media, these moments almost never come from nowhere; they are, rather, the acceleration of continuing processes through timely public mani-

for a world



turned upside down

festation. The agitation and preparation that precede and underpin the demonstrative act are *always* beginning and *never* end. It is at the point of certain rupture that the perpetrators of everyday acts of refusal consider it safe to appear on the public stage. Unless provoked by the State into desperate measures, open collective defiance is rarely undertaken unless it is practical and likely to succeed. Until that time, the mechanisms, structures and struggles which necessarily precede it remain a closed book.

It is the accumulation of 'petty' acts of defiance and refusal that makes critical upsurges possible. They are not a substitute for revolution but a necessary condition for it. That it is why the insurrectionary moment invariably escalates so rapidly – "as if from nowhere" – and is why revolutionary elites (the clownish ringmasters of the vanguard) always find themselves hopelessly overtaken:

How is it possible that so many people immediately understood what to do and that none of them needed any advice or instructions?

– Vaclav Havel, New Year's Day 1990

No More False Prophets, No More Hired Tongues

An understanding of previous movements for change is not merely an exercise in historical interpretation. Knowledge gained is the means by which we can understand how to take effective action, ourselves, today. When we recognise what has been, we can plan for what might be.

Movements that attempt to create a groundswell of opposition by initiating public (usually *publicity-seeking*) protests will almost always meet with general indifference – not because most people don't care, but because we are a lot more realistic about the utility of such initiatives than the protesters.

The art of the possible is discovered rather in those anonymous, immediate (but not by any means 'spontaneous') short-run collective actions that apply the principles of guerrilla warfare¹ to everyday life. Cryptic and, above all, *surreptitious* actions are best adapted to resist an opponent who can probably win any open confrontation. We must be ever-ready to melt away as soon as faced with unfavourable odds.

1. The signal failure of formal guerrilla-ism is its theoreticians' inability to extend the guiding principle of 'first-stage' guerrilla war (Never Defend a Fixed Base) from simple physicality to – what is far more crucial – political organisation and ideological objective.



NURTURE FEAR • HARVEST OBEDIENCE

'Spontaneous' forms of popular action can be, and are deliberately chosen because of the tactical advantages for all those involved. What might be called a *low-intensity* class warfare is always pressing, testing, probing the boundaries of the permissible – so as to take swift advantage of any fissures that may open up in moments of crisis. It is not then our 'incapacity' to sustain permanent political organisation (most sensible people vote with their feet and avoid these formations like the plague) but that the choice of fleeting, direct action represents a popular tactical wisdom developed in conscious response to the political constraints realistically faced. Anonymity and avoidance of formal organisation are *enabling* modes of resistance, a measure of our understanding of both the danger and the futility of spectacular mediated action.

While such action precludes formal organisation, it most certainly does not eschew effective coordination, achieved through the informal networks of affinity, kinship, traditional and intentional community, workplace and, yes, even perhaps ritual and religious practice. Socially-embedded networks, developed at the level of the everyday, are as opaque to the authorities as they are indispensable to subversive activity. Let what's left of the Left engage in monumental plans for grandiose national – now, even 'global' – federations (federations and movements of *what?* Parades before the world's TV cameras – no thanks).

Effective subversion must be organised out of the gaze of domination, in a sequestered physical, cultural or social location: those areas that are least patrolled by authority (anarchist and eco-activist meetings are mostly conventions for police informers).

For those who look only on the surface of things, those seduced by the spectacular *image* of defiance, the strategy posed here might be seen as 'a retreat' from 'conventional' class struggle. But all things are precisely *not* as they seem: this is the very form that *traditional* successful class struggle has always taken. The clandestine, apparently innocuous, maybe even anti-political assembly provides the fluidity, the guerrilla mobility, for effective subversive projection.

No Name No Slogan

For us, there are immediate uses and gains in formations such as these: no leaders to round up; no hierarchical organisation to wield power over us in our name; no membership lists to investigate; no manifestos to denounce; no mediators to meet (and join) the power-holding elite. No public claims are made, no symbolic lines drawn, no press statements to be deliberately misconstrued and trivialised by journalists. No platforms or programmes which the intellectuals can hijack as their exclusive property; no flag or banner to which to pledge a crass and sectarian allegiance.

Then what concrete forms will our subversion take? Well, the concrete forms it *already* takes: theft, feigned ignorance (all the better to dissemble our intentions), shirking or careless labour, footdragging and go-slow, zero-work (with a little preparation we might come to enjoy the next depression), secret trade and production for sale (for barter, or – even better – for free), squatting, default on all payment for anything, evasion of taxes, destruction of official records, sabotage and arson, assassination, impromptu riot (for the hell of it) and the detournment of state-sponsored celebration into moments of joyous destruction.

If we were to undertake all this with the objective of attaining a complete self-reliance in the satisfaction of all our needs and desires, we may well find it sufficient for the move from surviving within this system, to superceding it.

Let the daily celebration of life be but a dress rehearsal for insurrection. It is the accumulation of small, instrumental acts that will bring authority to its knees. Let us rise.

our own notion of time and motion?

Historical time is not simply measured time. It is time that has been lived through, suffered, and experienced. It is determined not by the hand of the clock moving forwards minute by minute, but by the far more arrhythmic clock of internal and external experiences.

— Jacob Burckhardt, 1868

Two editions and quite a few years on, *Calendar Riots* still proves a problematic project.

We desire to subvert the controlling hand of the calendar by changing the use to which it is put: to move from life-denying work timetable to a daily dose of *joie de vivre*.

A prime means to this end has been to challenge and replace the version of history that the official calendar records. But the calendar is both the target of, and the vehicle for our subversion. Its use has meant conforming to what is tantamount to an arbitrary allocation of dates to events, in effect treating time and the process of movement through time as a series of singular and self-contained occurrences, which they are patently not. Instead of undermining the calendar, this tends to strengthen rather than diminish the blinkering identification of calendar with experience. To view both our own and others' lives in terms of given days and dates remains within an established and imposed chronology.

Furthermore, once located via the medium of a datebook, the historical flow and development of movements and action suffers a certain disjunction. We have found a partial bibliography of our researches for the dates in this book to be inadequate; and a more comprehensive one would be a book in itself.

It is clear that the established form and content of the calendar serves hierarchical power. Yes, even from the earliest days: ancient stone-circles, for example, were in one sense nothing more than giant work clocks, devices designed to regulate social life. The official calendar pre-empts and occludes self-determined frames of reference, the myriad of possible approaches to personal experience and social stimuli. So in our attempt at a 'radical reappraisal', we may have merely reinforced the narrow perspective in which our lives are mediated through externally-imposed forms.

This is quickly obvious when we come to the particular format upon which we hang our dates. *Calendar Riots* uses the 'christian-western' calendar. Any date not specifically fixed by reference to this version of the solar year is difficult to record. 'Moveable feasts' (those determined by lunar reckoning, for example) form perhaps a majority of all human global festivities but are largely absent from the datebook. This includes rich traditions within the christian calendar itself connected to Easter and its related dates: Shrovetide, Lent, Rogation, etc. More importantly, anniversaries and festivals from most of the other major calendar systems – including the islamic, hindu, chinese, and jewish – are excluded. So, over and above our own partial and limited knowledge, the datebook is necessarily eurocentric not just in content but in the perceptual framework it reproduces. The assault upon the structure (rather than simply the content) of the calendar will require greater efforts.

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It is not the historian's task to speculate on what might have been. His [sic] duty is to show what happened and why.

— E J Hobsbawm & George Rude, *Captain Swing*

It is neither task nor duty, but the revolutionary's pleasure to discover what has been – so that we may all be better armed to achieve what might be. With this design in mind, many of the events in the datebook were selected on the basis of their self-organisation, class confidence and conscious workers' control. Additionally, these actions have been viewed in their most positive light, in order to emphasise their value as cues or catalysts for celebration. Hopefully their legacy has potential for both commemoration *and* investigation. Certainly, there is a tension between the intentionally celebratory spirit of *Calendar Riots* and the need to learn from both the highs and the lows of working class history:

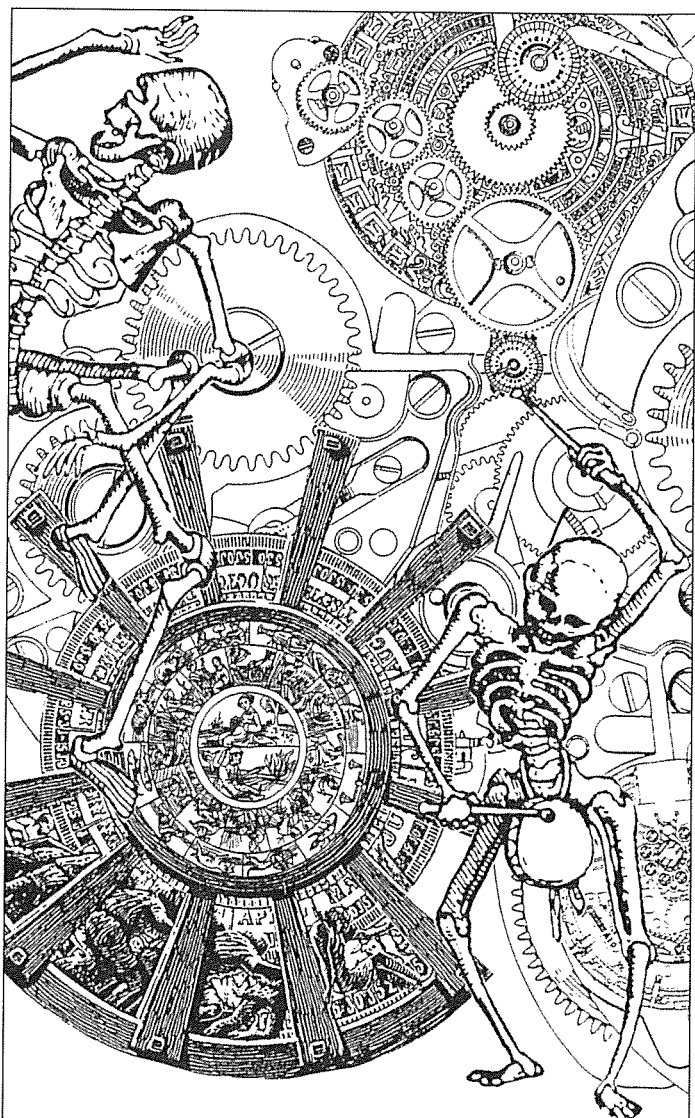
It is true that one would have to show the strength and not the weakness of the communist movement, its existence rather than its absence. Otherwise, the revolutionary only develops a superior pessimism and an abstract negation of everything which is not 'the revolution'. But the revolutionary movement is such only if it criticises itself, insisting on the global perspective, on what was missing in past proletarian movements. It does not valorise the past. It is the state and the counter-revolution that take up the limits of past movements and make their program out of them. Theoretical communism criticises previous experiences, but also distinguishes between proletarian assault ... and attacks that were immediately bogged down by capital.

— Jean Barrot

rejoice fellow creature



all is ours



I wish my friends to speak little or not at all about me, because idols are created when men are praised, and this is very bad for the future of the human race. Acts alone, no matter by whom committed, ought to be studied, praised, or blamed. Let them be praised in order that they may be imitated when they seem to contribute to the common weal; let them be censured when they are regarded as injurious to the general well-being, so that they may not be repeated.

Last will and testament of X X X (Francisco Ferrer)

perpetual nowever ... NOW!

How to use

As a personal diary / datebook, you can begin *Calendar Riots* on any day, in any month, in any year, from now until forever.

Calendar Riots contains only **dates**.

You fill in the **days of the week** (so it can be used like a regular diary).

To do this, you need to write in the **day-plates** at the top of each left-hand page. **Day-plates** look like this:

day

To use your diary from today, go to today's date in the text.

What day of the week is today?

So what is the day of the week for the date in the **day-plate**, at the top of the left-hand page?

Write this day in the day-plate (if you use a **pencil** to fill in the days then the diary is truly perpetual and you can change the days as they change from year to year).

To fill in the days for the rest of the diary, you've now got to move **FORWARDS** through the calendar, writing in this same day of the week in all the day-plates until you reach the end of the book (24 March / page 124).

The last page has **eight** days rather than the customary seven. When you continue on into April (the start of the book) you must advance the day in the day-plate by one day. So, for example in 2002, 24 March will be a Sunday. 1 April and all following day-plates will be Mondays.

Continue writing in all the day-plates until you return to your start date, one full year having passed. Sorted and ready to use.

The Great Leap Forwards: you need only read this if you are starting your diary anywhere between 1 March 2003 and 29 February 2004: You must allow for the Leap Year and this means that page 116 and 117, which contain the week of 29 February (Leap Day), will have eight days rather than the customary seven. So when you continue on to all subsequent pages (page 118 and on) the day in the day-plate will advance by one day (note that you will **still** need to follow the directions for the end of March / beginning of April given above).

All Fools' Day

Pretending to be barmy, the wise fools of Gotham deceive King John and prevent establishment of a crown highway through Nottinghamshire [1184].

Diggers occupy St. George's Hill, near Cobham, Surrey; other communities follow in Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Kent, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Leicestershire, Bedfordshire, Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire [1649].

2 April

In the first (and least worst) *Rote Armee Fraktion* action, incendiary devices are placed at the Kaufhof and Schneider department stores in Frankfurt [1968]: "*Well, it's better to burn a store than to run one*" – Fritz Teufel.

Riots in twenty more prisons throughout Britain, following the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot and Strangeways [1990]. Support prisoners: see to 27 Old Gloucester ST, London WC1N 3XX.

3 April

Newspaper tycoon's daughter Patty Hearst announces in a taped message to a Berkeley radio station that she has joined her kidnappers, the Symbionese Liberation Army: "*I would never choose to live the rest of my life surrounded by pigs like the Hearsts*" [1974] – see also 22 February.

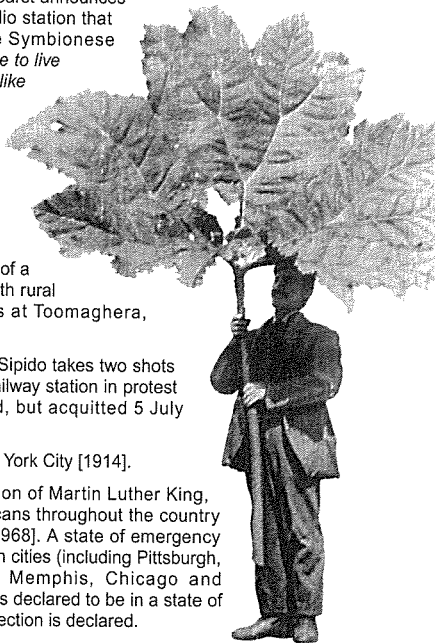
4 April

In the Irish Land War, all five members of a police squad are killed in a fire-fight with rural secret society *Terry Alts* and locals at Toomaghara, Ireland [1831] – see also 2 May.

Near miss: 16-year-old Jean-Baptiste Sipido takes two shots at the Prince of Wales in a Brussels railway station in protest against the Boer War. Apprehended, but acquitted 5 July [1900].

Unemployed riot in Union Square, New York City [1914].

In the week following the assassination of Martin Luther King, today, there are strikes of Afro-Americans throughout the country and revolts in over a hundred cities [1968]. A state of emergency and curfew is declared in more than ten cities (including Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, New York, Baltimore, Memphis, Chicago and Washington – where the White House is declared to be in a state of siege); and in Chicago a state of insurrection is declared.



5 April

National Tomb Sweeping Day, Taiwan.

Kissing is banned on French railways for causing too many delays [1910].

One hundred and twenty police stations and twenty-two tax offices are torched in Ireland to commemorate the insurrectionists of the Easter Rising [1920].

To commemorate fifty years since the Easter Rising, the Horatio Nelson Monument in Dublin is blown up [1966].

6 April

The Bavarian Räterepublik is declared, in opposition to the provisional government [1919]. The Central Council of Workers', Soldiers' and Farmers' Councils includes Ernst Toller, anarchists Erich Muhsam, Gustav Landauer and one 'Richard Maurhut' – the man who was B Traven? *"What is fame after all? It stinks to hell and heaven. Today I am famous. Tomorrow perhaps fifty people can still spell my name correctly. Day after tomorrow I may starve to death and nobody cares. That's what you call fame."*

Tens of thousands protesting the war in Vietnam jeer and heckle Vice-President Hubert Humphrey in West Berlin [1967].

7 April

New York slave revolt begins with an ambush on whites coming to douse a fire deliberately started [1712].

Birthday of gourmet, utopianist, madcap, inspirationist Charles Fourier [1772]: *"Under civilisation, poverty is born of super-abundance itself."*

A series of spontaneous Negro riots begins today in St. Mary's County, Maryland; thought to be in protest of plans to ship "surplus" Afro-Americans to Africa [1817].

Birthday of Gustav Landauer [1870]: *"The state is a condition, a certain relation between human beings, a mode of human behaviour; we destroy it by contracting other relationships, by behaving differently."*

Violent confrontations with the police and army in Switzerland [1901] during demonstrations against the extradition of an Italian anarchist suspected of the assassination of King Umberto I the year before.

8 April

day

Cuckoo Day (moveable feast): the hearing of the first cuckoo call of spring is a traditional excuse for taking the day off work and engaging instead in the more fruitful activity of toasting in the bird with 'cuckoo ale'.

Anarchist guerrillas blow up the Lonja police station in Barcelona [1950].

9 April

Birthday of Paul Robeson [1898]: exiled communist, with a voice so international that it could be heard on the only jukebox in the only public bar in the only hotel in Ulan Bator, Mongolia during the bad old days of Stalinism. He renounced his U.S. citizenship.



The Tenth of April

Today was long remembered thus, when, as part of the 'Year of Revolutions' [1848], an English Revolution appeared imminent. Revolutionaries in Paris promise aid for a Chartist uprising in London on this day: the plan is abandoned after massive occupation of London streets by troops (and rotten weather). A 'physical force' Chartist slogan: "*More pigs and fewer priests*" – see also 11 June.

Riots in Wigan require army intervention before they are put down [1912].

11 April

The Bolsheviks use the respite of the Brest Litovsk treaty with imperialism to attack their critics on the Left. Tonight 26 anarchist centres in Moscow are raided by the Cheka (secret police). A fierce battle rages on Malaia Dimitrovka Street with dozens killed on both sides and hundreds arrested [1918].

12 April

During the Easter season [1946], massive wildcat strikes and rioting (including the storming of the town hall in Geneva) kick off across Switzerland in a successful struggle for paid holidays, organised under the slogan, "Days off days of misery".

In violent attacks against the verminous right-wing Springer newspaper group throughout West Germany, Springer's skyscraper is besieged by thousands, and the company's printing presses in Munich are demolished [1968].

13 April

300,000 strike to protest British treatment of Sinn Fein prisoners. Tomorrow, 89 hunger strikers are released from Dublin prison [1920].

Birthday of Josephine Butler, advocate of prostitutes' rights [1828].

After fourteen years and more than twenty attempts, anarchist thief and propagandist Clement Duval escapes in a canoe, with eight fellow prisoners, from life imprisonment in French Guyana [1901]: "When Society refuses you the right to exist, you must take it ... The policeman arrested me in the name of the Law, I struck him in the name of Liberty."

14 April

Luddite food riot, Sheffield: mainly women and boys seize potatoes and vegetables, and attack a militia arms store [1812].

Slave uprising in Barbados breaks out on Easter Sunday night, taking advantage of the temporary freedom from work and the cover of permitted gathering for festivities [1816] – see also 18 August and 27 December.

Ten-day Limerick general strike begins, in the face of British military occupation [1919]: workers run the city as a 'soviet', maintaining services and transport, issuing their own newspaper and currency, and regulating food supply (food depots established and food sold at below market prices, profiteering prevented).



New Year's Day

day



– in Thailand. Today is *Wan Theoloeng Sok*, being the last day of *Songkran*, a huge nationwide three-day water fight. *Songkran* means 'change place', when the Sun changes position in the Zodiac.

Swallow Day: the chimney swallow arrives back in England (as do nightingales, house- and sand-martens), heralding the return of summer. Time reckoning by bird migration is an ancient and surprisingly accurate custom since birds navigate not only by the sun's position but also by celestial motion – see also 4 October.

During a general uprising, with riot, arson and peasant plunder of estates, Sipyengin, the Russian head of the secret police, is assassinated [1902].

Millions heed the call by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Zaire-Congo to turn the Zairian capital into a *ville morte* (dead city) on 14 and 15 April. Kids play soccer in streets usually streaming with traffic, and, it is said, even the unemployed stayed indoors in a general strike that paralyses Kinshasa [1997].

16 April

Garlic mustard in flower – for more information on wild foods, send an SAE to The Billiard Room, Leam, Grindleford, Derbyshire, SY32 2HL.

In the largest naval mutiny in British history, the entire Channel Fleet mutinies at Spithead, off Portsmouth [1797] – see also 12 May.

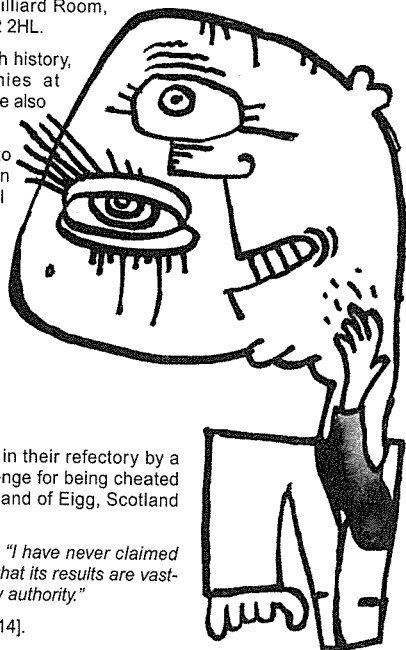
The 296th Regiment are the first to refuse to advance on the German Hindenburg Line in a mutiny that will embrace more than half a million conscript soldiers of the French Army [1917].

17 April

Fifty-three monks are burned alive in their refectory by a gang of armed women seeking revenge for being cheated out of their pasture rights on the island of Eigg, Scotland [618 CE].

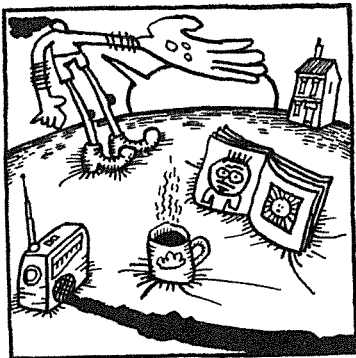
Birthday of Benjamin Tucker [1854]: "I have never claimed that liberty will bring perfection, only that its results are vastly more preferable to those that follow authority."

Suffragettes bomb Yarmouth pier [1914].



18 April

Birthday of Clarence Darrow, lawyer (one of the very few good 'uns) [1857]: "To retain all the means of life in the hands of the few – and compel the many to do service to support these few – requires the machinery of the state. It is for this reason that penal laws are made."



19 April

(Lord) George Gordon Byron dies at sunset, of marsh fever, at Missolonghi where he has been summoning troops to help the Greeks fight for independence [1824]. His diaries are burned: "The whole memoirs were fit only for a brothel, and would damn Lord B to everlasting infamy if published." Shame. It was Byron who declared: "You may call the people a mob, but do not forget that a mob often speaks the sentiments of the people."

French sailors mutiny near Sebastopol on the Black Sea, refusing to help the war effort against the Russian revolution [1919].

20 April

First of the month of *Floréal* (blossom) in the French revolutionary calendar.

In possibly the largest of exceptionally violent and extensive Luddite riots in Lancashire, a crowd of several thousand stone a power-loom mill in Middleton but are driven off with musket-fire, with three killed. Tomorrow, they will return in even greater strength and at midday are joined by an armed banditti of two hundred miners from Holmfild who, finding the mill impregnable, burn the mill-owner's house instead [1812].

Riots erupt in Guernica as part of a mass social upheaval in Spain [1986].

Two women with knives rob a priest of \$1,500, New York [1995].

21 April

Palilia (the Feast of Pales): celebrated in ancient Rome to honour the pastoral goddess Pales. Shepherds trailed by their flock leap through bonfires, in special purification rites performed to keep the sheep disease-free.

Feasting, dancing and general rejoicing greets the death of Henry VII, the first 'modern' British monarch [1509].

Workers storm the prison in La Salle, Illinois and liberate striking miners [1894].

Anti-war protesters in El Paso, Texas pelt General Westmoreland with tomatoes [1972].

Over the last year, Italian police have used guns against numerous protests, killing several people and wounding dozens. Today, during a battle between hundreds of comrades and police divisions at Rome University, 'autonomists' reply with arms, killing one policeman and wounding another [1977].

22 April

What may be the first New World slave revolt occurs, only eight years after the first slaves are transported from Africa to the Americas [1526].

A young Belgian crashes into a mirror at a London party – he is playing the violin and mounted on the world's first roller-skates [1760].

23 April

'Days of Serenades' begin: 19th Century English festival of song and romance; continues until 30 April.

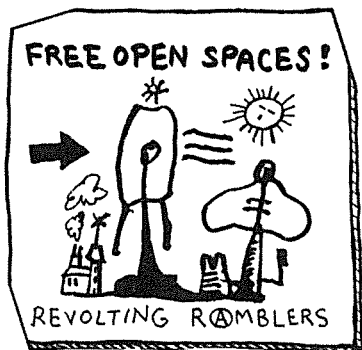
General strike against conscription of Irishmen into the British army during WWI [1918]. Conscription plans in Ireland are abandoned after only two months.

24 April

Typewriter Toss in Springfield, Missouri. Secretaries' celebration and competition: hurl office equipment from 50 foot up in the air onto a target below.

Mass trespass for public access by thousands on Kinder Scout in the Peak District: public lawbreaking and defiance result in the opening of private estates to public use [1932].

A fifteen-year-old plants a home-made bomb at police headquarters in Sleaford, Lancashire [1972].



25 April

The guillotine is erected in Paris at the Place de Grève [1792].

The Little Mermaid statue decapitated and head stolen, Copenhagen [1964] – see also 6 January.

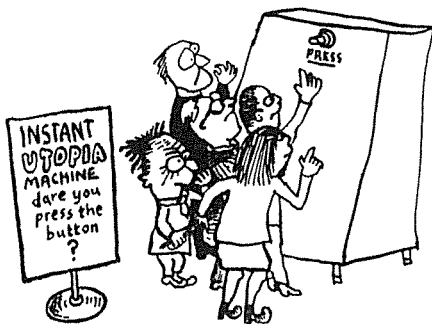


New Year's Day

– in the African Republic of Sierra Leone: an ancient seed-sowing ceremony is still performed to the goddess of fertility who watches over the crops.

On the day that Robert Lockier is sentenced to be shot for fomenting revolt in the New Model Army, the first Digger's Manifesto – *The True Levellers' Standard Advanced* – is published [1649]: "For by their labours, [the poor] have lifted up Tyrants and Tyranny; and by denying to labour for hire, they shall pull them down again. He that works for another, either for Wages, or to pay him Rent, works unrighteously, and still lifts up the Curse".

27 April



Mactan Filipinos ambush and kill European explorer Ferdinand Magellan [1521].

The first official performance of Handel's *Fireworks Music* is abandoned due to the outbreak of fire [1749] – see also 29 May.

Utopian socialist colony of Harmony is established in Indiana [1825].

28 April

The world's best-travelled goat dies in London – she had circumnavigated the globe twice, accompanied first by Wallis on the *Dolphin* and then by Cook on the *Endeavour* [1772].

On this day, she also discovers Botany Bay [1770].

Liquid bomb sent to *The Times* [1971].

29 April

Feast of *Flora* (Roman) / *Chloris* (Greek); marked by licentious revelry and public prostitution.

Chartists riot and occupy Llanidloes for five days [1839].

Third sabotage in as many months at Berkeley nuclear power station, Gloucestershire [1971].

The L.A. Riots kick off immediately following the Not Guilty verdict for the police who beat Rodney King [1992]. Upwards of 100,000 rioters level more than 5,500 buildings including the *Los Angeles Times* and military encampments. In the days following, there is rioting in Las Vegas (for the next 18 days), San Francisco (where a state of emergency is declared), Oakland, Madison, Minneapolis, Atlanta, New York, Chicago, Boston, Seattle, Toronto and Pasadena.

30 April

Walpurgisnacht / *Beltane*: the witches' sabbath. A celebration of spring in Scandinavia, the first day of Celtic summer, and a traditional Mischief Night in Britain. Celebrate the fertility of all things with festivals of fire.

Birthday of Jaroslav Hasek [1883]: amongst other things, the author of *The Good Soldier Schweik*. Some of the other things: dog thief; cabaret performer; inventor of creatures that don't exist while editing the magazine *Animal World*; founder of the 'Party of Peaceful Progress within the Limits of the Law' (he spent the cash collected on wild parties); and served – at various times – in the Czech, Russian and Austrian armies. The novel itself was banned by the Czechs in 1925; the Polish translation was confiscated in 1928; the Bulgarian translation was suppressed in 1935; and the German translation burned on Nazi bonfires in 1933.

Independence Day: South Vietnam is wholly liberated from U.S. military occupation and the country is unified as the Peoples' Republic of Vietnam [1975].

Arsonists burn the RTR television company offices in Padova, Italy [1977].

1 May



Renegade from (and opponent to) the pilgrim colonies, Thomas Moreton raises the maypole with Amerindian allies [1626].

The Diggers at Iver issue their declaration [1650]: "*Those who have by an unrighteous power made merchandise of the earth, giving all to some, and none to others, declare themselves tyrannicall and usurping.*"

Angry Brigade bombs Biba Boutique, "*the trendiest store in Swinging London*" [1971].

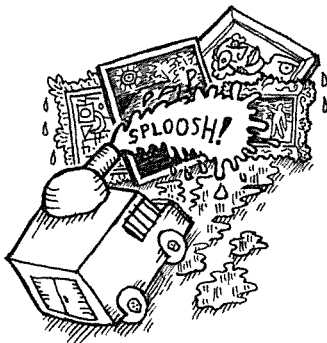
Bomb explodes at CS gas factory [1972].

1.5 million take part in South African general strike [1986].

2 May

The Irish Land War: in one of many 'digging' actions against enclosure and evictions, over 2,000 locals dig up six acres of land at Ross, County Clare, forcing grazing land to be given over to smallholder growers [1831]. Many of the actions are organised by 'secret societies' that also engage in forced rent reductions, landowner intimidation, murder of informers, barn-burning and cattle-maiming.

Art of Resistance: during the Dresden insurrection, Bakunin proposes that the insurgents take paintings from the museums and put them on the barricades at the entrance to the city to inhibit the attacking troops [1849].



3 May

Kite Battles of Hamamatsu, Japan.

Archbishop Sharp pulled from his coach and murdered, near St. Andrews [1679].

Birth date given on Traven Torsvan's (B Traven's?) Mexican Citizenship card [1890]: "*The creative person should have no other biography than his works.*"

Anarchists bomb the Italian consulate in Buenos Aires in retribution for the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti [1928].

4 May

Dandelion Festival in Dover, Ohio; principally a dandelion recipe exposition.

A bomb is thrown at a demonstration for the 8-hour day in Haymarket Square, Chicago killing seven police and prompting a witch hunt against the radical movement [1886]. Though a number of the anarchists executed for the deed advocated the use of revolutionary violence, it is likely that the bomb was thrown by someone working for the state, allowing Chicago Police Captain Michael Schaack to organise the arrest of over 200 anarchists. Chief of Police Ebersold, speaking 3 years later remarked: "*After we got the anarchist societies broken up, Schaack wanted to send out men to organise new societies right away. He wanted to keep the pot boiling, keep himself prominent before the public*" – see also 13 November.

Cinco de Mayo

The hugely popular *Cinco de Mayo*, a public holiday in Mexico, celebrates the five thousand Mestizo and Zapotec Amerindians who, armed only with machetes, routed the French occupation forces in the Battle of Puebla [1862].

Birthday of Karl Marx [1818] and Tammy Wynette [1942].

L. A. Riots: 600 gang members meet to co-ordinate collective action against the police [1992] – see also 29 April.

Two men break into the Rockwell International Facility and damage a \$50 million NavStar satellite with axes, causing \$2.8 million damage [1992]: "*They will beat their swords into axes ... and none shall make them afraid.*"

6 May

Birthday of Martin Robinson Delany, spiller of the beans on the Seven Finger High Glister, HooDoo Master of the Great Dismal Swamp [1812].

Imposition of a poll tax triggers Zulu revolt [1906].

170,000 workers in Togliatti, Russia stay home in support of bus driver walkout [1980].

7 May

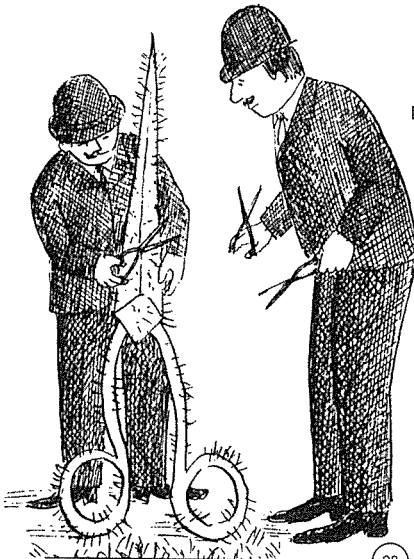
The Ottawa (Pontiac) Amerindian uprising against the British begins; the garrison at Detroit is besieged for five months [1763] – see also 2 June.

8 May

According to legend, today is the birthday of Ts'ang Hsien, inventor of writing. Without whom ...

Vice-President Richard Nixon is spat on and stoned during his official visit to Peru [1958].

9 May



Dressed as a clergyman, Captain Thomas Blood steals the crown jewels. Though caught and sentenced to die, he convinces Charles II that his death would spark revolution and he is granted a pardon [1671].

Birthday of John Brown, anti-slavery freedom fighter [1800] – see also 16 October. *“There’s a flutter in the Southland, a tremor in the air / For the rice-plains are invaded, the cotton fields laid bare / And the cry of “Help” and “Treason” rings aloud from tongue and pen / John Brown has crossed the border with a host of fifteen men”* – *A Plea for Captain John Brown* by Henry David Thoreau.

Striking tram-workers blow up a tram-car during riots in St. Louis [1900].

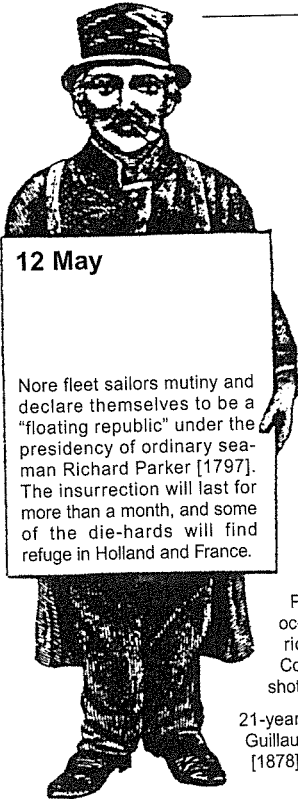
The Sepoy Rebellion breaks out in Meerat; it will become the 'Indian Mutiny' against British rule [1857].

General uprising against Portuguese rule in Angola; Portugal declares itself a bankrupt state soon after [1902].

English dockers refuse to load armaments for use in the war against the Russian revolution [1920].

'Night of the barricades', Paris – the return of the repressed, as revolution reappears in the heart of the smug consumer democracies of the West [1968].

Postman Alfred Hunter hijacks a private plane and strafes the Boston post office where he works with an AK47 [1989]. In 1994, 6,588 U.S. workers were killed on the job. 249 bosses died too – the leading cause of death? Homicide by employees.



12 May

Nore fleet sailors mutiny and declare themselves to be a "floating republic" under the presidency of ordinary seaman Richard Parker [1797]. The insurrection will last for more than a month, and some of the die-hards will find refuge in Holland and France.

During the first ever 'strike' (of sails), sailors forcibly shut down the Stock Exchange, London [1768].

Spencer Perceval, Tory prime minister, is assassinated in the lobby of the Commons by John Bellingham, who is cheered by the crowds outside as he is led away [1812]. When the news reaches Nottingham the following day, it is celebrated with bonfires and a great parading of flags and drums through the town. The carnival is only halted by military force and the reading of the Riot Act. In the Potteries, a witness reports hearing the news when: *"A man came running down the street, leaping into the air, waving his hat round his head, and shouting with frantic joy, 'Perceval is shot, hurrah hurrah!'"*

Perceval will receive no public funeral for fear that the occasion will give rise to further fun and stoke the rash of riots and risings that are sweeping the country, from Cornwall to Carlisle. Perceval is the only British PM to be shot in office – so far.

21-year-old anarchist Emil Hoedel shoots German emperor Guillaume I to protest and publicise the misery of the workers [1878].

13 May

Whiskey Rebellion begins, West Pennsylvania: the War of Independence only just over, people who have recently become 'Americans' take up arms against their own 'revolutionary' government and fight for autonomy [1794].

In the first major action of what will become known as the Rebecca Riots, the new toll-gate at Efail-wen, South Wales is destroyed and the toll house set on fire [1839]. Almost as soon as the gate is rebuilt, it is destroyed once more, on 6 June. The Rebecca Riots will stretch over three years and are typified by the destruction of tollgates by gangs of men dressed as women. In all, more than 150 gates, bridge-bars, tollhouses and weirs are destroyed. The campaign also targets high rents and English stewards, tithes and church rates, debt and enclosure. Cornstacks are burnt and workhouses attacked. Landowners, parsons, magistrates and special constables are intimidated with threatening letters, and the active obnoxious have their property destroyed – see also 16 January.

Fearing for his life, Vice-President Richard Nixon cuts short his visit to Caracas when Venezuelans – following their Peruvian comrades' good example last week – riot during his first walkabout [1958].

While police attempt to break up an illegal rave at Wollingdean on the South Downs, their two patrol cars are rolled down the hill and wrecked. The party continues until midday [2001].



14 May

"We Want Beer" marches are held in cities all over Amerika, with 15,000 unionised workers demonstrating in Detroit [1932]. Prohibition will be repealed the following year.

Workplace occupations, which will embrace ten million, begin in France [1968].

15 May

Gay Liberation Society formed by Max Spohr in Munich [1897].

Irish Republicans set fires all over London [1921].

16 May

The first blacklist of "unacceptable" books is declared by German National Socialists of the Berlin Librarian Commission [1933]. Among the banned titles are B Traven's *The Carreta* and *Government: "I wish to do my share so that authority figures and authority worship vanish."*

17 May



The first recorded merry-go-round operates at a fair in Philippolis, Turkey [1620].

Spokane Amerindians inflict a humiliating defeat on U.S. soldiers in Rosalia, Washington [1858].

During 'May 68', the Occupations Committee at the Sorbonne send a telegram to the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R: "SHAKE IN YOUR SHOES BUREAUCRATS STOP THE INTERNATIONAL POWER OF THE WORKERS' COUNCILS WILL SOON WIPE YOU OUT STOP HUMANITY WILL NOT BE HAPPY UNTIL THE LAST BUREAUCRAT IS HUNG WITH THE GUTS OF THE LAST CAPITALIST STOP" [1968]. The Chinese Central Committee receives the same.

Several sheep fall from the sky in Baileyhaulwen, Powys [1983].

18 May

Josiah Warren opens the first 'time store', Cincinnati. Instead of money, payment for the 'value added' on goods (retailers' costs of transportation, rent, shelf stacking, packaging) is made through customers' exchange of their labour time in fulfilling these tasks [1827].

19 May

Bread riot, Boston [1713].

An unexplained darkness covers New England, turning day into night [1780].

Birthday of Malcolm (X) Little [1925]: *"If you're not careful, the media will have you hating the oppressed and loving the people who are doing the oppressing ... they hold you in check with their science of imagery."*

The whole of Montpellier prison is wrecked and inmates battle it out with the CRS riot police, while outside a sympathetic mob attacks the pigs from the rear [1985].

20 May

Silverweed in flower.

First of the month of *Prairial* (pasture) in the French revolutionary calendar.

Wisconsin's Fourierist Phalanx commune is established [1844].

Annual Garrat Election by commoners asserting land and assembly rights in Wandsworth and Tooting: takes the ludic form of mock hustings, false names and impious oaths of allegiance [1747-1796].

21 May

The first eight-hour working day is achieved, by stonemasons in Victoria, Australia [1856]: we're still waiting on the four-hour day of our Paleolithic ancestors though currently only a three-hour 'working' week would be all it would take to produce our basic needs. As it happens, the length of the working week is actually increasing: the majority of Western workers now doing over forty hours as standard.

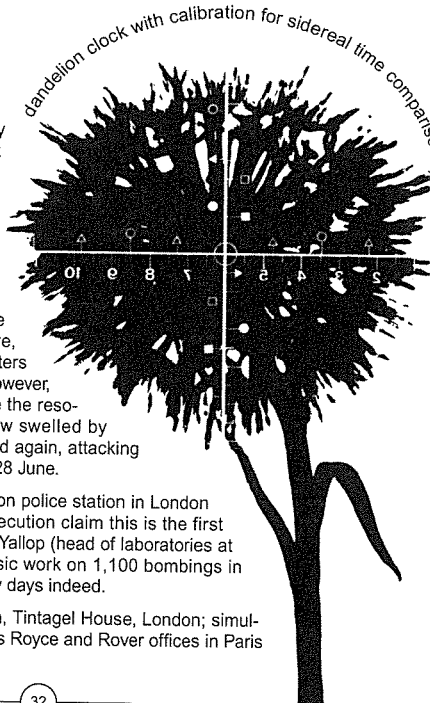
Also: clocks go forward for the first Daylight Saving Day, originally sold to the public as a wartime emergency measure [1916]. Workers of the world, *go back to bed!*

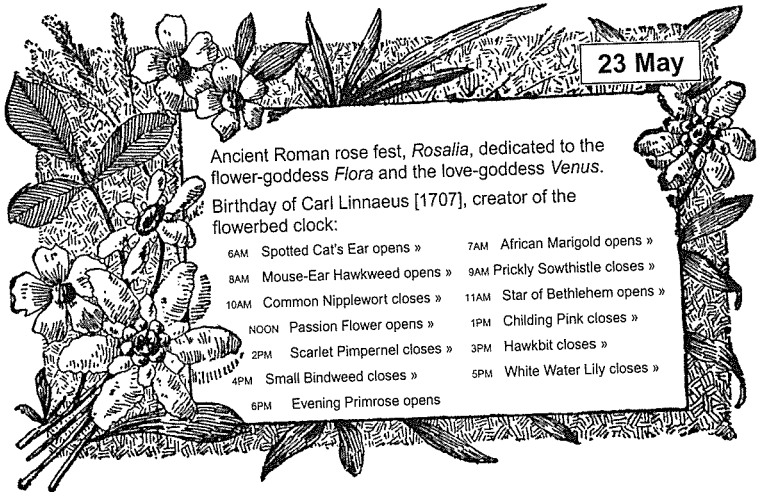
22 May

When 60 members of a benefit society – meeting to decide who is in most need of assistance this year – find that almost everyone is in dire straits, they rouse several hundred Littleport townsfolk and go armed fund-raising, looting every local shop and the homes of the rich [1816]. Finding themselves unopposed, they determine to proceed to Ely to spread the fun and continue 'the collection'. Here, local bosses manage to placate the rioters with a promise of a minimum wage. However, when free ale is given out to celebrate the resolution, the rioters (their numbers now swelled by local Ely comrades) go free-market-wild again, attacking bankers and other rich folk – see also 28 June.

Bomb discovered at the new Paddington police station in London [1970]. During the later trial, the prosecution claim this is the first 'Angry Brigade' action, although Major Yallop (head of laboratories at Woolwich Arsenal) will admit to forensic work on 1,100 bombings in England between 1968 and 1971. Busy days indeed.

Bomb at Scotland Yard computer room, Tintagel House, London; simultaneous attacks take place on BR, Rolls Royce and Rover offices in Paris [1971].





23 May

Ancient Roman rose fest, *Rosalia*, dedicated to the flower-goddess *Flora* and the love-goddess *Venus*.

Birthday of Carl Linnaeus [1707], creator of the flowerbed clock:

6AM	Spotted Cat's Ear opens »	7AM	African Marigold opens »
8AM	Mouse-Ear Hawkweed opens »	9AM	Prickly Sowthistle closes »
10AM	Common Nipplewort closes »	11AM	Star of Bethlehem opens »
NOON	Passion Flower opens »	1PM	Childing Pink closes »
2PM	Scarlet Pimpernel closes »	3PM	Hawkbit closes »
4PM	Small Bindweed closes »	5PM	White Water Lily closes »
6PM	Evening Primrose opens		

24 May

As part of the '68 social upheaval, universities are occupied in Belgium, Italy, Germany and Chile [1968].

25 May

Flitting Day, Scotland, when it is traditional for residents to move house (particularly if rent arrears are mounting).

Free-Soilers, John Brown among them, kill five pro-slavers in a village on the Pottowatomie River, Kansas [1856] – see also 16 October.



26 May



The outlaw Leofa murders King Edmund I at Puckleborough, Gloucestershire [946 CE].

peasants' revolt 1381

"Nowe is tyme ... Do well then"

A long and largely unrecorded history of resistance in medieval England blossoms this year into riotous insurrection. By taking an impromptu summer holiday, English peasants give the lie to the myth of feudal society as solid and stable, and the aristocratic-religious ruling class feels the hot breath of revolt on its neck. It is evasion of a poll tax that focuses refusal and is one of the triggers of open rebellion. But though the insurgents call to a thorough and destructive account individuals and institutions associated with the tax, their actions signal a total revolt. When given any ideological form, it is that of the tradition of oppositional heresies loosely termed 'christian communism'. When articulated as a demand, it is for the abolition of villeinage – which is to say the abolition of the society they oppose.

- 25 May** The first recorded key event as defaulters in Essex attack tax investigators and their military escort (killing three clerks) and go 'out-law' into the woods.
- 2 June** Essex is declared unsafe for tax-men.
- 3 June** Activists from Kent cross the Thames at Dartford to gather Essex militants into the Kentish resistance.
- 5 June** Leaving a patrol to watch for French raiders, the North Kent insurgents move on Rochester Castle which surrenders on the 6th (a Gravesend man had been claimed as a runaway serf, as property, and imprisoned there). They move onto Maidstone on the 7th. Here Wat Tyler is elected military commander: though synonymous today with the revolt, his actual appearance in the official historical record is a mere eight days. Popular tradition has him using his tiling hammer to off the tax-man 'assessing' whether his daughter was past puberty.
- 11 June** Essex rebels attack the Cressing Priory of the Knights of the Order of Saint John (Royal Treasurer Robert Hales – 'Hob the Rob' – is the Grand Master of the Order).
- 12 June** Kent insurgents move on from Thanet to liberate Marshalsea Jail while John Ball, just released from prison in Canterbury, preaches christian communism to the rebel camp at Blackheath. Meanwhile, Suffolk rebels torch the home of tax-abuser Sir Richard Lyon.
- 13 June** Destroying Southwark business properties of London's Lord Mayor and rack-renter Walworth, the Kent rebels cross the Thames to the North bank. Fleet prison is liberated, New Temple and Chancery records are burnt, lawyers murdered wholesale, the Bishop of Lichfield's gargantuan cellars drunk dry, the Clerkenwell HQ of the Knights of Saint John gutted and the magnificent Palace of Savoy, home to the King's uncle John of Gaunt is blown up. In a retrograde

instance, Flemish artisans are murdered in a race riot. Back in Suffolk, a mob loot Chief Justice Cavendish's treasure from Cavendish Church.

14 June After the Treasurer's new mansion at Highbury is torched, Hob the Rob himself, along with Chancellor (and Archbishop) Sudbury and Royal Sergeant-at-Arms and tax-profiteer Legge are seized from the Tower of London and beheaded.

The Essex rebels have reached Mile End, but here most of them disperse after the Boy-King Richard gives them sworn, written promises to abolish villeinage, and more besides. Meanwhile, trouble breaks out in Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Norfolk, and the Chief Justice is lynched at Lakenheath, Suffolk.

15 June The festival continues in London with a second night of mob rule, followed by the seizure of the hated Governor of Marshalsea Jail from sanctuary in Westminster Abbey. Agreeing to all their demands allows the king to seize the upper hand with the Kent rebels at Smithfield. Tyler is murdered, but the king's promises defuse confrontation and many disperse.

The excursion to the city is about over but the festal atmosphere finds echoes in much of the country. St Albans Abbey jail is liberated, documents are burnt and the mob force manumission of serfs and a charter of liberties. At Bury St Edmunds, the monopolist landlord is tried and lynched. The Knights of Saint John's place in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, is attacked, trouble flares in Huntingdonshire, and the Bishop's prison in Ely is forced and property deeds destroyed. Corpus Christi College in Cambridge is sacked and a huge bonfire of anything in writing – including the entire university archives – is made in the marketplace. Other notable incidents include the lynching of Judge Walsingham in Ely, and the rebel capture of Norwich, both on the 17th. Flare-ups occur in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Lowestoft, Yarmouth, as far West as Bridgwater in Somerset, and elsewhere, but the organised violence of the authorities is gaining momentum and things are pretty much over with the defeat of the Norfolk rebels at Walsham on the 25th, and the Essex die-hards at Billericay on the 28th. However, Winchester cloth workers take time off to riot, and there is trouble in Canterbury on the 1st of July, and on the 2nd in Worcester, Northampton, Scarborough and Beverly (where a local politician is killed on the 6th). John Ball is executed on the 15th. His utopian 'Great Society' seems to have given birth to an underground network: two of those hung for their part in the revolt were said to be Great Society couriers – one from Lincolnshire and one from Ely, where resistance long appears to have been a living part of local culture – see, for example, 22 May and 6 June.

22 June The spectre of resistance is briefly visible in an anti-monastic rent rebellion in the far North West on the Wirral. And as late as the 29th of September, Maidstone is seized again and the Sheriff killed.

Ye have heard it said, 'Do good in this world that in the world to come ye may live in joy'. Do well then and have your reward both on earth and in heaven. For I say that earth and heaven are not two but one.

– John Ball

27 May

Ingham Fair: raree shows, tumbling displays and lying face down in alehouses.

Millions of fish fall from a clear sky near drought-stricken Kebri Dahar, southern Ethiopia [2000].

28 May

Dragon Boat Festival, China: festal time is always unfolding somewhere.

During a severe thunderstorm, three tons of periwinkles fall on Worcester [1881].

29 May

Spectacle becomes festival: the audience at the opening of *The Rites of Spring* in Paris riot due to the sensuality of the dance and Stravinsky's disturbing music [1913].

Anticipated but wholly spontaneous *Cordobaso*: a wildcat general strike and two days of massive rioting against the military regime throughout the Cordoba province of Argentina, involving students and workers in the car and heavy industries [1969].

30 May

Cotswold Games (moveable): celebrated around Whitsuntide with the erection of tents, dancing, leaping, tumbling and cudgel-play.

Greenwich Fair (moveable): 18th Century Whit Monday parade to the park with kiss-in-the-ring and a rough-and-tumble race down the park slopes. The fair was eventually suppressed because of the licentious and outrageous dancing.



31 May

According to 'official' history, the last battle on English soil occurs as armed Kentish peasants clash with troops at Bossenden Wood [1838]. They are led by 'The King of the Gypsies', John Tom, the son of a Cornish innkeeper: *"He told us that all the country would be up, for the great jubilee was to come, and we must go with 'em"*. They are attempting to initiate the millennium, and have perhaps been influenced by William Benbow's agitation for the permanent general strike in his scurrilous and hugely popular tract *Grand National Holiday*. *"In an age of packaged holidays, 'annual leave' and uninterrupted production and consumption, when even time appears as a scarce resource, would not a return to the Holiday that stopped everything rekindle our imaginations as to what life could be?"* – introduction to a reprint of *Grand National Holiday*.

Activists blow up the BC hydro power station on Vancouver Island [1982].

Biggest Death Row escape to date: six condemned men overpower guards, steal uniforms and escape Mecklenberg Correctional Centre, Virginia [1984].

1 June

When a crowd of women is arrested while destroying the fences around Rewhay Common, another mob rises to march on Burton-on-Trent where they free their comrades and carry them away in triumph [1771].

First of many 'Swing' bonfires destroys farmer Moyer's ricks and barn at Orpington [1830] – see also 28 August.

In one of the most successful guerrilla actions against apartheid, two South African petroleum plants and the nation's largest oil refinery are bombed [1980].

A man from Falmouth, Maine, is struck by lightning, restoring his eyesight [1980]. The man had been blind and partially deaf since a truck accident in 1971.

2 June

Fort Michilimackinac is over-run and British troops are massacred by mainly Ottawa Amerindians who disguise their intentions by staging a lacrosse game outside the fort [1763]. Pontiac's Ottowans will be joined by Delaware, Potawatomie, Chippewa, Huron, Shawnee, Seneca and Mingo Amerindians to wreak a three-year path of destruction along the frontier, in the Great Lakes region.

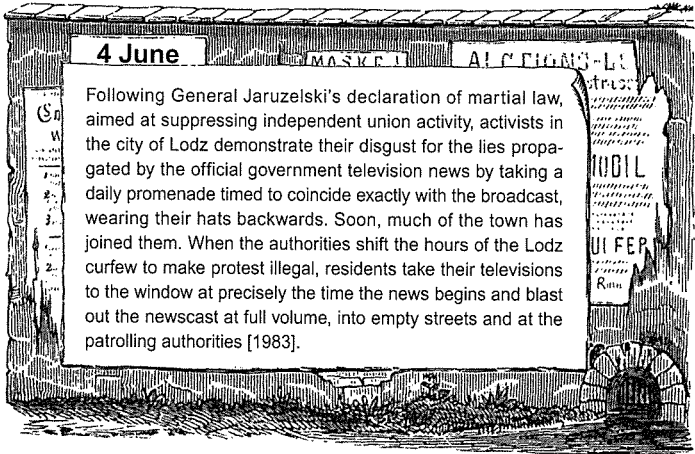
The Great Proletarian Gin Festival (also known as the Gordon Riots) begins as a pogrom against Catholics. It overflows its sectarian beginnings and for several days London plebeians run amok: two thousand prisoners are liberated as every major prison in the city is destroyed; houses of establishment figures are trashed; toll houses and the Bank of England attacked. The well-to-do flee the city in *"the largest exodus since the plague"*. The uprising will include Afro-Americans, ex-slaves, impressed sailors and debtors, and English, Irish, Italians, Germans and Jews – everyone [1780].

3 June

Full-scale insurrection at Merthyr Tydfil of several thousand miners, protesting over-pricing in company stores [1831]. They first attempt to seize the weapons of soldiers sent from Brecon to disperse them, then try to persuade them to turn on their officers and kill them. Finally, enraged by the army killing of more than 20 miners, the entire mining community turns on the 450 soldiers who are forced, for their own safety, to flee the area until cavalry from Swansea can relieve them, tomorrow.

Andy Warhol shot by Valerie Solanas [1968]: "*The death of art spells the death of artists.*"

Chawleigh Friendly Society holds its annual Club Walk and feast at Chawleigh, near South Molton in Devon. Roll call is at the Royal Oak at 11.30. Founded in 1869, it is one of the last local and independent friendly societies in existence.



5 June

Pagans off christian missionary Saint Boniface for cutting down a sacred tree [754 CE].

Medieval street poet Francois Villon kills a priest in a brawl and is banished from Paris [1455]. In his will, he is said to have written: "*I owe much; I have nothing; I give the rest to the poor.*"

Soldiers of the Somaliland Camel Corps mutiny against the British in protest at racial discrimination and the threat of white land-grabbing [1944]. The local population joins them in looting the armouries and military stores; the mutineers then desert en masse. This is such a débacle for the authorities that the corps is subsequently disbanded.

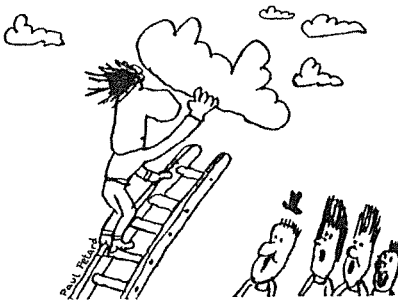
Inmate soldiers – the majority either imprisoned for going AWOL or being held without trial – riot at the military penal stockade at Fort Dix over the tortures being inflicted on them by the U.S. military state [1969].

6 June

A football match on Burnt Fen is the guise for anti-enclosure rioters from Ely and Lakenheath to assemble and destroy the drainage ditches [1638].

Poor men are assassinated every day / but the victim never dies / he just keeps living until one day he picks up a gun / and fires it at his oppressor / and casts his vote for liberation. / The martyr is not he who was killed / but he who fired the gun. / That is all we need to remember about the sixth day / of June nineteen hundred and sixty-eight – Julius Lester, SNCC, on the event of the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

7 June



The things we do to earn money

First 'human beatbox' makes mouth music at the Egyptian Hall, Picadilly, to the delight and consternation of all in attendance [1830].

Next transit of Venus over the sun [2004].

8 June

Ives W McGaffey invents the suction type vacuum cleaner [1869].

Freshly plucked chickens fall during a tornado in Flint, Michigan [1953].



New Year's Day

– Inca style: observed in calendar records at Cuzco, capital city of the Inca. Precise timing of the Inca New Year was the heliacal (dawn) rising of the star group Pleiades. Nowadays citizens of San Antonio de Pichincha, Cuzco, Andahuaylas and Apurimac valleys celebrate an 'adopted' New Year on the 24th (just after their winter solstice), as the festival of the Sun, *Inti Raymi*.

Two days of anti-police rioting begins in Bradford [1995].

10 June

City-wide textile strike for better wages and working conditions, Sao Paolo, Brazil. At the beginning of July, they are joined by striking cab drivers, utility workers and many craft workers – over 20,000 on strike [1917] – see also 18 July.

Several thousand council workers and revolutionary students surround the entourage of presidential Press Secretary Hagerty at Haneda airport, Tokyo. In the ensuing battle with riot police, he has to be rescued by a U.S. marine helicopter. The incumbent pro-imperialist government of Japan collapses in embarrassment and fearing further protest, President Eisenhower's July visit to Tokyo is cancelled [1960].

The '68 upheaval spreads when 200,000 occupy the universities of Ankara, Erzeroum and Izmar [1968].

Long Barnaby / Barnaby Bright

– the longest day of the year (Old Style / pre-Reform Calendar).

Ngati Toa and Ngati Raukawa Moaris burn the colonial land surveyor's hut at Wairau, a little over a year after the first New Zealand Company settlers land on South Island. A week later, 13 captured special constables will be executed in retaliation for Maori deaths in an armed clash [1843].

Continental revolution continues with an uprising in Prague [1848] – see also 23 June.

Traditional Cape Breton holiday honouring the 1925 miners' strike in New Waterford, Nova Scotia.

Students fight cops and attack Communist Party HQ in Hang Yang, China [1957].

12 June

Brazil's own 'Valentine's Day': voluntary groups normally give away around a million free condoms for the celebrations.

13 June

Tong Wars / Boxer Rebellion: a secret society formed to promote boxing leads an uprising against colonial exploitation in China [1900]. The uprising begins with riots and arson that follow the beating of two young Boxers by Baron von Ketteler, German colonial ambassador. Ketteler himself is ambushed and killed on 20 June on his way to meet with the Chinese government. For more on Tongs as associations for revolutionary action, send SAE to The Billiard Room, Leam, Grindleford, Derbyshire, SY32 2HL.

Pre-situ street activists, the Provos, riot in Amsterdam [1966] – see also 16 June.

14 June

Mutiny begins on the battleship *Potemkin* after sailors are shot for complaining about being served maggot-ridden meat. Tomorrow, the *Potemkin* arrives at Odessa where they take the body of a dead comrade ashore amid an outpouring of popular sympathy. Civilians join mutineers in revolutionary actions that include burning granaries, quays and ships in harbour [1905] – see also 18 June.

15 June



The middle class were eating our street again

Magna Carta signed [1215], from which certain squatters' rights still survive: hold a place for twelve years and it's yours: 'adverse occupation'. The Squatters' Handbook is available for £1.50 postpaid from Advisory Service for Squatters, 2 St. Paul's Rd, London N1.

Japanese workers riot against President Eisenhower's visit to Okinawa. After just three days, he is forced to cancel the rest of his two-week tour of the Far East [1960].

As the 'May 68' revolution wanes in France, student uprisings explode in the major cities of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. In all these countries, the students' actions will escalate, throughout the rest of the year into prolonged workers' general strikes; and in Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay the workers' and students' alliance either goes armed or declares armed struggle [1968].

16 June

Chinese bandits host the first skyjacking [1948].

The 'revolution' eats its young: Dutch Provos denounce "non-political" rioters in the mainstream newspapers and appeal for calm on local radio. Nevertheless, young *blousson-noirs* from the suburbs – inflamed by the Provo's initial rhetoric – launch into their third night of riotous provocation against the police [1966].

17 June

Charles Macintosh patents his waterproof material for raincoats [1823]. Get wet, get wild, get sexy.

Workers' uprising against the communist state, East Berlin [1952].

18 June

"The moon split in two ... a flaming torch sprang up, spewing out fire, hot coals and sparks ... the body of the moon writhed, as it were, in anxiety": a meteor collision results in a violent explosion on the moon, so creating the Giordano Bruno crater [1178].

Five war cruisers of the Black Sea fleet arrive at Odessa to quell the battleship *Potemkin* mutiny [1905]. The crews of all the ships refuse to fire on the *Potemkin*, cheer the mutineers instead, then head back for the open seas. One of the ships, *George the Conqueror*, briefly joins in mutiny with the *Potemkin*. The *Potemkin* itself will sail off in triumph to Romanian waters, and asylum.

A nationwide general strike sweeps Argentina, protesting the murder of anarchist assassin Gustav Wilckens, killed in his cell by prison guard and right-wing fanatic Perez Millan [1923]. The strike paralyzes the country; in Buenos Aires, the strike turns into a shoot-out when police attempt to raid the local offices of the anarchist union, FORA. In November, Wilckens' death will be avenged when his murderer, Millan is, in turn, assassinated by Russian emigré anarchist Boris Vladimirovitch.

Lambeth Palace, home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, firebombed [1970].

On the 100th day of the strike, more than two hundred miners stone Maltby police station [1984].

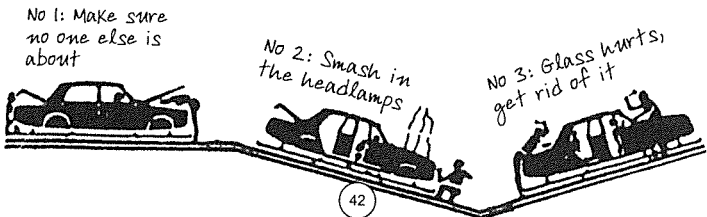
19 June

Enchanter's Nightshade in flower.

First of the month of *Messidor* (harvest) in the French revolutionary calendar.

Birthday of Helmut Herzfeld (John Heartfield), anti-fascist collage artist [1891].

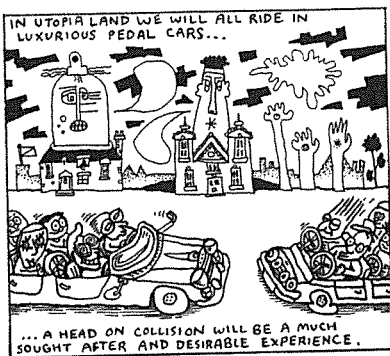
Noah leaves the Ark (according to Islamic tradition).



20 June

Cypriot festival of *Cataclysmos* recalls a great flood sent by Zeus; yet another "ark" story – this time the boat is captained by Deukalian.

In one of several acts of destruction in solidarity with the nationwide prison mutinies, the French high-speed TGV train line is sabotaged south of Paris [1985].



21 June

First Druid summer solstice festival held at Stonehenge [2183 BCE].

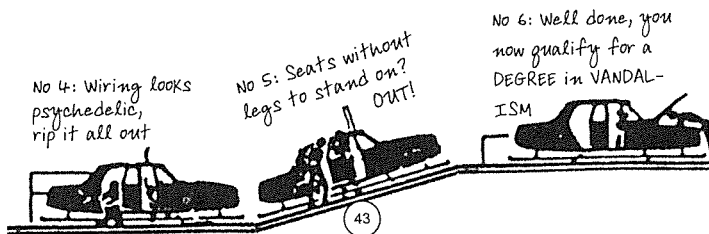
22 June

Henry Hudson's crew mutinies and leaves him to his fate in the bay he had named after himself. Dumped in a small boat, he is never to be seen again [1611].

'Brown Bomber' Joe Louis becomes heavyweight boxing champion of the world [1937]. Precisely one year later, he flattens Hitler's 'Great White Hope', Max Schmeling, in the first round – see also 4 July.

23 June

The '48 Revolution continues: hot on the heels of Prague, Paris burns in the 'June Days' workers' uprising [1848].



24 June

Summer now firmly established, Druid tradition recommends excursions on the water and beach parties (a form of celebration continued by the Cornish well into the Middle Ages, despite an attempt at suppression by King Canute in the 11th Century).



25 June

Several hundred women demolish the weir serving gristmills at Taunton, Somerset preventing corn from being ground, to protest inflated bread prices [1795].

Lakota, Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes defeat the U.S. Army at Little Big Horn, Montana. Custer liquidated [1876].

The first of three major revolts against French colonialism in Kanaky (French Caledonia) begins today [1878]. Kanaks are well-prepared for the uprising, having gathered guns, made systematic reconnaissance of military outposts, and established guerrilla camps with food gardens to where the rebels can retreat. The revolt will last more than nine months and although it ends in defeat and massacre, it provides a heritage of resistance that is taken up again in the insurrections of 1917 and 1984.

The word 'robot' is introduced to a wider audience when Czech playwright Karel Capek's *Rossum's Universal Robots* premieres, in which the 'robots' rebel against the drudgery of work [1921]. *Roboto* had been coined by peasants in Czech feudal society to describe the two or three days of the week they were obliged to leave their own fields to work, for free, on the lands of noblemen.

In an uprising against the government's food price rises announced yesterday, striking workers tear up railroad tracks outside Warsaw while others plunder factories and shops in the city centre [1976].

26 June

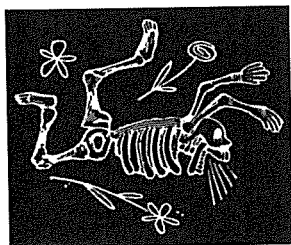
Royal Jubilee bonfires are prematurely ignited by anti-monarchist arsonists at Frinton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze (Essex) and Cleeve Cloud (Cotswolds). At Walton, they follow up their incendiaryism by mustering a mob, who – with much joviality and mirth – determine to hold a mock Diamond Jubilee procession: an old but vigorously ranting man faked up as the Queen is hauled through the streets on a cart pulled by eight donkeys [1897].

Soldiers mutiny in Ancône, Italy, refusing orders to fight in Albania. Armed insurgents and sympathisers occupy the town hall; fresh troops have to be ordered in to suppress the revolt [1920].

27 June

Lumpenqueers and drag queens fight back at Stonewall Inn, New York [1969].

28 June



After several gamekeepers have been clubbed to death, five men from Mill Pond, Ely, are hanged for poaching. Soon after, the butcher who owned the gallows cart is found suffocated head first in his own cess-pit and the coffin-maker is found dead in a large water pipe [1816]. The people of Littleport and Ely, Cambridgeshire, were at the forefront of resistance to property accumulation, enclosure and rural proletarianisation.

29 June

"Given the unique opportunity and the world-upside-down symbolism associated with carnival, it is hardly surprising that it would frequently spill over its ritual banks into violent conflict. And if one were, in fact, planning a rebellion or protest, the legitimate cover of anonymous assembly provided by carnival might suggest itself as a likely venue" – James C Scott, Hidden Transcripts: Domination and the Arts of Resistance.

30 June



Blondin crosses Niagara Falls on an 1100 foot tightrope. On his return, he uses a tripod camera to photograph the huge crowd that has gathered; many faint [1859].

1 July

Spanish repelled from the pirate stronghold of Algiers [1775].

Is it not enough to know that they are servants of the enemy? On the night of the 30th/1st July, the print shop producing the Parisian daily newspapers is paralysed by saboteurs [1985]: "We have decided to impose half a day's silence on the national press in honour of the rebellious convicts ... All these papers are well known for their hostility towards the recent movement of revolt in the prisons."



2 July

A full-grown, live alligator falls from the sky during weird weather in Charleston, South Carolina [1843].

In their first action, the Vigilantes (Secret Committee of ex-Servicemen) squat a house in Roundhill Crescent, Brighton. It is used to house a homeless sailor's wife and her two children. The group attracts hundreds of members; thousands are housed and the idea spreads to London and other parts of the country. Squats include luxury hotels and army camps [1945].

New Year's Day



– for the Amerindian Seminole tribe (Florida) who celebrate with the Green Corn Dance, blessing the new corn crop. Among sedentary agricultural tribes, the cycle of the seasons was of great ritual importance, but the timing of the beginning of the year varied. The Seminole new year celebrates the heliacal (dawn) rising in ancient times of Canicula, the Dog Star. Some tribes observed new year about the time of the vernal equinox, others in autumn. The Hopi tribe of northern Arizona held a new-fire ceremony in November. The Creek ceremony, known as *Busk*, was held in late July, or August.

Annual sun dance of the Assiniboine tribe of Amerindians, Montana.

Kids strike for the eleven-hour day and six-day week in Paterson, New Jersey [1835].

4 July

In 1840, the anti-rent association of Berne in the Hudson Valley issues its Declaration of Independence – the overt start of the Anti-Rent War which will last until August 1845. Known as the 'Calico Indians', they disguise themselves in outlandish festal garb and take the offensive. They destroy legal papers, physically prevent the serving of writs and warrants and the sale of cattle seized in lieu of debts (or kill cattle that are sold), and threaten farmers who do pay. By 1844, Delaware County is declared to be in a state of insurrection.

Unbeatable in the ring and ungovernable outside of it, Jack Johnson beats the heavy-weight champion of the world, Jim Jeffries ('the Great White Hope'), so laying waste white Amerika's claim to race supremacy. In response, Congress enacts a Federal statute making it illegal to transport prize fight film from state to state, to limit the number of those who would witness that a black man had won a boxing match against a white [1910].

5 July

Three young women are sacked from the Bryant & May factory in East London for exposing the appalling working conditions there. The other six hundred and seventy-two women workers come out in solidarity. The 'Match Girls' Strike' itself is unsuccessful but solidarity generated nationally is unprecedented and galvanises the working class movement [1888].

6 July

Kettering Feast Day: sadly no longer celebrated; in its day the revels were marked with blindfold wheelbarrow races and much gurning: grinning through a horse collar (the funniest wins).

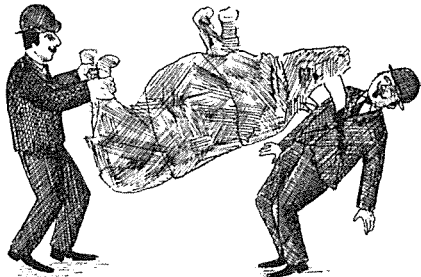
A partial victory in the Homestead Steel Mill strike, Pennsylvania: workers use cannon and dynamite to rout scabs and Pinkerton Detective Agency strike-breakers [1892].

7 July

Suffragette Edith Rigby firebombs Lord Leverhulme's bungalow in Rivington, Lancashire. It burns to the ground [1913].

Activists, armed to the teeth, fill the gap between surrealism and nihilism by bombing the Paris Dental Museum [1923].

Army recruiting office in South London and the Officer Training Centre in Holborn are firebombed [1970].



8 July

Supplementing inadequate wages through systematic theft, members of the all-women Harrow Road 'Check Skirt Gang' strike again when they gain employment at a West End pattern makers then proceed to make off with everything that is not nailed down [1914].

9 July

Writer Dashiell Hammett chooses six months' imprisonment rather than co-operate with the U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee inquiries into domestic subversion [1951].

10 July

U.S. Colonel Thomas Butler is court-martialled for mutinous conduct: refusing to cut the ponytail from his head [1805]. His will states his funeral arrangements (carried out, on his death, much later): *"Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin, right under my head, and let my queue hang through it, that the damned old rascal will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders."*

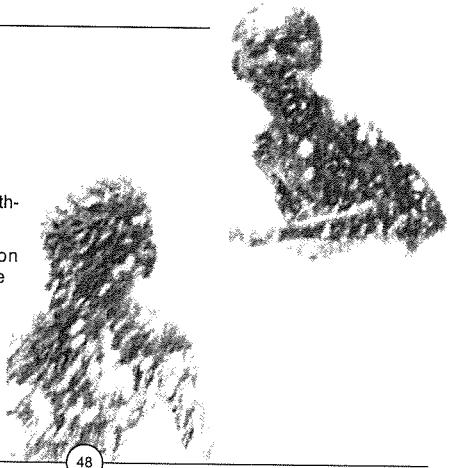
Temporary Autonomous Island: today, the *Reutan* runs aground on a sand bar in Lake Michigan, causing the sand bar to form new land [1886]. Captain Streeter opens this territory to the dispossessed and it is subsequently defended against the local Chicago State for twenty-five years.

11 July

Kronia festival: celebrates the birthday of *Kronos*, Father of Time.

Strikers blow up the Pinkerton ('fink') barracks and occupy the coal mines in Couer d'Arlene, Idaho [1892].

A group of homeless people blows up the office of the Communist Party housing assessor, Rome [1978].



12 July

Lobster Carnival in Nova Scotia: celebrated with bagpipes, fireworks, dancing, feasting and the crowning of King Neptune.

Birthday of Henry David Thoreau [1817]: *"That government is best which governs not at all; and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have."* Or try this one: *"There is nothing wrong with building castles in the air ... that is where they belong ... Now put foundations under them."*

During an Industrial Workers of the World (Wobbly) strike, Bisbee County (Arizona) is completely sealed off by the authorities; 1186 strikers are rounded up in a dawn raid and transported to the middle of the Mexican desert. They are saved from certain death by the military, but immediately imprisoned [1917]. *They too were storming heaven – do you think they fought in vain / that because they lost a battle they would never rise again / that the man with the leaflets, the woman with a gun / did not have a daughter, did not have a son?* – Hugo Dewar

In the face of tomorrow's drudgery at work or boredom on the corner, the Sunday night revellers of the Division Street area in Chicago explode into two nights of rioting after police intervene in a pub brawl. Snipers and molotovs are much in evidence and the overwhelming demand, if any, of the primarily Puerto Rican participants is for a permanent removal of the police from their community [1966]. Riots will spread to Cleveland, Brooklyn, Omaha, Baltimore, San Francisco and Jacksonville.

13 July

Five days of Afro-American rioting in Newark, New Jersey; damage estimated at \$16m [1967 prices].

Dada Day

– first Dada soirée [1916]: *"In the presence of a compact crowd Tzara demonstrates, we demand we demand we demand the right to piss in different colours."*

Populace storm and demolish the Bastille fortress; governor Delaunay and lackeys massacred [1789].

Afro-Americans demonstrate in Harlem in support of Ethiopian struggle against Italian fascism. Organisation of volunteer brigades begins [1935].

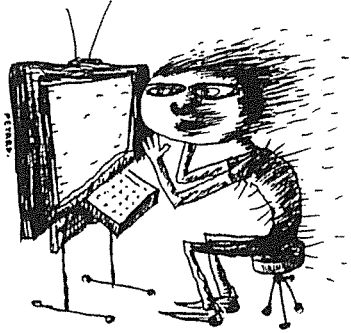
15 July

In spite of the Munitions of War Act, 200,000 Welsh miners strike for more pay [1915].

50,000 U.S. lumberjacks strike for the 8-hour day [1917].

TV commentator Chris Chubbuck finishes reading the news to her Florida audience then announces: *"And now, in keeping with Channel 40's policy of always bringing you the latest in blood and guts, in full colour, you're about to see another first – an attempted suicide."* She shoots herself in the head and successfully dies in hospital three hours later [1974].

Head offices of Madagans – the Northampton bailiff company that has taken up the contract to proceed against poll tax defaulters – is fire-bombed [1990].



16 July

Hegira: Islamic chronological time considered to have begun, being based on the first day of Prophet Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina [622 CE].

To relieve boredom, the prisoners at King's Bench prison, London, attempt to hold elections for a prisoner to represent them as a Member of Parliament. The game proves so much fun, the governor attempts to suppress it and a riot ensues [1827].

A longshoremen's strike erupts into a two-day general strike in San Francisco, embracing 127,000, paralysing the Bay Area and leading to victory for the longshoremen [1934].

17 July

Fort Apalachicola in Florida was abandoned by the British and has been occupied by more than 270 runaway slaves as a base from which to attack slaveholders. Today begins a 10-day heroic resistance to a siege by superior U.S. troops [1816].

When West Virginia rail workers walk out over a 10% pay cut, the state militia sent to prevent blocking of the trains instead join the workers and the first U.S. general strike spreads through Chicago, New York and St. Louis. Workers in steel, flour, sugar, chemical and lead industries occupy the factories and begin self-managed production for distribution to strikers [1877].

General strike for the 8-hour day and a 20% wage increase kicks off in Rio de Janeiro. Includes furniture workers, tailors, shoemakers, bread carriers, textile workers and metal workers [1917].

Fascist uprising sparks the Spanish Civil War [1936]. Two days later, the Revolution begins when Barcelona's workers defeat the coup attempt in Catalonia.

More than 8,000 riot in Bombay after a funeral for ten children killed by police [1997].

19 July

First of the month of *Thermidor* (heat) in the French revolutionary calendar.

Choctaw nation of Amerindians gives \$750 for Irish famine relief [1847].

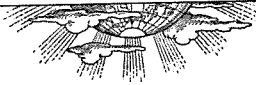
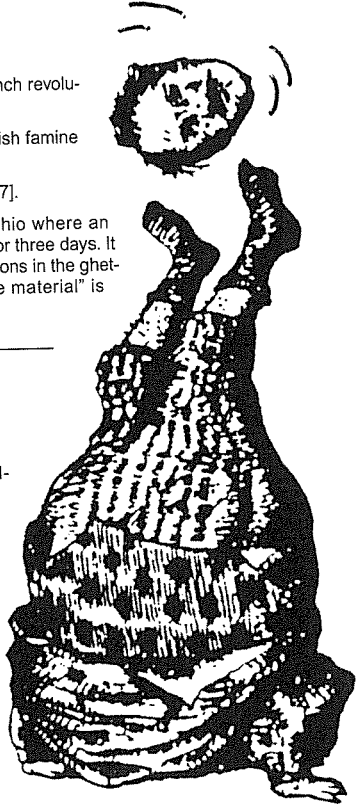
Pittsburgh strikers drive soldiers out of town [1877].

A state of emergency is declared in Akron, Ohio where an Afro-American insurrection has been going on for three days. It began with a demonstration against living conditions in the ghetto. The sale of all munitions and "inflammable material" is prohibited [1968].

20 July

The Binding of the Wreaths: the ancient goddesses of love are invoked today in Lithuania at a lovers' festival.

Kett's Rebellion against enclosures begins with the insurgents' refusal to disperse [1549]: the 3,500 strong peoples' army captures Norwich; landowners are tried at mass courts; and a Commonwealth is established on Mousehold Heath. After the uprising, which will involve 16,000 at its peak, Kett refuses the King's pardon, arguing: *"Kings are wont to pardon wicked persons, not innocent men. We have done nothing to deserve such a pardon. We have been guilty of no crime."*



New World's Day

– the day of the world's creation, according to ancient Egyptian chronological estimation.

Populariser of jogging, James Fixx, dies of a heart attack while engaged in that absurd activity [1984].

the peace comes to Luton

The Peace Treaty was signed in June 1919. Luton Town Council planned processions with brass bands, floats, entertainment for the children and a fireworks display followed by an evening of official glutony described as a 'Mayor's Banquet'. The cost of the latter was to be paid from civic funds. Invitations were strictly limited to the Mayor, councillors and close friends – none of whom had served in the armed forces. In fact, the officials had not even seen fit to include any ex-servicemen in the preparations. As a result, the Discharged Soldiers' and Sailors' Federation and the Comrades of the Great War Association withdrew from the activities. They had planned alternative celebrations but the Mayor and his council refused them the use of Wardown Park.

On 19 July, a rainy Saturday afternoon, a somewhat gloomy official procession set off from Park Street recreation ground, along a route which passed the Federation's headquarters, at the corner of Lea Road, where the ex-servicemen had prepared their own contribution to the 'celebrations'. The Federation lined both sides of the procession route with maimed and disabled ex-servicemen; across the road they hung a streamer declaring: "Don't pity us, give us work". As the official procession went past, it was joined by the angry ex-servicemen.

Eventually they arrived outside the Town Hall where they halted in heavy rain while the Mayor read out the proclamation of peace. By this time, the Mayor was the most unpopular man in town, and his rating declined even further as thousands of old soldiers booed and cat-called his patronising speech. Sensing the increasing hostility, one councillor called for three cheers for ex-servicemen. This only gave rise to even greater howls of derision. By now, the noise was deafening. Suddenly the crowd surged forwards, causing the Mayor and his entourage to beat an undignified retreat into the Town Hall. The crowd swiftly swept aside two constables. Willing hands tore down the doors and the people entered just in time to see some of the mayoral party disappearing through a rear entrance.

Once inside, untold damage was done. Decorations for the Grand Ball were torn down. The contents of the Town Hall were hurled through the windows into the street. Meanwhile, someone discovered that the Mayor and some supporters were barricaded inside the Mayor's parlour. Serious harm to them was only prevented by the last minute arrival of a contingent of police. The crowd inside the Town Hall engaged them in pitched battle, the fighting soon spreading to those outside. Missiles were hurled at the Town Clerk's office.

Later that evening, a crowd of 20,000 gathered in Popes Meadows for the advertised fireworks display. But the rioting and looting at the Town Hall, which had taken on a carnival atmosphere, turned out to be

a more powerful attraction. At 10 pm, the Mayor was still besieged in his parlour. Instead of the planned banquet, the mayoral party had spent seven hours huddled together in the dark behind shattered windows.

As the night wore on, the riot gathered momentum. The Food Office in Manchester Street was raided and several fires started. Attempts to put out the flames were met with resistance and the Fire Brigade beat a hasty withdrawal. More bonfires were lit outside and inside the Town Hall. In the confusion, the Mayor was smuggled out, disguised as a special constable. The nearby Hart's Motors garage was raided for petrol. When this was added to the fire, the Town Hall quickly became a blazing inferno. Attempts to put out the fire were thwarted by the cutting of hose pipes. Remaining hoses had to be used to protect the police from the crowd rather than to quench the flames.

During the fierce fighting that followed, the police found themselves heavily outnumbered as soldiers, many in uniform, joined in against them. A chemist's shop was raided and medicine bottles were used as missiles. A man was hit so hard by a fireman's jet that he was hurled through a music shop window. The crowd that went in to rescue him emerged with three pianos. These were dragged into the roadway and used as accompaniment to the riot. The crowd sang *Keep the Home Fires Burning* before the biggest bonfire that Luton had ever seen.

Around midnight, supported by reinforcements from London, the police read the riot act to the crowd, which by now numbered several thousands. Then, just as the Town Hall clock struck one (before crashing to the ground amid a pile of debris) the police began a savage assault, hitting out at men, women and children.

The following morning Luton looked like one of the ravaged cities of World War I. Steel-helmeted troops stood guard around the burnt-out embers of buildings and looted shops. The day passed peaceably enough but after closing time further outbreaks of rioting and looting began. This continued for three or four nights until either police reinforcements (or lack of further places to loot) brought the business to an end.

Needless to say, no more official banquets were planned in Luton for some time. And what became of the Mayor? Fearful of his life, he cut short his political career and left for Sutton-on-Sea. He only returned to Luton twice. Once for the funeral of a friend, and once more for his own.

The 'restoration of law and order' led to several arrests, but because the authorities were fearful of further repercussions the judge handed out surprisingly light sentences.

— from *Mutinies: 1917-1920* by David Lamb (published by Solidarity)

22 July

During the Alcatraz occupation by the Indians Of All Tribes, the first child is born on free Amerindian land in the 20th Century. He is named Wavoka after the Paiute Amerindian who originated the Ghost Dance [1970] – see also 8 March.

Rebellion at Pontiac prison, Illinois; three guards killed [1978].

23 July

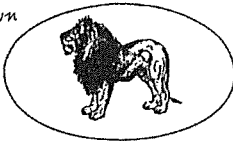
Casting of the Stools: forced introduction by King Charles I of a new service book provokes an Edinburgh congregation to riot, pelting the priest with pews, and so sets in train the events that will lead to the Civil War [1637].

Two militia columns leave Barcelona to liberate Zaragoza, safeguarding and extending the establishment of libertarian communism in Aragon [1936].

24 July

Alongside the widespread killing of religious personnel, the burning of churches and the decapitation of statues, Spanish revolutionaries exhume the bodies of priests, nuns and saints for public display. Yesterday, today and tomorrow, over 40,000 join in this shattering of the sacred symbols of power and the degradation of the former high and mighty by coming to jeer at the corpses exhibited on the steps of the Iglesia de la Enseñanza in Barcelona [1936].

I should have known
she was dangerous
when she told me
how, when she was
a child, her mother



showed her a picture, in a book, of lions eating christians - and she burst out crying. When her mother asked why, she pointed to one lion and said: "Look, this one hasn't got a christian."



25 July

Grotto / Oyster-Shell Day, London: great phalli fashioned from piles of empty oyster shells are erected, on top of which a candle is lighted and strangers are hailed with "Mind the Ghetto" and accosted for money.

Dr. James Barry, Inspector General of the British Army, dies aged 73. A post-mortem reveals him to have been a woman [1865]. Barry introduced vaccinations, was involved in a duel while stationed in Cape Town, and had several lovers and a child.

Black militant and rabble-rouser H. Rap Brown exhorts black residents of Cambridge, Maryland to burn the town down. They oblige by rioting and setting fires in Cambridge's black business district [1967].

26 July

Publication of the first book in Esperanto, one internationalists' language that never was ... but could be [1887].

Birthday of George Grosz [1893]: *"My art was to be a gun and a sword; my drawing pens I declared to be empty straws as long as they did not take part in the fight for freedom."*

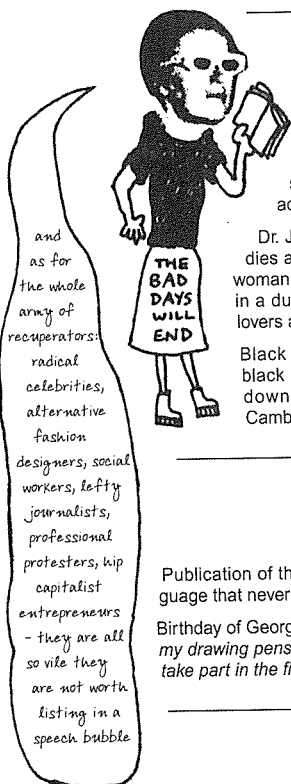
27 July

Catalan workers burn convents and massacre priests during riots against forced military service in the war against Moroccan Riffs [1909]. The spontaneous uprising ends in violent repression, the torture of anarchists, and the execution of Francisco Ferrer, advocate of free education. Demonstrations are held worldwide to protest the repression: violent confrontations occur in Paris, where over 500,000 turn out; in Argentina, a meeting improvised by the anarchist unions brings out 20,000 workers and results in a general strike that will last until 17 October.

New Year's Day

– in the Mayan calendar: eighteen twenty-day months (appended by five 'bad days'); beginning today with the month of *Pop*.

Grassroots groups call a nationwide strike to stop the United Nations from keeping its 1,600-member 'peace-keeping' force in Haiti past the 31 July pullout date. During the walkout, police will arrest a striker of the 'What will Happen will Happen' action group, after he is reportedly found carrying a can of petrol in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince [1997].



and
as for
the whole
army of
recuperators:
radical
celebrities,
alternative
fashion
designers, social
workers, lefty
journalists,
professional
protesters, hip
capitalist
entrepreneurs
- they are all
so vile they
are not worth
listing in a
speech bubble

29 July

Going with a mob to loot the Tuileries in Paris, Alexandre Dumas is flattered to find a copy of one of his own books (*Christine*) in the royal apartments and absconds with it [1839].

As revenge for the army's crushing of the 1898 worker's insurrection in Milan, anarchist silk-weaver Angelo Bresci travels from Paterson, New Jersey to assassinate King Umberto I of Italy at Monza [1900]. His act inspires Leon Czolgosz to assassinate U.S. President McKinley a year later.

After five years on strike and an international boycott, the Californian United Farm Workers force grape owners to sign new contracts [1970].

30 July

Belgian General Strike begins: one of the many revolutionary upheavals occurring worldwide that so contest the capitalist system that the bosses will unleash the first global war, in a desperate attempt to reassert their control of the social [1912].

One of the biggest riots in U.S. history kicks off in Detroit, following a raid on an after-hours club. Order of the day is to toss petrol bombs into stores as soon as they have been looted; damaged is estimated at around \$500m [1966 prices]. Detroit Mayor Cavanaugh reports, with horror, that the rioters have, "a *light-hearted abandon, a carnival spirit.*"

31 July

Daniel Defoe is forced to stand in the pillory in front of Temple Bar (for writing *The Shortest Way with Dissenters*); fun and friendly crowds gather and pelt him with flowers instead of the customary mud and vegetables [1703].

Two men pin down 4,000 National Guards in a sporadic, week-long sniper campaign in Chicago [1966].

Tools for Self-Reliance: a Moscow police chief declares that thousands of telephone booths have been rendered inoperable – by thieves who have stolen phone parts to convert their acoustic guitars to electric [1969].

Despite close police protection, the house of John Davies (Secretary of State for Trade and Industry) is bombed, following his announcement of the closure of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders [1971].



1 August

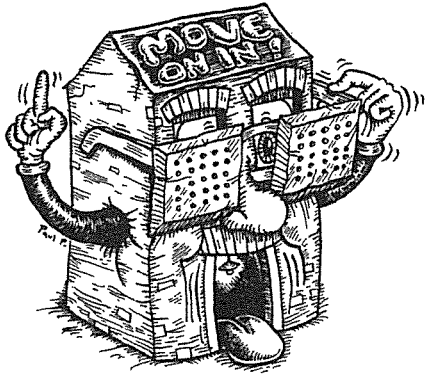
Feast of the Wheat Harvest / Gule of August / Loafmas: Lammas brothers and sisters take a lover for the duration of this eleven-day harvest festival.

Homowo / Hooting at Hunger festival: the Ga people of Ghana feast and mock famine.

Ancient Aztec festival of *Xiuhtecuhtli* celebrates the god of the calendar.

After a notice is posted in the Northampton Mercury inviting "Well-wishers to the Cause now in Hand" to a football match at West Haddon, a tumultuous mob assemble on the designated day, and proceed to pull down and burn the fences in defiance of the Enclosures Act [1765].

First squatted pier, Brighton [1995].



2 August

800 inmates revolt at the Treblinka concentration camp, raid the SS arsenal and kill over twenty guards, allowing more than one hundred prisoners to escape [1943].

3 August

Bell-Belt Day in Congleton, Cheshire: drunken excesses were announced by midnight runners wearing belts of bells. In 1601, money destined for the church was hijacked to buy a replacement town bear: "*Congleton rare, Congleton rare / Sold the Bible to pay for a bear.*"

60,000 march and 3 people are killed during eviction riots in Chicago [1931].

Today is *Pidjiguiti*, a public holiday in Guinea-Bissau: to remember that revolutionaries resolved to prepare for guerrilla war in response to the Portuguese murder of fifty striking stevedores and seamen on the Pidjiguiti docks in the Port of Bissau [1959]. Armed struggle will begin in 1963 and, after a protracted but successful war, lead to independence in 1974 – see also 12 September.

4 August

Festival of the Hungry Ghosts, China.

Rice Riots, Japan: 8 weeks of rebellion in what is perhaps the greatest mass uprising in modern Japanese history. With notable anarchist agitation, an incident of enforced price reduction by the fishermen's wives of Uozu mushrooms into all-out looting of rice warehouses, strikes, incendiarism, pitched battles and vandalism of homes of the rich, by an estimated 10 million peasants and urban workers. Over 600 incidents, mainly in western Japan, and including Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto [1918].

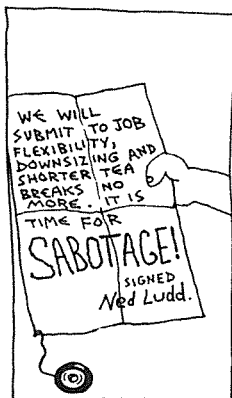
5 August

Near miss: the Gowrie conspirators attempt to stab King James VI of Scotland, having lured him away from his entourage with tales of a secret treasure [1600].

6 August

Anti-bank riots, Baltimore [1835].

A rain of fish in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk [2000]. One of the earliest documented occurrences of presents from heaven is from Greek historian Athenaeus, in the 4th Century CE, who wrote of a continuous shower of fish for three days: "The roads were blocked, people were unable to open their front doors and the town stank for weeks."



7 August

Birthday of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, author of *Sabotage: the Conscious Withdrawal of Workers Efficiency* [1890]: "Sabotage is to [the] class struggle what the guerrilla warfare is to battle. The strike is the open battle of the class struggle, sabotage is the day-by-day warfare between two opposing classes ... Sabotage is as flexible as the imagination and passions of humanity. Every day, working men and women are discovering new forms of sabotage."

A month-long actors' strike closes all theatres in the U.S. [1919].

8 August

Ancient Romans celebrate the Eve of the Festival of *Venus*. The goddess of love and beauty is honoured and invoked with prayers, love songs, libations, and passionate night-time lovemaking.

Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbours' Porch Night, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Anarchist Michel Angiolillo assassinates Antonio Canovas del Castillo, premier of Spain, in reprisal for Canovas' ordering the execution of Filipino rebel leader José Rizal and the execution of five anarchists held responsible for a bombing in Barcelona the year before [1897].

War refuser Grover Bergdoll fails to report to his local draft board [1918]. Living under assumed names, he is not caught until January 1920 when he is given a five-year jail sentence. In transport to prison, he convinces his escorts to take a detour to dig up a supposed cache of buried treasure, in the course of which he escapes and effects a permanent disappearance.

9 August

St. Laurence (Bids Wages): working for St. Laurence is a customary excuse for skiving off work tomorrow. Enjoy yourself this evening and fear not the consequences.

The Perseid Meteor Showers occur around this time every year when the Earth's orbit collides with a trail of debris from the Swift-Tuttle Comet. Tonight is known as the Night of the Shooting Stars, and in Italy, *La Notre di San Lorenzo* because it coincides with the eve of the feast of Saint Laurence.

20,000 women demonstrate against pass laws, South Africa [1956].

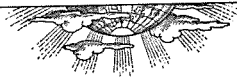
10 August

13.0.0.0.0 4 *Ahau 8 Cumku*: today is the epochal base date from which Mayan chronology is reckoned [3114 BCE]. The deepest Mayan probings of the dimensions and nature of eternity that have been found inscribed, record galactic positioning as long as 400,000,000 years ago. Their 260-day almanac still functions in some Maya villages in the Guatemalan highlands.

After more than a decade of preparation, pueblo Amerindians all over the Spanish colony of Neuvo Mexico rise in revolt, drive out the Spaniards, kill 21 missionary priests, and burn Santa Fe. They are assisted by mestizo workers from the barrio of Analco and succeed in liberating the territory from foreign rule for twelve years [1680].

Spectacle becomes festival as disappointed onlookers riot after the aristocrat De Moret's balloon flight ends in fire [1784].

Australian syndicalist Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies) greets the outbreak of war with a front page special: "*If the politicians of Australia want war, let them take their own carcasses to the front line ... if they want blood, LET THEM CUT THEIR OWN THROATS*" [1914].



New Year's Day

— in the Armenian calendar [from 1084 CE].

A secret Home Office report suspects Wordsworth and Coleridge of being enemy agents because of their strange behaviour: wandering the countryside with camp stools and making detailed observations of the landscape [1797].

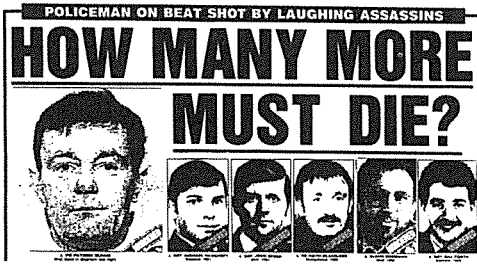
Plug Plot Riots: spontaneous and leaderless strike wave of (mainly) weavers and spinners against unemployment, the price of food, and Lancashire cotton masters' decision to reduce wages. Plugs are pulled out of boilers to close down manufactories and workshops [1842]. Staffordshire coal miners had begun the summer 'turnouts' in July. Today, over 100 cotton factories, dye works and machine shops are rendered idle. The strikes spread to Yorkshire and Cheshire and, by September, 14 English counties, eight Scottish and one Welsh county will be gripped by strike and sabotage. Despite Chartist criticism, the struggle is largely successful and most pay reductions will be withdrawn.

12 August

'Lady Ludd' leads women in a riot over bread prices, Nottingham [1812].

A transport union strike, fomented and maintained by anarchists, develops into the general strike that brings down the detested Machado regime in Cuba [1933] – see also 5 September. In 1959, anarchists will again be active in the insurrection that topples Batista and brings Castro to power. Later, anarchist attempts to gain international solidarity for their struggle against the Castro dictatorship will become known as "The Dialogue with the Deaf" because of the blind adulation Western 'radicals' will show for Castro.

13 August



How many more you got?

The good citizens of Calne in Wiltshire riot against the introduction of a police constabulary. One copper killed and several more badly injured [1840].

14 August

Watts Revolt of the oppressed [1965]: *"Before, people were ashamed to say they came from Watts. Now they say it with pride. Boys who used to go around with their shirts open to the waist, and who'd have cut you to pieces in half a second, showed up here every morning at 7 o'clock to organise the distribution of food. Of course, it's no use pretending that the food wasn't looted ... These people could loot for ten years and they wouldn't get back half the money those stores have stolen from them over all these years."*

15 August

First Fruits Festival in the Scottish Highlands: hand-picked, sun-dried corn is ground in a quern, kneaded in a sheep skin and made into a bannock, baked over a fire of rowan wood.

In solidaric response to internment, the Angry Brigade Moonlighters Cell bombs the army recruitment centre on Holloway Road, London [1971].

16 August

St. Roch's Day: "As this falls during the time when there is nothing to do but quietly await the ripening of the grapes, it is normally the occasion for several days of feasting and merriment."

17 August

When a New York factory opens in defiance of a strike of 60,000 garment workers, women strikers break through police lines and demolish the factory, throwing sewing machines out the window and smashing all the worktables and chairs [1910]. The strike, begun in June, will end successfully in improved working conditions and wages in September.

18 August

First of the month of *Fructidor* (fruit) in the French revolutionary calendar.

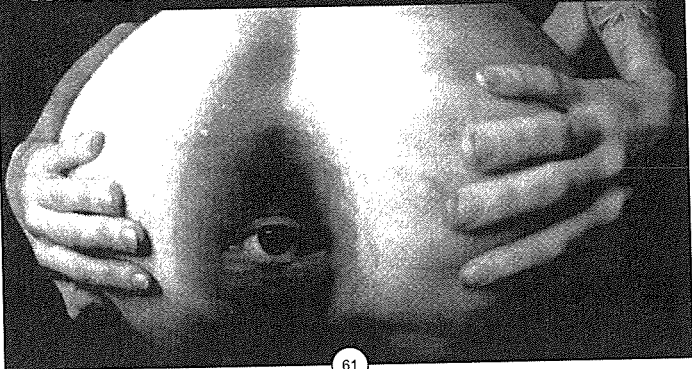
'Lady Ludd' appears again, this time at the Cornmarket Riots in Leeds [1812].

Slaves in Demerara use the licence to travel on an official rest day (for the purposes of churchgoing) to launch an uprising of over 30,000 [1823] – see also 14 April and 27 December.

1,500 striking lumberjacks fight a pitched battle against police and troops, northern Finland [1949].

In Lyons, the ROP print shop for Parisian daily papers is wrecked, in revenge for their lies and hostility towards the prison mutineers [1985] – see also 1 July.

THIS IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AREA



19 August

Five-day uprising by reservation Santee Amerindians near St. Paul, Minnesota; 400 whites killed [1862].

20 August

A single clam falls from the sky in Yuma, Arizona [1941].

1989: the Partiers League for Christmas Cookie Liberation abducts the smiling Ronald clown statue from outside a Sacramento McDonalds. Two days later, they issue a demand for free cookies for children accompanied by a photo of the blindfolded Ronnie, a stick of dynamite taped to his neck and a sign behind him that reads: *Do What They Say Or I'm McHistory*. The 'ransom' is not 'paid' but the conspirators are never caught.



21 August

Nat Turner embarks on a slave uprising by killing his owner Joseph Travis and Travis's family. Over the next 24 hours, Turner and an estimated 70 followers rampage through Southampton County, Virginia, killing close to 60 whites, and attempting to incite other slaves into revolt [1831].

Angered by a racist insult, Vincenzo Perrugia steals the *Mona Lisa* from the Louvre, Paris and keeps it for a couple of years under his bed [1911].

22 August

Encouraged by the French and American revolutions, 100,000 slaves revolt in Haiti [1791]. They wage war first on French, then Spanish and English troops to achieve freedom for slaves in 1793.

The first riot against the Militia Act occurs at Washingborough, Lincs, from where it spreads rapidly to Bedfordshire and Nottinghamshire [1757]. The Act is intended to conscript troops to fight a colonial war and quell what has been a year of domestic food riots; it succeeds instead, in provoking prolonged and massive rioting across eleven more counties. *"We will not fight for what does not concern us, and belongs to our landlords; let the worst happen; we can but be labourers and tenants as we are at present."* The rioters' primary targets are destruction of militia lists and attacks on officials though they surpass themselves and set about invading the homes of the gentry (who are exempted from service).

Massive armed riot occurs in Houston, Texas, when the 24th Infantry seeks revenge on the city's white police after the brutal beating of two of the regiment's black soldiers. After two hours of violence, 15 whites, including four policemen, have been killed [1917].

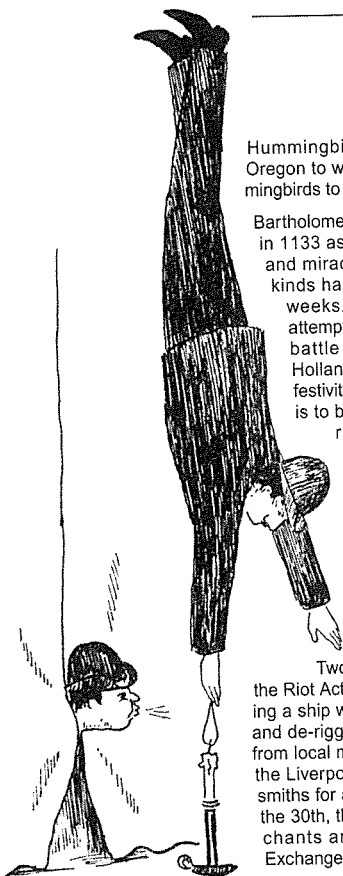
24 August

Hummingbird Goose Day (southbound): traditional day in Oregon to watch for the benevolent geese that allow tiny hummingbirds to snuggle into their down to migrate South.

Bartholomew Fair: London's biggest saturnalia. The fair began in 1133 as a rather pedestrian presentation of Bible stories and miracle plays. By the 15th Century, side-shows of all kinds had turned it into an orgy of revelry lasting several weeks. Cromwell tried to ban it but signally failed. An attempt to suppress it in 1776 results in the greatest street battle in its long history as more than 5,000 of 'Lady Holland's Mob' riot all night to ensure commencement of festivities. In 1817, the authorities panic at a rumour that it is to be the general rendezvous for an insurrection. Four regiments of horse are called out, and the Lord Mayor has the oyster-tubs, sausage-stalls and gingerbread baskets searched for weapons. Fair last celebrated in 1855.

25 August

Two thousand Liverpool seamen ignore the reading of the Riot Act to liberate nine of their fellows imprisoned for wrecking a ship when paid short wages. All ships in port are boarded and de-rigged, making them unable to sail and money is levied from local merchants. When several demonstrators are killed at the Liverpool Exchange, the sailors raid warehouses and gunsmiths for arms and seize two cannon from a whaling boat. On the 30th, they "hoist the bloody flag", attack the houses of merchants and other "obnoxious persons" and bombard the Exchange [1775].



26 August

After serious rioting during a Dublin lock-out, striking tramway workers and their supporters decide to organise an armed workers' militia to protect picket lines from assaults by scabs and the police. The Irish Citizen Army for workers' defence is formed, and is trained by ex-British Captain, Jack White [1913]. White will go on to drill the militants of the Workers' Socialist Federation in London. Later, he joins the Connolly Column to fight in the Spanish Civil War but – increasingly disillusioned with communist manipulation – leaves to teach use of firearms to anarchist militia and women *pistoleros*.

In line with the multiple-shift system and to ensure continuous utilisation of expensive equipment through the intensification of worker exploitation, the Soviet Union introduces, as part of their 'Eternal Calendar', *Nepreryvka* (non-interruption): the five-day week, wherein 80% of the people would always be at work at any one time [1929]. The measures essentially attempt to divide society into five separate working populations, each 20% labelled according to their free day off work: yellow, peach, red, purple and green – see also 6 March.

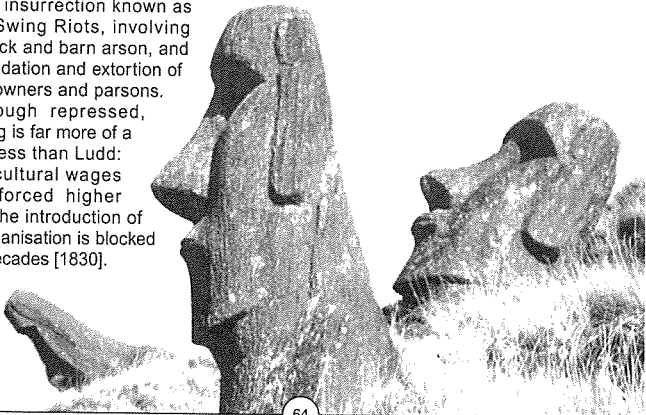
27 August

Having landed in Ireland on 22 August at Cill Chuimín, 900 Republican French soldiers join with around 800 United Irishmen and local Mayo pikemen to rout 4,000 British occupation troops at the Battle of Castlebar [1798]. The battle is remembered as 'The Races' for the manner in which the Brits were driven out, their only courageous fighters being 574 militiamen who raised the green flag and joined the insurrectionists.

Lord Mountbatten goes deep-sea fishing in Sligo with the help of the IRA [1979].

28 August

The first trashing of a threshing machine at Lower Hardres near Canterbury in the two years of rural insurrection known as the Swing Riots, involving hayrick and barn arson, and intimidation and extortion of landowners and parsons. Although repressed, Swing is far more of a success than Ludd: agricultural wages are forced higher and the introduction of mechanisation is blocked for decades [1830].



29 August

Huey Newton offers to send Black Panther troops to aid the Vietcong [1970].

After a march of ten thousand Chicanos against the Vietnam draft is attacked by police, and three are killed, Chicanos set Los Angeles on fire, occupying many parts of the city for seven days [1970].

Military wing of Edinburgh Castle bombed [1971].

30 August

More than a thousand slaves launch a bloody revolt in Richmond, Virginia [1800].

31 August

Five hundred Yaqui Amerindians storm the Mexican federal barracks in Pitahaya, Sonora. The insurgents use copies of the liberal (anarchist) newspaper *Regeneracion* as fuses for dynamite [1911] – see also 11 December.

Luxembourg general strike protests German 'annexation' [1942].

During the Turin rooftop prison protest, sympathisers battle with police outside the prison walls in solidarity [1976].

New Year's Day

– in the Greek or Byzantine Indiction [until 1087] and in Russia [16th Century only].

First of *Gerst Monat* (barley month) for the beer-loving Saxons.

The first issue of the brick-red, brick-shaped *Der Ziegelbrenner* (The Brickburner) is published by Ret Marut (B Traven?): "*The ennoblement of humankind, the creation of true culture, begins with the elimination and the utter annihilation of the press. In this, every application of violence, every act of sabotage and destruction is justified ... Man's cultural needs dictate that he destroy bedbugs, newspapers, and similar vermin, violently if necessary ... Every revolution which does not accomplish this act at the very outset fails to achieve its goal!*" [1917].



2 September

The adoption in England of the Gregorian Calendar removes 11 days, the 3rd to the 13th. English workers riot, demanding back the time stolen from them by the authorities [1752].

Manning – a local justice known for his activism in tracking down smugglers and poachers – has his barn and corn stacks fired by Swing rioters, Orpington [1830] – see also 28 August.



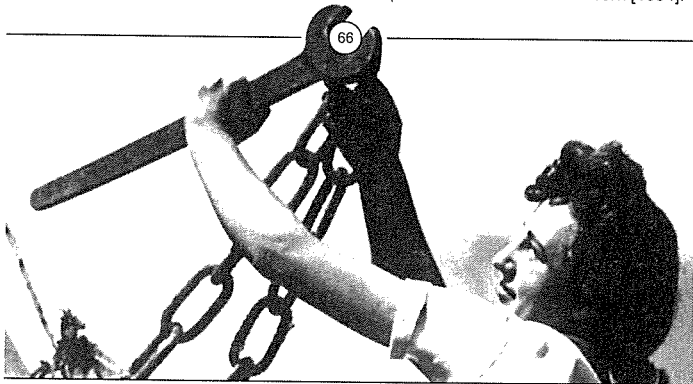
3 September

Frederick Douglass, anti-slavery orator, activist and writer, escapes from slavery in Baltimore, Maryland, disguised as a sailor [1838]: *“Those who profess to favour freedom and yet deprecate agitation are people who want crops without ploughing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning ... Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and never will. People might not get all that they work for in this world, but they must certainly work for all they get.”*

Sterling work from the Australian syndicalist Industrial Workers of the World: Wobblly Tom Barker is arrested for his anti-war poster, *Workers, Follow your Masters: Stay at Home*. Anti-recruiting efforts finally get him 12 months' hard labour [1915]. He is released after only 3 months, following a series of fires in stores and factories. Is there a connection? – *“For every day Barker is in jail, it will cost the capitalists £10,000.”*

4 September

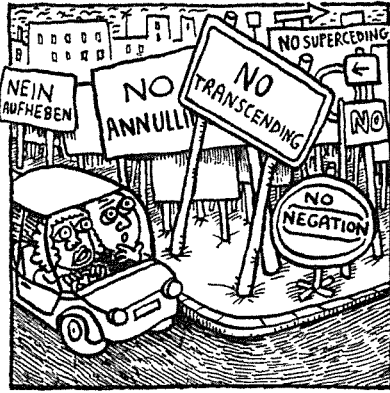
12,000 un-unionised tailors launch a successful spontaneous strike in New York [1894].



5 September

Pupils desert their classrooms and parade in the streets after a Llanelli boy is punished for passing round a note urging his friends to strike against corporal punishment. In the next fortnight, schools in over 60 major British towns and cities will come out in solidarity [1911].

Sergeants' Revolt: the whole Cuban military officer class is liquidated in Havana's Hotel Nacional by NCOs and enlisted troops [1933] – see also 13 September.



6 September

First free lending library in Britain opens in Manchester [1852].

Polish anarchist Leon Czolgosz assassinates U.S. President McKinley [1901].

106 Tupamaros urban guerrillas escape from Punta Carretas prison, Montevideo through a tunnel connected to the sewer network [1971].

Agitation in the San Basilio neighbourhood of Rome (occupations, barricades) forces the legalisation of squatting [1974].

The Venice regatta takes place without any gondoliers for the first time since 1315: they are on strike to protest the damage caused to the city by powerboats [1987].

7 September

Feast of *Yemaya* and *Oshun* (Cuba).

"Large bodies of men in disguise" tear down the fences, hedgerows and buildings erected by Lord Abingdon on Otmoor. Though the Oxfordshire Yeomanry arrest more than forty, they are all freed the same day while in transit to Oxford gaol when the crowd at St. Giles Fair take time off from their revels to riot and release them [1830].

Workers in Ghaziabad, India burn their factory and lynch two finks; 40,000 strike in solidarity with insurgents [1977].

8 September

Attica prison revolt begins, New York State [1971].

9 September

Scottish and Anzac troops at the Etaples army base near Boulogne begin a successful five-day mutiny (against harsh treatment and bad conditions) by attacking the military police and demonstrating daily through the town [1918].

The Joy Riots: urban and suburban youth take on the cops in Newcastle (Meadow Well Estate), Cardiff, Birmingham (Handsworth, following a blackout), Oxford (Blackbird Leys) and Bristol [1991].

10 September

A rain of fish in Cairo, Illinois [1890].

In Switzerland, Italian anarchist Luigi Luccheni stabs Empress Elizabeth of Austria in a strike against "*the persecutors of the workmen*" [1898].

New Year's Day



– in Ethiopia (Diocletian era): celebrated by giving bunches of flowers and picnicking in fields of daffodils.

Luddite potato riot, Nottingham [1812].

On the anniversary of the Chilean military coup against Allende, activists bomb the Chilean Embassy, the Amerikan Library and the offices of the Brazilian national airline in Rome [1976].

12 September

Public Holiday, Guinea-Bissau: to celebrate the birthday of guerrilla fighter and revolutionary thinker Amilcar Cabral. Cabral was assassinated at a time when he began theorising upon class self-determination and autonomous collective forms of social organisation in the post-colonial situation. In his own words: *Povo na manda na su cabeça* (let people do it for themselves).

Feast of *San Patricios* / St. Patrick's Battalion: Mexico's 'fighting Irish' are honoured every year when Mexicans celebrate the hundreds of Irish who deserted the invading U.S. Army in the war of 1846, then fought bravely for Mexico in most of the campaigns of the two-year conflict. Since 1993, also celebrated in Clifden, County Galway, hometown of one of the battalion's leaders, Captain John Riley.

Unemployed march on grocery stores and seize food and supplies, Toledo, Ohio [1932].

Aragon front veteran Antonio Ortiz, Primitivo Gomez and José Perez attempt to use a plane to bomb General Franco, who is making a public speech in San Sebastian, Spain. They are intercepted, but escape [1948].

Comandos Armados Liberacion bombs U.S. State Governors' Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico [1970].

13 September

Towns and workplaces in Cuba occupied; food and land distributed [1933] – see also 12 August.

A masked crowd takes advantage of a police strike in Alegoias Province, Brazil to burn the police HQ [1996].

Leaders are left to follow when, in a planned 4-hour general strike, strikers shut down virtually all public and private sector workplaces in Uruguay, and then extend the walkout into a second day, today [1997].

Nutting Day

– a day off for all to gather nuts (traditional and moveable since it depends on when the nuts are ripe). According to custom, young women who go nutting are in danger of premature pregnancy, nuts being associated with fertility; more likely, nutting days afford occasions for outdoor love-making.

15 September

The 'Railway Age' is inaugurated when, at the grand opening of the first train line built for both passengers and goods (from Liverpool to Manchester), head of the Board of Trade, William Huskisson, is killed by the *Rocket* while attempting to shake hands with the prime minister, the Duke of Wellington. When the train finally crawls into Manchester, the gathered mechanics and artisans boo and revile the occupants of the Duke's carriage [1830].

Sailors at Invergordon mutiny over reductions in pay, joining the nationwide refusal of government economic austerity measures [1931].

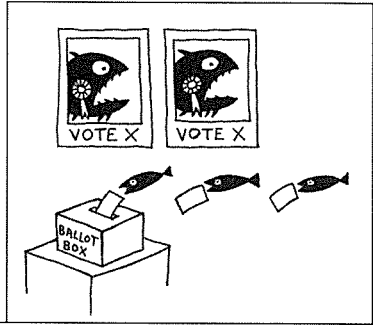
16 September

Owain Glyndwr Revolt in Wales against the English overlords [1400].

A crowd of 100,000 burn down the British Embassy as Malaysia is declared independent [1963].

Bomb discovered inside the officers' mess at Dartmoor prison; news suppressed for two weeks [1971].

Eight East Germans escape over the Iron Curtain in a home-made hot air balloon [1979].



17 September

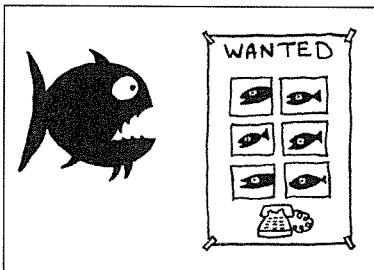
Fucking Day (Roman, traditional).

St. Lambert's Day: today, in the town of Rupertwinkel it was permissible and traditional to thrash an enemy with impunity while the church bell sounded.

18 September

Socialist lawyer Dimitri Bogroff shoots Russian premier Stolypin at Kiev Opera House [1911].

19 September

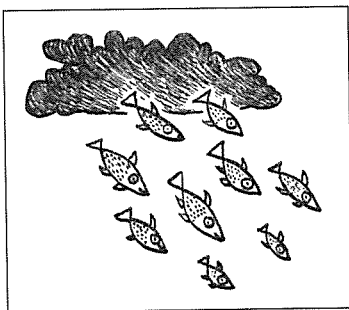


Mary Jemison dies: one of many escapees from dominant culture, she had been adopted by Seneca Amerindians and reviled by 'whites' as a 'race traitor' [1833].

The Washington Post is forced to publish *Industrial Society And Its Future*, the Unabomber's 35,000-word critique of technocracy [1995].

20 September

A rain of herring in Rosshire, Scotland [1828] and assorted fish in Calcutta [1839].



Establishment of the Lyon Commune sparks the revolutionary upsurge throughout the Rhone valley, giving impetus to the Marseilles and Paris Communes [1870] – see also 25 September.

Best night of rioting so far this year against British rule in Hong Kong, in the agitation which began on 10 July [1967].

21 September

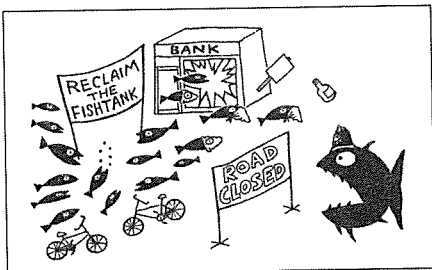
The Harvest Moon is the first full moon following the autumn equinox, around today.
A rain of gossamer falls on Selborne, Dorset [1741].



New Year's Day

– in the French revolutionary calendar (operative 1793-1806), it being the date of the proclamation of the Republic in 1792: 10-day weeks, 3-week months and beginning at Year One. Today is the first of the month of *Vindémiaire* (fine wine).

Rebecca Riots: when bailiff James Thomas attempts to seize goods in lieu of unpaid fines (incurred for refusal to pay tolls), locals tie him up and put him in the Brechfa village pound (where 'distrained' goods as well as animals are kept). They only release him in the morning on payment of the customary fourpence for redeemed strays [1843] – see also 13 May.



23 September

To protest the development of maximum security prisons, inmates break down the walls dividing their cells at Asinara jail, Italy [1978].

24 September

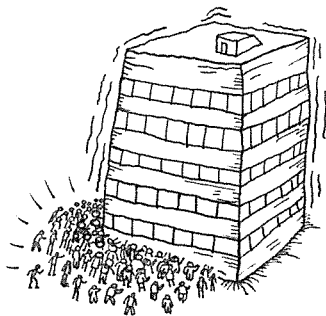
Harvest Home (Feast of Ingathering).

Activists destroy 10,000 draft files in Milwaukee, Wisconsin [1968].

During a council workers' strike, a bomb explodes in the cleansing department head office in Greenford [1970].

Although the authorities claim to have arrested "all" of the Angry Brigade, the AB bombs Albany Street army barracks (near Bomb Squad HQ) in protest against army actions in Ireland [1971].

25 September



The birth of *Sedna*, Inuit goddess of both the sea and the Underworld, is celebrated today in Greenland, north-east Siberia, and the Arctic coastal regions of North America.

Jam and Jelly Making Day, England [18th Century].

The armed workers of the Marseilles Commune declare the abolition of the state and all debt [1870] – see also 27 February.

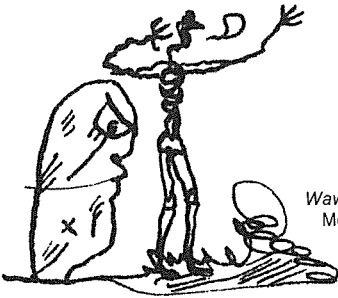
26 September

After months of retreat, the anarchist Ukrainian Insurrectionary Army turns on its pursuers and Denikin's forces are routed [1919]. As a result, Denikin is forced to abandon his march on Moscow and the Bolshevik government is saved. In November 1920, the Bolsheviks return the favour by unleashing unprecedented Red Terror against the anarchist movement throughout the Ukraine: "*The Denikin repression pales beside that of the Bolsheviks*" – Voline.

27 September

Stay Home Because You're Well Day: instead of faking illness, call your bosses and tell them you're well; there must be a thousand things you'd rather do than work – do them!

28 September



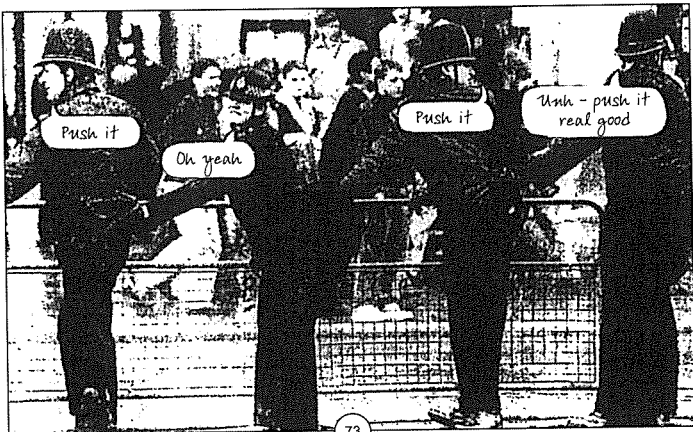
Wawatsari: peyote mushroom festival in Huichol, Mexico.

29 September

Michaelmas: originally placed in December by christians to displace existing pagan celebrations. When, in the 12th Century, the fixed date of Christmas becomes a sufficiently important date (see 25 December), Michaelmas itself is re-deployed to overwrite other pagan celebrations around the time of the autumn equinox.

The first public appearance of London's Metropolitan Police is greeted with jeering and abuse [1829].

More than two hundred loot shops in Walworth, South London [1985].



30 September

Women are asked by the government to wear shorter skirts to save cloth [1947].

1 October

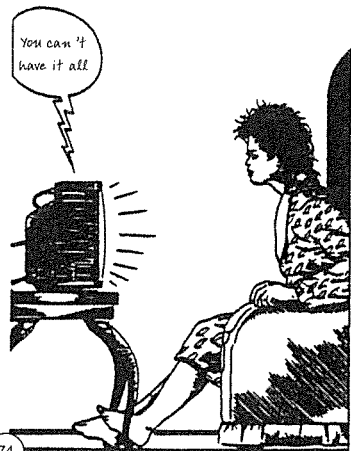
Wyn Moneth, wine month in the Saxon calendar.

Ten thousand citizens of Syracuse, NY, storm the police station and free runaway slave William 'Jerry' Henry. He is smuggled to freedom in Canada [1851].

2 October

The Nottingham Goose Fair is a moveable event, currently the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the month. The precise origin of the fair is uncertain, having been variously celebrated through at least seven centuries of fun on St Matthew's Day (21 September for 8 days); St Edmund's Day (for 12 days); and, after being cancelled due to Calendar Reform in 1752, on 2 October in following years. Some say it is named a 'goose' fair to celebrate an angler who hooked a pike from the River Trent only to find the fish, line, rod and himself carried off by a wild flying goose and dropped uninjured in the Market Square – where it was then determined to hold the fair. For many years it was known as the 'Great Cheese Riot' after an angry mob of price reductionists who, in 1764, liberated whole cheeses from the stalls and rolled them through the streets (the mayor was flattened by a 100lb cheese). Fun exploded again, in 1788, in riots against the price of meat: the doors and shutters of the shambles were torn down and burned – along with the butchers' books – in a wild bonfire in the middle of the square.

Black Panthers declare their support for the General Motors wildcat strike [1970].



3 October

All one hundred and sixty-four students of the Kincaid High School in Illinois walk out on strike after they discover that the school is being heated with coal from a company employing scab labour [1932].

4 October

Swallows depart for warmer climes – see also 15 April.

More than a hundred loot shops and attack cops in Oxford [1985].

5 October

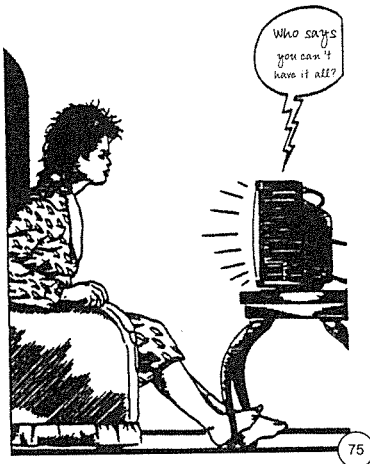
Audlem Wakes, Cheshire: traditionally, the first person to get drunk at the event was proclaimed Mayor of Audlem for the coming year.

Nuoro, Italy: during the night the town hall is broken into and a stolen donkey is tied to the mayor's desk [1977].

Pope Gregory VIII removes ten days from history and devises yet another means for calculating the date on which Easter falls [1582]. Not adopted in Protestant England and Orthodox countries.

Nicaraguan National Guard garrison mutinies and murders its U.S. commander [1929].

6 October



Weather Underground activists blow up the Haymarket police statue [1969] – see 4 May.

It is blown up again [1970].

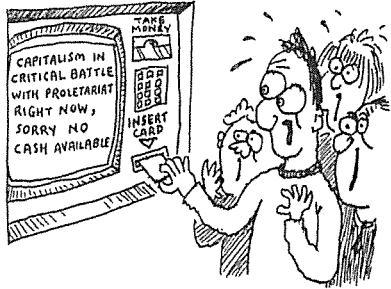
New Year's Day

– in the ancient Sumerian calendar; celebrated with a festival to the goddesses *Ishatar* and *Astarte*.

Birthday of R D Laing [1927]: *"In the context of our present pervasive madness, sanity, freedom, all our frames of reference are ambiguous and equivocal."*

8 October

Disguised as a funeral procession, the Tupamaros urban guerrilla organisation enter and occupy the town of Pando, Uruguay, robbing three banks of over 40 million pesos [1969].



9 October

Demonstrations across Latin America on the anniversary of the death of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara; particularly violent riots in Sao Paolo, Brazil [1968].

All-out rioting develops in Highfields, Leicester, after cops are pelted with shoes stolen from a city centre store following a football match [1985].

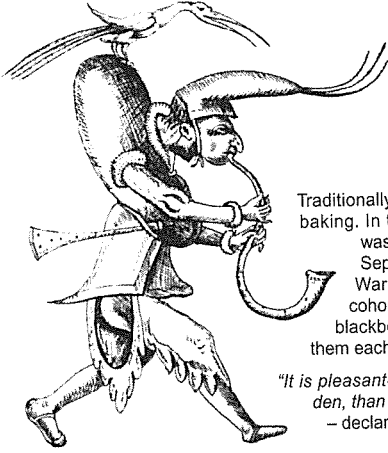
10 October

Fire Prevention Week, USA: you know what to do.

Birthday of Gerrard Winstanley [1609]: *"True religion and undefiled is this: To make restitution of the Earth which hath been taken and held from the common people by the power of Conquests formerly and so set the oppressed free."*

Townfolk invade the Justices' meeting at Dunchurch and seize the lists from which locals were to be chosen for compulsory military service. Though three of the crowd are apprehended, two of them are liberated in Coventry, on their way to Warwick gaol [1758].

11 October



Traditionally, the very last day for blackberrying – get baking. In the Old Style / pre-Reform Calendar this was the date on which Michaelmas fell (see 29 September): today, the Devil is defeated in the War in Heaven by Archangel Michael and his cohorts, and is cast out. He lands on Earth in a blackberry bush and curses the berries, blighting them each year with his piss and spit on this date.

"It is pleasanter to eat one's own peas out of one's garden, than to buy them by the peck at Covent Garden"
– declared the writer Charles Lamb today in 1802.

12 October

Near miss: for Margaret Thatcher as Brighton's Grand Hotel is redecorated by the IRA [1984].

13 October

Roman feast of *Fontanalia*, celebrating good water (if you can find any).

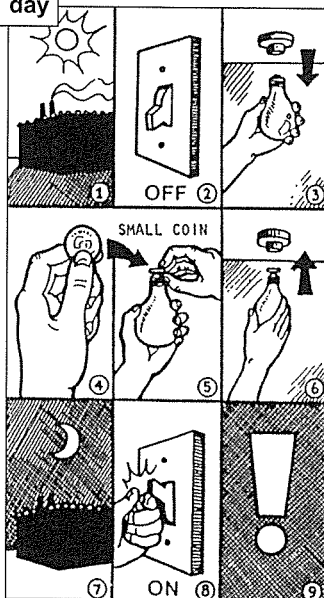
A mob of over a thousand rises in Great Colton, Warwickshire, against bread price rises. They split into flying squads 300 strong and traverse the country, enforcing prices and skirmishing with the military in Kidderminster, Birmingham, Alcester and Stratford [1766].



14 October

day

Litton Systems plant in Toronto is blown up by activists [1982].



15 October

A good day for gathering honey, according to Mayan chronological estimation.

Imperial War Museum is gutted by an incendiary device [1969].

16 October

John Brown seizes the U.S. armoury at Harper's Ferry, Virginia aiming to steal arms to establish a republic of fugitive and freed slaves in the Appalachians, and then to declare war on the slave states of the South [1859].

As a student demonstration – over the banning of lecturer Dr Walter Rodney from Jamaica – dissipates, Kingston inhabitants occupy the streets of the city, attacking and looting property, concentrating on businesses owned by multinationals (Barclays, Bank of London, Pan Am, Woolworth's, Esso and Shell). Rioters use over fifty buses belonging to the foreign-owned Jamaica Omnibus Service as battering rams against shutters and shop fronts [1968].

Grimethorpe police station trashed [1984].

17 October

Gold becomes black: new 200 metres world record-holder Tommy Smith, and John Carlos, bronze, go barefoot, refuse to face the American flag, and give the Black Power salute during the Olympic presentation ceremony, Mexico City [1968].

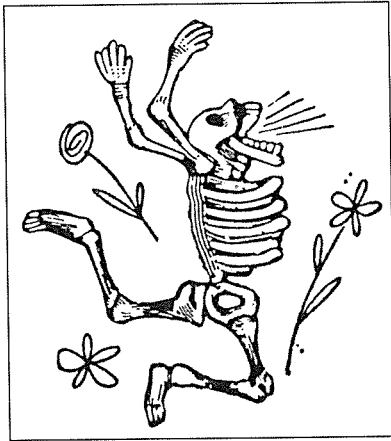
As the biggest storms in a century wreak havoc across southern England, a mob takes advantage of the chaos to loot in Oxford Street [1987].

18 October

Charlton Horn Fair: among other delights, men dressed as women whipped genuine women with bunches of furze. By 1872, *"the fair had degenerated into an all-out orgy, and was suppressed."*

Until the 1990s, this day in 1826 saw the last state lottery in England: *"The last of a long series of legalised swindles ... the most absurd chances were paraded as traps to catch the thoughtless, and all that ingenuity could suggest in the way of advertisement and puffing was resorted to by lottery-office keepers"* – Chambers Book of Days, 1869.

When Tommy Smith and John Carlos are expelled from the U.S. Olympic team for giving the Black Power salute (yesterday), Evans (gold in the 400 metres), James and Freeman (silver and bronze) repeat the protest gesture and add the Panther black beret [1968].



19 October

The first nationwide school strike against corporal punishment begins in Hawick, Roxborough and quickly spreads across the Scottish lowlands, then to Tyneside and as far south as London, Bristol and Cardiff [1889].

20 October

Last day of the Chinese Communist Party guerrillas' one year Long March of 6,000 miles [1935].



21 October

Anti-war socialist Friedrich Adler assassinates Austro-Hungarian prime minister Count Karl von Sturkh [1916].

There are actions, today, in over three hundred and fifty Japanese neighbourhoods, which start out as building demonstrations for the National Day Against the War in Vietnam, due tomorrow [1968]. However, they soon turn into the tumultuous "Attack on Tokyo" when the organisers, the Zengakuren revolutionary student movement, are joined by workers and the ranks of organised militants swells to an estimated 800,000. The struggle has reached the stage of urban guerrilla warfare: violently assaulted, over three days, are the Parliament, the Amerikan Embassy, the police headquarters, and the Shinjuku railway station in Tokyo – a hated symbol of the massified system, where over a million people transit every day. See also 18 January.

22 October

First of the month of *Brumaire* (foggy) in the French revolutionary calendar.

The earliest event recorded precisely in human history: Hsia Dynasty Chinese witness and document the solar eclipse [2137 BCE].

In a small home laboratory, Chester Carlson and Otto Kornei electrostatically reproduce the legend '10-22-38 ASTORIA' – and photocopying is born [1938]. Alrighty! Let's snort toner and toast the boys.

Committee Of 100 activists spring tankie spy and lifer George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs, and he is smuggled out of Britain [1966].

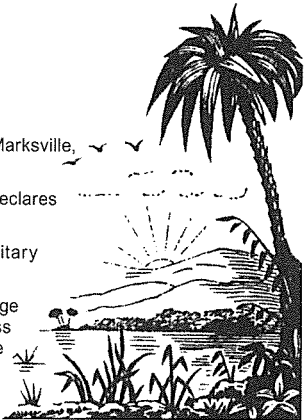
23 October

A rain of fresh black bass and hickory shad in Marksville, Louisiana [1947].

Hungarian Revolution: a minimum programme declares complete equalisation of wages [1956].

Over three hundred Amerikan and French military killed in two truck bomb blasts in Beirut [1983].

Tahitian slum dwellers and youth go on a rampage of looting, smashing and burning in the business and tourist quarters of the capital, Papeete. More than a thousand rioters shatter the image French Polynesia has been given of an affluent South Pacific paradise [1987].



24 October

Aurora borealis seen in southern England, in a rare arch shape [1870].

U.S. National Commission on Obscenity and Pornography reports that porn is not a contributing factor to "crime and social deviation". President Nixon lambasts the report and closes the commission [1970].

25 October



St. Crispin's Day, patron saint of shoemakers:
"The twenty-fifth of October, cursed be the cobbler who goes to bed sober."

Birthday of anarchist Max Stirner [1806]:
"The great are only great because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"

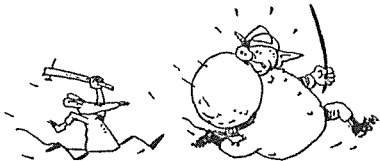
26 October

Fired up by the French Revolution, a mass meeting of workers is held today in Islington [1795]. In its turn, the meeting prompts, three days later, an angry crowd of 200,000 to throng the streets, chanting "*No War! No King!*" They smash up the PM's house in Downing Street, and mob King George III himself in St. James Park: he is jeered and hooted and his carriage is attacked with rocks and shit. Bootmaker John Ridley is unfortunately foiled in his attempt to haul him from his coach and lynch him (though Ridley is never apprehended). A hawker selling penny copies of *The Rights of Man* is arrested, rescued and carried aloft the crowd in triumph. Tomorrow, the King will need the protection of 800 constables to make it to the theatre alive [1795].

27 October

Birthday of Ukrainian anarchist guerrilla Nestor Makhno [1889]: *"It is up to the workers and peasants to organise themselves and reach mutual understanding in all areas of their lives in whatever manner they think right."*

London housing officials admit that slum clearance and re-housing causes misery and distress to those moved [1959].



28 October

Sylvia Pankhurst imprisoned for urging people to loot the docks [1920].

29 October

How the West was really won: the U.S. Cavalry under Colonel J M Chivington attack the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples at Sand Creek, Colorado. Having surrounded the camp, the troops massacre over five hundred unarmed men, women and children. After 'victory', these sons of Amerika scalp and mutilate the bodies, cutting out the females' genitalia and attaching them to their hats and saddles. The bodies are left to rot [1864].

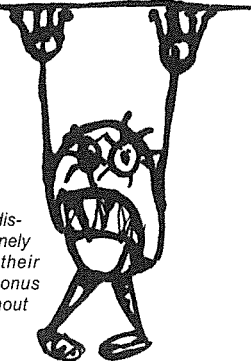
Every twelve years on this day, the Amerindian Iroquois tribe celebrates its Feast of the Dead, to honour the souls of departed loved ones.

30 October

The population of the whole world narrowly avoids – by three seconds – complete obliteration off the face of the universe when the 500,000 ton planet Hermes just fails to collide with this planet Earth [1937].

Orson Welles' radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* demonstrates the suggestive power of mass communications [1938] – see also 13 February.

31 October



All Hallows' Eve / Hallowe'en: *"The original reason for disguise tonight, it being Mischief Night, was to prevent lonely spirits recognising you and snatching you away to their between-the-worlds home; and it was an additional bonus that the costumes allowed you to lead a mini-riot without being recognised ..."*



New Year's Day

– old Celtic New Year.

All Saints' Day: a catch-all holiday today to make up for any obscure saints that you may have missed the excuse to celebrate in the year.

Kite Festival of Santiago Sacatepequez, Guatemala: ancient and popular kitefest to ward off evil spirits.

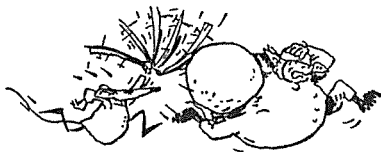
2 November

Weavers and knitters smash machines at Sutton and Ashfield [1811].

Red River Rebellion: the long struggle of the Métis people against their incorporation into the Canadian State begins when Governor-designate McDougall is thrown out of his would-be new territory [1869] – see also 27 March.

3 November

Amerindians and Chicanos occupy the abandoned military communications centre near Davis, California [1970]. In April 1971, it will be recognised as Deganawidah-Quetzlcoatl University, the first North Amerindian college in Amerika.



4 November

Túpac Amaru II rebellion against Spanish colonialism explodes in Peru [1780].

The 'Peoples Army' – formed to resist police interference with the demonstrations of the East London Federation of Suffragettes – begins paramilitary assembly and gun drill in Victoria Park [1913].

It takes a nation of anarchists to hold us back: CNT leaders show their true colours and join the republican government [1936].

First people nicked under the Criminal Justice Act – for climbing a crane [1994].

5 November

G Fawkes is innocent [1605]: state-sponsored commemorations – intended to corral people into official versions of history – have throughout time been subverted by revellers who have turned the authoritarians' world upside down and engaged instead in pitched battles with those who would stop them taking celebration to its natural conclusion – see 21 November.

Birthday of labour activist Eugene Debs [1855]: *"I don't want you to follow me or anyone else. I would not lead you into the promised land if I could, because if I could lead you in, somebody else would lead you out."* Also today, in 1920, Convict #9653 (Debs) receives nearly one million votes as Socialist Party presidential candidate while in jail.

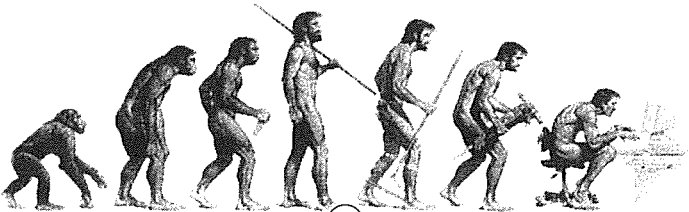
Seize the Time! Thomas Manners, the official London Law Courts clock winder, is caught in the mechanism of the law courts tower and crushed to death [1954].

6 November

Rebenlichter / Turnip Lantern Festival, Switzerland.

Internationalising the struggle: in solidarity with the Stoke Newington 6 (soon to be 8) and imprisoned Italian anarchists, there are attacks on Lloyds Bank in Amsterdam, the Italian consulate in Basel and the British embassies in Rome and Barcelona [1971].

A virus cripples six thousand U.S. Defence Department computers [1988].



7 November

Kiel Mutiny, following the imprisonment of six hundred sailors, sparks a general uprising [1918]. The provisional government declared by Independent Social Democrats will be overtaken by the Bavarian Räterepublik – the Workers', Soldiers', and Farmers' Councils – within five months. See also 6 April.

8 November

Shrews and field mice go into winter quarters.

Fire and riot ensues in Robertsbridge after poor law administrators (all of them millers) try to distribute bad flour. No one can be found to enlist as special constables to quell the mob [1830].

Today's issue of the Chicago Alarm, edited by Albert Parsons [1884]: *"Workers of America, learn the manufacture and use of dynamite ... Then use it unstintingly, unsparingly. The battle for bread is the battle for life ... Death and destruction to the system and its upholders, which plunders and enslaves the men, women, and children of toil."*

Anarchist Emile Henry places a time bomb at the Carmaux mining company in Paris. The bomb is discovered and taken to the police station in Rue des Bons-Enfants, where it explodes, killing five police officers [1892]. *"Beware of believing anarchy to be a dogma, a doctrine above question or debate, to be venerated by its adepts as is the Koran by devout Moslems. No! The absolute freedom which we demand constantly develops our thinking and raises it toward new horizons ... We are not 'believers!'"* – Emile Henry.

Anarchists bomb the Spanish consulate with grenades in Gènes, Italy [1949].

Stainforth police station is attacked by striking miners [1984].

9 November

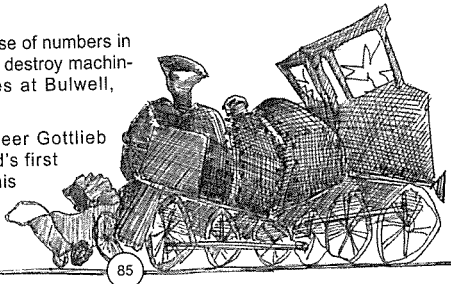
Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir William Harwood, poisoned by arsenic-filled chocolates [1921].

10 November

Tree Planting Festival, Tunisia.

Organising their cells by the use of numbers in place of real names, Luddites destroy machinery and the bosses' houses at Bulwell, Nottinghamshire [1811].

Paul Daimler, son of engineer Gottlieb Daimler, becomes the world's first motorcyclist when he rides his father's new invention on a round trip of six miles [1885].



11 November

Vinalia: feast of the Graeco-Roman wine-and-wildness god *Bacchus*.

Italy: Cittadella Colony, a co-operative agricultural association, is founded by anarchist Giovanni Rossi [1887]. In 1890, Rossi will leave Italy, with others, to establish the Cecilia Colony in Brazil.

Despite heavy police and army presence on the streets, 9 out of 10 people in the Dominican Republic go on a two-day general strike against price hikes for basic products, organised by a co-ordinating committee of workers', peasants' and students' organisations [1997].

12 November

Armed militia forces the retreat of King Charles I from London [1642].

Workers remember workers' history: anarchist Manuel Pardinas assassinates premier Jose Canalejas, in Madrid [1912]. In September, Canalejas had been responsible for breaking a national railroad strike.

13 November

Over twenty thousand workers join the funeral march of those executed for throwing the Haymarket bomb (see 4 May): Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Albert Parsons, August Spies (all executed) and Louis Lingg, who blew himself up the day before the execution [1887].



Critical Mass bike ride
Waterloo Bridge South Bank London
6.00pm / last Friday of every month

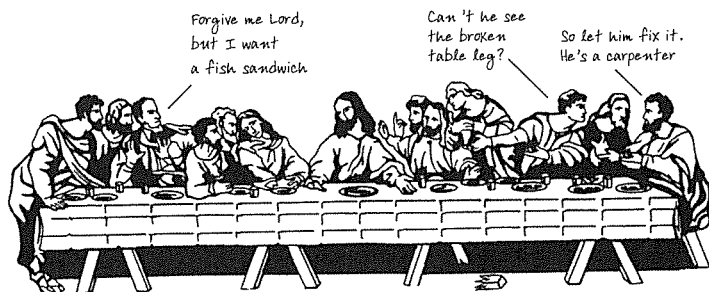
14 November

The night of the 13th/14th is noted for its preponderance of visible shooting stars.

Workers' retribution: Polish anarchist Simon Radowitzky kills police chief Ramon Falcon and his secretary with a bomb, Buenos Aires [1909]. Falcon had ruthlessly suppressed a renters' strike and the workers' May Day celebrations.

15 November

More than 800 Amerindians burn every building in the Spanish enclave of San Diego. They make sure to kill all the priests during the attack on the mission [1775].



16 November

French revolutionaries load a barge with 90 priests then tow it out and sink it off Nantes, France. All on board perish [1793].

Hungerford Revels, Berkshire: a traditional festal event with greasy pole, hot tea drinking contests and sack-jumping for cheese.

Knowles Riot, Boston: hundreds of sailors, labourers and free blacks rise up against English press gangs, forcing the abandonment of impressment for a time [1747].

17 November

Birthday of Voltairine De Cleyre [1866]: *"Speak, speak, speak, and remember that whenever anyone's liberty to speak is denied, your liberty is denied also, and your place is where the attack is."*

Shouting *"My bosses have always treated me as scum. Death to the king"*, anarchist cook Giovanni Passanante stabs King Umberto I [1878]. Italy enters a period of uproar: anti-monarchist riots break out; republicans clubs named after prominent mutineers spring up; bombs go off in Florence and Pisa; and in Pesaro, rifles are looted from a barracks. The government will fall on 11 December. In revenge for the attentat, the King's court have the name of Passanante's home town in Potenza province permanently changed from Salvia to Savoia di Lucania – see also 29 July.

46,000 meteorites fall on Arizona in the space of twenty minutes [1966].

Two women from *Accion Directe* shoot Renault chairman George Besse, in Paris [1986].

18 November

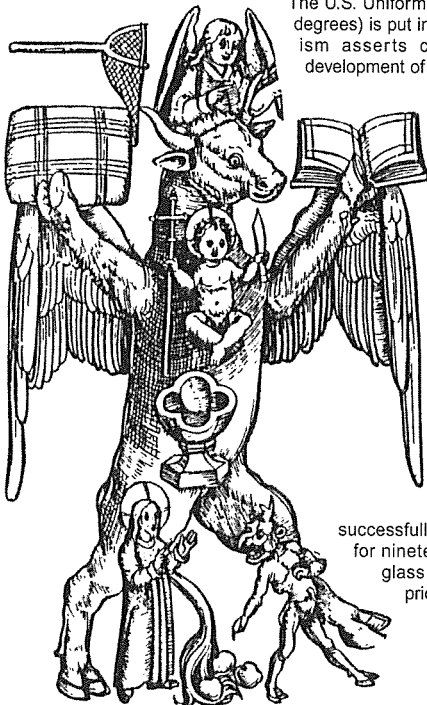
Beginning of lengthy Yule (solstice) revelries: known as *Yule Girth* by the Saxons and Goths, 'Christmas' being no more of a christian festival than Easter. Celebrate your own feasts without fuelling the consumer economy. And take it to the max: traditionally this holiday season was continued to 7 January.

Vertières: public holiday in Haiti to remember and celebrate the locals' victory over the French in the Battle of Vertières [1803]. In the following year, the country will proclaim its independence and restore its name, Haiti – land of mountains.

Major strike wave breaks out in Rio de Janeiro involving over 6,000 workers and a plot to overthrow the government. Prominent in the struggle are the textile, metal and construction workers [1918].

Seattle printers refuse to print an anti-labour newspaper advertisement [1919].

19 November



The U.S. Uniform Time Zone Plan (four zones of fifteen degrees) is put into operation [1883] as modern capitalism asserts control of the social through the development of mass communications and transportation: "*Despite all the good scientific and military arguments for world time, it was the railroad companies and not the government that were the first to institute it. Around 1870, if a traveller from Washington to San Francisco set his watch in every town he passed through, he would set it over two hundred times*" – Stephen Kern, *The Culture Of Time And Space*.

20 November

Seminole, Winnebago, Cahuilla, Lakota, Inuit, Luiseno, Cherokee, Choctaw and Mohawk Amerindians successfully occupy Alcatraz and hold the island for nineteen months. They offer to pay \$24 in glass beads and red cloth for the land: the price paid by the white man for Manhattan Island [1969] – see also 21 November.

Angry Brigade bombs a BBC van due to be used in the *Ms. World* broadcast, outside Albert Hall [1970].

21 November



First of the month of *Frimaire* (frosty) in the French revolutionary calendar.

In 1863, troops are called in to prevent Guildford celebrating its Fifth of November Bonfire Night. The extent of riot accompanying this event in recent years has been such that the Chief Constable has taken to locking his men in the cells for their own protection. With the army's withdrawal today, the fun now begins and PC Sutton is thrown into the fire. The annual festivities will only come to an end in 1865 when several men are nicked for trying to club a copper to death. Previous highlights include tearing up the entire Merrow Racecourse grandstand as fuel for the vast fire.

The Alcatraz occupation health clinic is set up by Jenny Joe (Navajo), Stella Leach (Colville-Sioux) and two others who request anonymity [1969] – see also 11 December.

Almanac Day

– day held for the issuing of the next year's almanac by the Society for Diffusion of Useful Knowledge [first observed in 1828].

23 November

Honensai festival, Japan, celebrates the rice harvest and the *Kamii*, or rice spirit: rice-sheaf scarecrows decorate houses, much rice wine drinking and village-wide tug-of-wars.

Egyptian pyramid workers stage the first recorded stoppage of work [1170 BCE].

24 November

Gatherings of revolutionary workers and soldiers have been occurring all over Russia throughout the year [1905]. Since men in the armed forces are not permitted to attend workers' meetings, the workers, in their thousands, begin to visit military meetings. Joint interest finds a lively response in the election of workers' and soldiers' deputies to local soviets. The authorities attempt to prohibit meetings altogether: today, in the Black Sea Fleet's naval barracks, Rear-Admiral Pisarevsky gives the order: "*Permit no one to leave the barracks! In case of disobedience, shoot!*" A sailor by the name of Petrov steps forward from the ranks, loads his rifle and, in everyone's view, kills a Lieutenant-Colonel and wounds the Rear-Admiral. Petrov insists that he be arrested, though angry comrades free him. They are not content with that, however: all officers on duty are disarmed and arrested instead. Overnight, the sailors' soviet votes never to permit officers to enter the barracks again.

D B Cooper parachutes from a plane south of Seattle with a \$200,000 hijack ransom [1971]. He is never caught.

25 November

Cathering Day: traditionally, young women make merry today.

Slaves burn Albany to the ground; \$250,000 damage [1793 prices].

Mau Mau revolt, Kenya [1952].

26 November

Alice in Wonderland first published [1865]. Carroll pokes fun at organised religion's attempts to control chronological time with a thinly veiled attack on the christian debates over the correct day for celebrating Easter: "Fourteen of March, I think it was," he said. "Fifteenth," said March Hare. "Sixteenth," said the Dormouse.

"Write that down," the king said to the jury; and the jury eagerly wrote down all the three dates on their slates, and then added them up, and reduced the answer to shillings and pence" – see also 21 March and 5 October.



27 November

It is revealed that George V's doctor hastened his death so that it would appear in the morning rather than the evening papers [1936].

Pope Paul VI is knifed in the Philippines by a dagger-wielding Bolivian painter disguised as a priest [1970].

The international airport in French Guyana is closed for two days after a general strike is called during massive rioting across the whole of the country [1996]. The riots started when high school students revolted over poor conditions in school and massive youth unemployment.

28 November

Contracting out work to cheaper labour pools in the global market and replacing people by machines, telecoms giant Bell-Atlantic announces another 5,600 lay-offs. In Pennsylvania, 1,200 employees respond by coming to work in T-shirts that depict themselves as information superhighway roadkill. When they refuse to change their clothing, management over-reacts and suspends them all without pay, thus ensuring the workers' campaign gains national prominence [1994].

29 November

Cayuse Amerindians massacre every last one of the 'Walla Walla' christian missionaries who have introduced a measles epidemic into their tribe, and have been grabbing land [1847].

Bulgarian general strike results in the collapse of the communist government [1990].



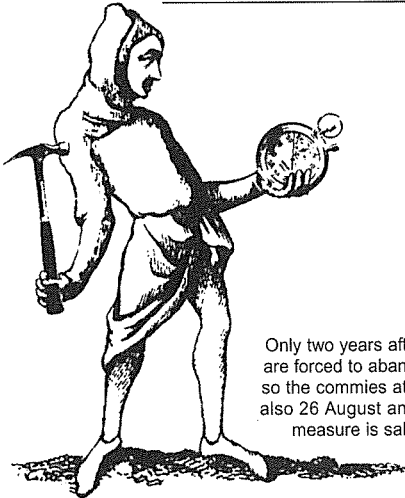
New Year's Day

— in the calendar of the Hmong mountain-dwellers of China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Agricultural labourers riot in Shaftesbury, Dorset to secure the release of five imprisoned comrades. Simultaneously, in Banwell, Somerset paupers riot at the poorhouse then follow up with an attack on the lock-up and release its prisoners [1830].

Oscar Wilde takes one last look at the world he is leaving behind and declares, "*This wallpaper is killing me; one of us has got to go.*" A witty death is as sublime as a birth [1900]. As the man himself said: "*Most modern calendars mar the sweet simplicity of our lives by reminding us that each day that passes is the anniversary of some perfectly uninteresting event.*"

A rain of frozen mallard ducks falls on Stuttgart, Arkansas [1973].



1 December

Only two years after its introduction, the Soviet authorities are forced to abandon *Nepreryvka*, the five-day week. And so the commies attempt ... the six-day week! [1931] – see also 26 August and 6 March. Like the five-day week, this measure is sabotaged by workers and peasants taking *both* the banned Sundays *and* the new rest days off.

day



REVENGE IS A DISH BEST SERVED ROASTED

2 December

The first of three nights of rioting in Bermuda, with \$5 million worth of destruction, in anger at the hanging of two men convicted of the 1972 murder of Governor Richard Sharples [1977].

3 December

Festival of Neptune: marine saturnalia and on-beach picnics (weather permitting).

100,000 workers declare a 'work holiday' and walk off their jobs in a 3-day general strike in Oakland, California, to support striking department store workers and oppose police brutality [1946].

Protesters destroy the files of eight New York draft board offices [1969].

4 December

The insurgent peasant army of the South (Zapatistas) and the northern brigades of cowboys, bandits, Wobblies and adventurers riding with Pancho Villa meet and occupy Mexico City [1914].

5 December

Wartime wildcat strike at Dodge truck plant, Detroit [1944].

6 December

Riot in the Latin Quarter of Paris [1986]: cars trashed and shops looted for fun. A newspaper kiosk is set alight: "Don't do that it belongs to a worker." Up runs a guy: "I work here ... burn it, burn it!"

Unknown assailants pull the Duke of Ormond from his coach and drag him unconscious toward Tyburn with the intention of hanging him [1670].

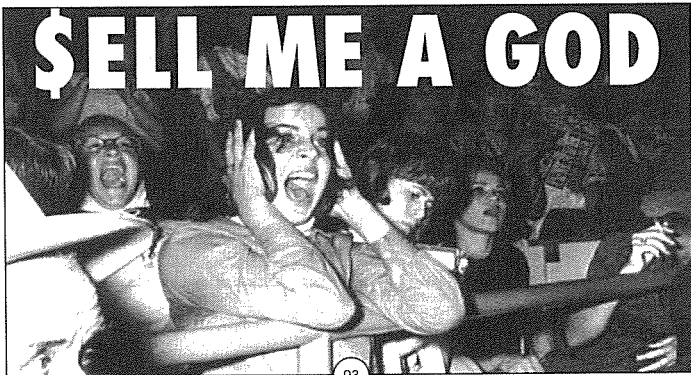
Curfew is declared in Nottinghamshire to try to stop Luddite revolt. In response, 36 frames are destroyed in the next six days [1811].

7 December

Johan Huizinga, theorist of *Homo Ludens* (Man, the player), begins his game of life [1872].

8 December

The price of remaindered John Lennon posters rockets after news is telexed round the world that Michael Chapman has used a 38mm handgun to give piece a chance [1980].



9 December

Birthday of madcap medieval rhymester John Skelton [1460]. Once, when being upbraided by Cardinal Wolsey he quipped: "I pray, your grace, to let me lie down and wallow, for I can kneel no longer."

Five anarchist protesters climb onto the Lenin mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square to drape a banner with the declaration, "Against Everyone", upon it [1999].

10 December

Workers' playtime: on its first night, Alfred Jarry's farce, *Ubu Roi*, sets the audience at the Theatre de L'Oeuvre in Paris to riot [1896]. Jarry's curtain speech at yesterday's dress rehearsal also brought the house off its knees and onto its feet.



11 December

Lacemakers' Holiday, Northants: traditionally a day dedicated to unbridled licence as women and men dress in each others' clothes and imbibe large quantities of hot elderberry wine.

Yaqui Amerindians in Sonora province, Mexico, seize back stolen land [1911]. This period of open war against the government will last until 1929.

The Big Rock School – a free school run by Ute, Creek, Blackfoot, Paiute, Comanche and Mono instructors – is established by the Indians Of All Tribes occupiers on Alcatraz, the prison island where nineteen Hopi men had been incarcerated for refusing to send their children to state-run schools [1969] – see also 22 July.

12 December

Polynesia: festival of *Rekareka*, god of pleasure.

When Swing rioters set fires outside Carlisle, a mob assembles to prevent the fires being extinguished by throwing buckets into the flames, cutting the pipes, harangues and general obstruction [1830] – see also 28 August.

13 December

In a non-binding referendum, Puerto Ricans vote on five choices: 1) remaining a U.S. commonwealth; 2) entering into "free association" with the U.S.; 3) becoming a U.S. state; 4) declaring independence; or 5) none of the above.

Option 5 receives the majority of votes [1998].

14 December

Constance Markievicz becomes the first woman MP when she is elected Sinn Fein member for St Patrick's, Dublin. However, she is unable to take her seat because she is banged up in Holloway prison [1918].

Black Panther supporter Paris becomes the first western rap artist to perform in a socialist country. Before playing to the packed house at the Karl Marx auditorium in Havana, he and exiled Black Liberation Army activist Assata Shakuur speak on the need to contain capitalism and develop Third World unity [1990].

15 December

Broughton Tin Can Band, Northants: saucepan-banging for no good reason just after midnight. A council ban of 1929 is defied by a huge face-blackened crowd, whose din can be heard for miles. Those charged with breach of the peace are cheered on their way to court, and their fines paid for by a supper dance on the eve of the sentence. The next year, those bound over merely hold cans – which are struck by others, and the ban is lifted.

The goddess *Alcyone* is honoured today as part of the ancient Greek 'Halcyon Days' festival – a special time of tranquillity and calm.

Gdansk Communist Party HQ torched by mob [1970].



16 December

day

"I am looking to the day when I will not have my personal identity celebrated as one of a handful of revolutionaries selected to be on a calendar, but will be honoured as one among countless thousands, whose contributions will be continually evaluated and repeated" – Herman Bell, Black Liberation Army prisoner; statement for the North American Anarchist Black Cross calendar 1996.

Saturnalia

– when crops were sown in ancient Rome, a time of unrestrained celebration. This is the big one – and should last at least seven days.

Four hundred cheese-and-onion pasties fall from the sky on Thrigby, Norfolk [1997].

France abolishes the passport system, considering it, *"both absurd and vexatious"* [1860, since reintroduced].

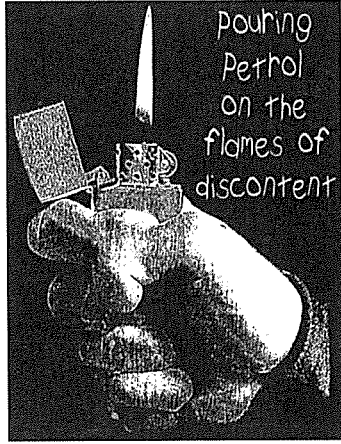
18 December

Gay flute players in the Temple of *Dionysus* in Athens down tools and refuse to work until their food is improved [236 BCE].



19 December

Spanish prime minister Luis Carrero Blanco gets closer to God when a land mine blows him and his car clear over a church [1973].



20 December

Primarily in order to de-christianise the country, revolutionary France's National Convention authorises the Committee of Public Instruction to investigate reform of the existing 7 day, 52 week, 12 month calendar [1792] – see 22 September.

21 December

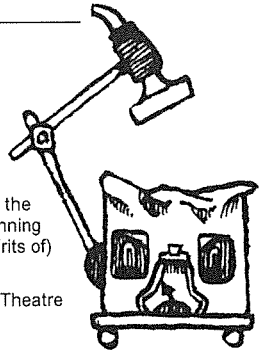
First of the month of *Nivose* (snowy) in the French revolutionary calendar.

Anarchist 'illegalists' Jules Bonnot and comrades stage the first getaway-car bank robbery, in Paris [1911].

22 December

Klopfelnachte / Knocking Nights (moveable): each of the three Thursdays preceding Xmas. Masks, rhymes beginning with 'knock', noise and merriment to drive away the (spirits of) darkness.

The world's first panto was staged at the Lincoln's Inn Theatre [1716]. Oh, no, it wasn't.



23 December

Festival of Radishes in Oaxaca, Mexico.

21 released American prisoners-of-war in North Korea refuse to return to the U.S. [1953].

24 December

Nuthatch commences his spring whistle.

Dynamite wrecks the Llewellyn Iron Works, Los Angeles, where the workers are on strike [1910].

Activists take time out from an anti-christmas demonstration in San Remo, Italy, to devastate the headquarters of the Communist-dominated trade union confederation [1977].

Anti-police riots in Sheffield, Monmouth and Southampton [1985].

25 December

Mithras is born. He is the Persian symbol of the ever-returning sun, celebrated at midwinter and embodying the triumph of light over darkness. He is recalled in blazing fires and puddings. Also the birthday of the sun god *Attis*, at Phrygia, now in Turkey. The birthday of the 'christ-god' only falls in step with the 25th in 354 CE and only becomes important enough to merit the name 'Christmas' in 1132 CE.

Multitude's Idle Day: in opposition to miserable puritanism and the increasing centralisation of authority, a Canterbury crowd close down all the shops that have obeyed the order to open for Christmas. They proceed to serve free drinks for all, pelt the Presbyterian minister with shit, and open the city gaol. When the mayor is vanquished and his officers seen off, the crowd produces footballs and some billeted republican soldiers desert and join in the fun [1647].

Rosa Luxembourgn's 'official' birthday [1870]
 – see also 5 March.





26 December

Kwanzaa / First Fruits: daytime fasts precede night-time feasts on soul food, the sharing of stories and musical recitation. The Swahili *Nguzo Saba*, the Seven Principles, provides seven days of celebration of black cultural heritage, linking modern black experience to the African homeland. Today is the feast of *Ujoma* (unity).

27 December

The relative 'freedom' provided by designated holidays becomes the vehicle for the 'Christmas Rebellion' of upwards of 60,000 Jamaican slaves. Damage estimated at over £1,132,000 [1831 prices] – see also 14 April and 18 August.

Steelworkers strike in Ohio demanding the 8-hour day and an increase in wages. The strike will end in the New Year in their favour; the U.S. government needs steel for armaments [1916].

28 December

The feast of *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility), the third day of *Kwanzaa*. In line with the notion of creating a world in which work is a pleasure and is only undertaken to fulfil collective needs, it is good to note that according to ancient Saxon folklore it is also extremely ill-advised to work today.

Chiefs Osceola and Wild Cat lead Seminole Amerindians, free Negroes and runaway slaves in a massacre of the army near Fort Brooke, Florida. They are resisting relocation onto reservations West of the Mississippi; the resistance will cost the U.S. government \$20m [1835 prices].

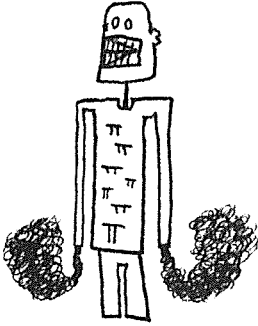
A shower of unspecified lizards falls on Montreal, Canada [1857].

Nihilists annihilate the Russian Chief of Police [1883].

29 December

In France, when a public holiday falls on a Tuesday or a Thursday, *faire le pont* (bridging the gap / absenteeism) is common.

30 December



Poachers gather in a militia forty strong to terrorise Colonel Kingscote in his home while comrades go shooting on his private estate in Gloucestershire [1825].

Workers remembering workers' history: prosperous businessman Frank Steunenberg, who had become governor of Idaho on a Populist Party "defend the working man" ticket and then proceeded to call on federal troops to crush the 1899 miners strike, is blown to pieces by a bomb attached to his front gate [1905].

31 December

Namahage: Japanese festival of bums, bohemians and dropouts. Men dressed as devils go door-to-door screaming: "Any good-for-nothings here about."

Emergency three-day week introduced in Britain [1973]. Revolutionaries – one more push to be zero-workers.

1 January



Festival of Fools, France: election of mock kings and Lords of Misrule (12-15th Century).

Today becomes the official first day of the New Year in England [1752].

Afghan guerrillas defeat the British imperial army at Kabul [1842].

Uprising in Chiapas [1929]. EZLN insurgency begins [1994].



2 January

Daytime *aurora borealis* observed at four in the afternoon at Tuam in Ireland [1756].

Iroquois White Dog Feast.

Another day which the Saxons considered it extremely bad luck to work on.

New Year festivities continue in Scotland. A first-footing recipe: mix beer, whiskey, sugar and eggs, bearing in mind that a Scots' pint used to be the equivalent of three English ones.



3 January

Sidney Street Siege, East London: three anarchists suspected of killing three cops shoot it out with over a thousand troops, including Scots Guards from the Tower of London and armed police [1911].

A rain of red and black worms in Halmstad, Sweden [1924].

4 January

Start of a wildcat strike wave of over 500,000, Spain [1976].

The strike begun by apprentice barbers in 1938 in Copenhagen ends [1961].

Violent demonstrations in Stockholm and Kinshasa in anger at the U.S. war against the Vietnamese [1968].

5 January

Old Christmas Eve / Twelfth Night: with one blow, boys would nail the tailcoats of window shoppers to the window frames of pastry shops.

Near miss: Robert Damiens attempts to knife the especially worthless King Louis XV [1759].



6 January

Christmas Day, Armenia. Old Christmas Day is still celebrated on Foula in the Orkneys, and in the Gwaun valley south-east of Fishguard; they are surviving British examples of resistance to calendar reform.

Perch Tenlauf: a pre-Christian Austrian festival with scary masks and dances to frighten winter away.

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade is formed to fight fascism in the Spanish Civil War [1937]. The brigade will number around 4,000 and will be commanded by Oliver Law, the first black man to command white U.S. troops.

Two roller-skating youths take off the Little Mermaid statue's head with a hacksaw [1998] – see also 22 and 25 April.

7 January

A good day for beekeepers, according to ancient Mayan chronological estimation.

Christmas Day, Ethiopia and Russian Orthodox.

Nanakusa / Seven Herbs Festival, Japan.

8 January

Slave revolt in St. Charles, New Orleans. One of the revolt's leaders is Charles Deslondes, a free mulatto from Haiti [1811].



9 January

Five guerrillas burst into the offices of an Argentine electronic billboard company and force the operators to broadcast "communist propaganda" in the heart of downtown Buenos Aires [1963].



New Year's Day

– for the Amerindian Iroquois who celebrate with a Feast of Dreams – see also 3 July.

In defence of communal landforms, squatters at Glendale, Isle of Skye rout the police detachment that has come to remove them [1883].

People's Diplomacy: in retaliation for U.S. recognition of the Carranza government, members of Pancho Villa's guerrilla army capture and shoot 16 Amerikan hostages [1916].

11 January

Successful United Auto-Workers' sit-down strike for union recognition begins in Flint, Michigan [1936]. The 40-day action at Fisher Body Plant Number One is the longest sit-down strike in U.S. history. Employees inside are protected by 5,000 armed workers circling the plant. After police tear-gas attacks, workers fight back with fire-hoses. By the time the National Guard arrives, the strike has spread to General Motors' plants across the nation.

12 January

Inspired by the recent revolution in Haiti, slaves revolt against their Spanish masters in Louisiana [1791].

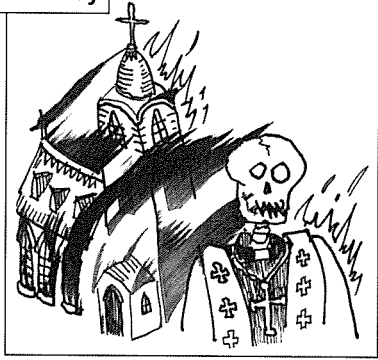
9 a.m. in one of the departments of the Everett Mill, a worker lets out the yell: "*Goddamn it to hell! Let's strike! Strike!*" and the Lawrence textile strike against a recent reduction in wages and increased work rates is born [1912]. Over a thousand workers rampage from room to room tearing the weaves and smashing machines then proceed to other factories in the district. Victory will be achieved precisely two months later, winning an increase in wages from 5% to 25%.



13 January

According to custom, the coldest day in the year.

Today was celebrated by the Druids in Ireland as the Feast of Brewing: keep warm, toast a priest.



14 January

Prison revolts at Maidstone and Shrewsbury [1961].

Riots in Polish Baltic ports, which continue until the 18th [1970].

15 January

Feast of Isidore, patron saint of labourers: slack off, since it's also the birthday of Paul Lafargue, Karl Marx's wayward son-in-law and author of *The Right to be Lazy* [1842].

First top hat worn in London [1797]: James Hetherington is fined £50 for wearing it and causing a breach of the peace, it being found that he: *"Appeared on the public highway wearing a tall structure of shining lustre and calculated to disturb timid people."*

16 January

At times, the English Civil War afforded moments for unrestrained expression, with a huge number of printing presses – "devil's forges" – moving from premise to premise around London, dodging the new censors and publishing hundreds of seditious rants, ballads and scandal sheets. Today, in the bitter winter of 1649, writer John Evelyn walks on the frozen Thames from Westminster to Lambeth for a dinner engagement. He notes in his diary, later, the shops on the ice, including a printing press where they will make you up stationary printed with your name and the address, 'The Thames'.

One of the worst riots in theatre history kicks off at the London Haymarket after a conjuror fails to appear [1769].

Marines stationed in St. Clears, South Wales to put down the Rebecca Riots receive a letter from Rebecca herself, announcing that the toll-gate at Trevaughan is to be destroyed again. They rush to the spot only to find the gate already completely demolished [1842] – see also 22 September.

Revolutionary students in Caracas make an armed attack on an exposition of French art and carry off five paintings, which they declare they will return in exchange for the release of political prisoners [1963].

17 January

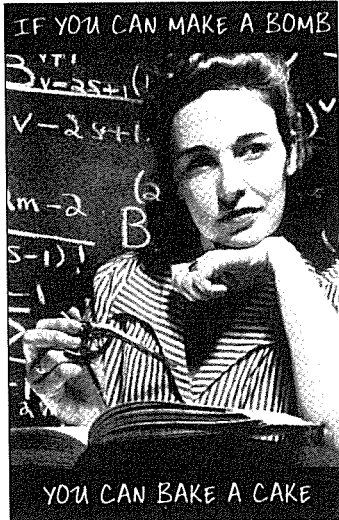
Modoc Amerindians in the Tule Lake area of Northern California launch guerrilla war against state and federal soldiers [1873].

18 January

1,200 British RAF men mutiny at Drigh Road, Karachi against delays in demobilisation and against colonial military policy in India and Indonesia [1946]. In the next 10 days, the strike spreads to over 50,000 British RAF men in more than 60 units across India, Ceylon, Singapore, Burma and the Middle East in the biggest single act of mass defiance in the history of the British armed forces. Even more threatening for the State, the Royal Indian Air Force and Navy also mutiny in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Karachi. This is a critical moment in the Indian independence struggle: unable to rely on either their own or Indian forces, the British are forced to relinquish control. By the summer of 1947 they will be out of India.

Lumbee Amerindians drive the Ku Klux Klan off their land in Maxton, North Carolina [1958].

Japanese Zengakuren (Federation of Student Self-Government Associations) lay siege for two days to the Amerikan airbase of Sasebo. This is their first of many anti-imperialist riot-actions against Amerika and its war in Vietnam. They have arrived as a street militia to 'greet' the arrival of the nuclear aircraft carrier *Enterprise*, which is forced to anchor off the Japanese coast instead. Zengakuren will bring mayhem throughout the year wherever they appear; they are significantly better tooled up, organised and motivated than the thousands of riot police they will beat off the streets [1968]. See also 28 February.



19 January

3,000 Filipino workers on the plantations of Oahu, Hawaii go on strike. Their ranks soon swell to more than 8,000 when Japanese workers join the struggle [1920].

Miners lead an uprising in Catalonia. Libertarian communism is declared, and general strikes and uprisings follow throughout Spain [1932].

20 January

First of the month of *Pluiose* (rainy) in the French revolutionary calendar.

Filipino soldiers and workers stage a bloody revolt against Spanish rule [1872].

10,000 Chiapas farmers blockade roads to protest pollution by the state oil company [1981].

*the fruits of the earth
belong to all,
the land
to no one*

21 January

93 prisoners are freed when anti-government rebels storm Mocoa prison, Colombia [1995].

22 January

A good day for those who walk in the country, according to Mayan chronological estimation.

Zulus massacre British troops at Isandhlwana [1879].

Five hundred New York City tenants battle the police to prevent evictions [1932].

23 January

First apparition in the sky over Keniton of the Civil War Battle of Edgehill [1642]. This "*wonder of the air*" is observed by thousands every Saturday and Sunday night for the next four weeks.



24 January



Paul Pitcher Day: Cornish tin miners traditionally set up a pitcher in a public place and threw stones at it to smash it. A replacement pitcher was then bought and filled with beer, which was replenished throughout the day as they drank from it. Cornish miners were great inventors for reasons to celebrate: this one was a rebellion against the rule that only water was to be drunk during work time.

25 January

Dies Mala / Egyptian Day: considered unlucky in the Middle Ages.

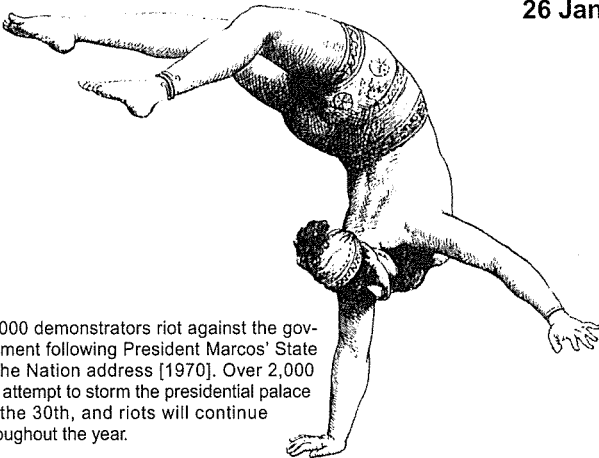
Weather Signs Day: "Sun means a good year, rain or snow foretells indifferent weather, a mist means want, while thunder predicts twelve months of winds and death" – *Shepherds Almanack*, 1676.

Anarchist emigré Gustav Wilckens assassinates Colonel Varela, 'The Butcher of Patagonia', in Buenos Aires [1923]. Varela was responsible for the massacre and torture of more than 1500 workers in Patagonia a year earlier: "He will not kill anyone again. I have avenged my brothers" – see also 18 June.

Dartmoor prison riot [1932].

Perhaps due to intense sunspot activity, the *aurora borealis* is observed throughout Northern Europe and as far south as London's West End [1938].

26 January



20,000 demonstrators riot against the government following President Marcos' State of the Nation address [1970]. Over 2,000 will attempt to storm the presidential palace on the 30th, and riots will continue throughout the year.

27 January



Melbourne residents riot to protest the execution of Ronald Ryan, sentenced to death for killing a prison warder [1967].

Detroit African-American auto workers – the Eldon Avenue Axle Plant Revolutionary Union Movement – lead a wildcat strike against racism and bad working conditions [1969].

28 January



A London mob stones the Prince Regent's coach on his way to Parliament [1817].

Challenger space shuttle explodes [1986]. For information on independent space initiatives, contact the Association of Autonomous Astronauts at BM Box 3641, London WC1N 3XX.

29 January



Anarchist *Magonistas* of the Mexican Liberal Party take the town of Mexicali (and later, Tijuana), and declare the Commune of Lower California: the abolition of property, collective work of the land, co-operative groups of producers, etc. The commune will last five months [1911].

General strike in Sardinia, involving around 80,000 workers in local government, telecoms, and the rubber industry [1968].

30 January



Charles I executed [1649].

The 'Calves Head Club' first undertakes riotous activity outside a tavern in Charing Cross, stoning rich folks' houses and fighting local militiamen. The loose association of revellers has been formed to ridicule Charles I on every anniversary of his execution and a drunken debauch celebrates sporadically on this day in London from the late 17th Century until 1735.

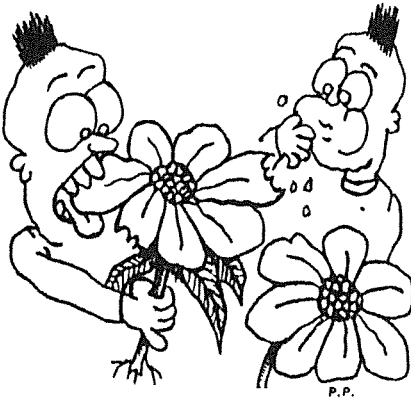
31 January



Lighting of the Beacons Festival: particularly commemorated at St. Boswells, Roxburghshire in Scotland due to a drinking party that did a runner from the Ancrum Bridge public house after spotting the false alarm (of hilltop fire signals) warning of a French invasion [1804].

Barcelona activists blow up the monument to the fascist 'Condor' air legion – responsible for the bombardment of Guernica in the Spanish Civil War [1968].

1 February



February: known by the Saxons as *Sprout-kale*, because of the conspicuous sprouting of cabbage in winter gardens during this time.

Imbolc: Gaelic fire festival to encourage the sun's return.

Oystercatchers arrive back in Scotland, heralding spring (see also 15 April).

Rampaging mob kills King Carlos I of Portugal and his son [1908].

A citizen throws a TV set off the top of the Eiffel Tower to protest the introduction of advertising on French television and radio [1968].

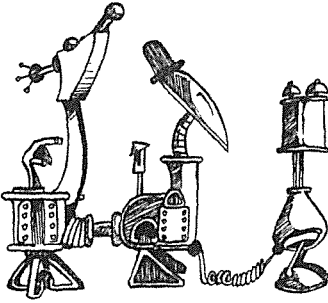
2 February



Bear Chase Festival, Pyrénées: a pretend bear chases men dressed as women. After an amorous interlude, the bear is 'killed', revived, shaved and killed again – paradoxical play and sexual inversion to contend hierarchies of gender.

The British Embassy in Dublin is torched in response to the murder three days ago of thirteen demonstrators by British paratroopers in Derry [1972].

3 February

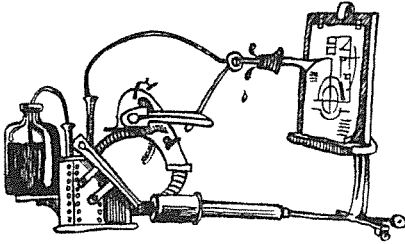


Parades and bonfires by woolcombers and friends: a day off work on the excuse of honouring their patron saint Blaze / Blaise, an obscure Armenian reputed to have been torn to death with iron combs.

165 Jubilee Street, Whitechapel, becomes The Workers' Friend Club & Institute: an anarchist meeting house, print shop, dining club and free school [1906].

Tube workers strike for shorter hours, London [1919].

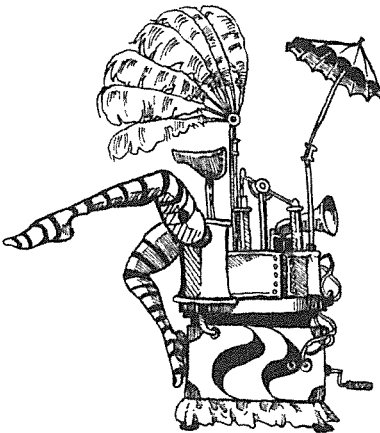
4 February



Strikes in mining areas lead to riots, Belgium and Germany [1900].

Suffragettes burn two Scottish mansions [1914].

5 February

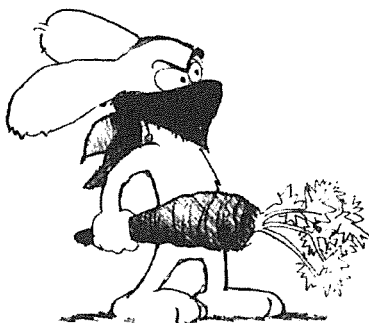


Birthday of anarcho-incendiary Johann Most [1846]. Active in Germany (SDP MP, expelled for anti-organisational attitudes then expelled from the country); Austria (imprisoned); England (imprisoned for applauding the assassination of Alexander II); and the U.S., where he wrote *The Science of Revolutionary Warfare*: "In giving dynamite to the downtrodden millions of the globe, science has done its best work – a pound of this stuff beats a bushel of ballots all hollow."

Birthday of William Burroughs [1914]: "The only way I like to see cops given flowers is in a flower pot from a high window."

First general assembly of mental health patients organises itself as the Socialist Patients' Kollektiv at the outpatients clinic in Heidelberg [1970]: "The system has made us sick, let us strike a death blow to the sick system." Making a weapon out of illness.

6 February



Feast of Dorothy, one of the patron saints of gardeners. Dig for revolution.

Setsbun / Bean Throwing Festival (a moveable feast): drives out evil and celebrates the coming of spring; fish heads and pointy sticks hung in doors to see off and put out the eyes of devils; beans thrown into room corners to chase stagnant spirits from the house.

A Seattle shipyard strike by 32,000 workers sparks a general strike as workers take control of the administration of the city [1919].

7 February

The first agricultural labourers' union meeting is held in Wellesbourne, near Stratford. One of the organisers, Joseph Arch, is portrayed as "*The Arch Apostle of Arson*" [1872].

Birthday of Charles John Huffham Dickens [1812]. Dickens on the media: "*His high-spiced wares were made to sell, and they sold; and his thousands of readers could as rationally charge their delight in filth upon him, as a glutton can shift upon his cook the responsibility for his beastly excess.*"

General strike forces Britain to recognise Grenada's independence [1974].

A rain of young pilchards falls on Ipswich, Australia [1989].

8 February

Unemployed demonstration in Trafalgar Square turns to riot and looting [1886].

Electrical company strike in Barcelona extends to other industries and becomes a general strike, paralysing the whole city. More than 3,000 strikers are arrested and imprisoned. In March, after the strikers win wage increases and the 8-hour day, they strike again: this time to demand the release of strikers and activists still imprisoned by the army [1919].

9 February

Robert Coates debuts as Romeo in Bath [1810]: "*So appalling he becomes a cult figure overnight, and goes on to be a major success in London.*"

Birthday of Brendan Behan [1923], Irish rebel, playwright and jailbird, many of whose works were banned in Ireland. At 19, he receives a 14-year jail term for shooting at police during an IRA march: "*I've never seen a situation so dismal that a policeman couldn't make it worse.*"

Looters in Cagliari, Italy attack and burn the RAI-TV van that is being used to film their actions [1978].

10 February

A bad day for priests, according to Mayan chronological estimation.

A bad day for the children of the privileged too: today in 1354, citizens of Oxford – having been attacked by university students – fight back in style, killing several. ‘Town’ and ‘Gown’ is born.

And a bad day for the pigs as they’re routed by 18,000 at Salltley Gates [1972].

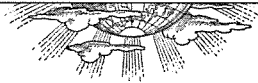
Not only that, but a bad day for shopkeepers as eight hundred loot a Rio de Janeiro food market as striking security guards look on [1990].

11 February

Troops have to be called in to suppress the riot that follows a prisoners’ breakout from Chatham prison in Kent [1861].

200 students smash computers with axes and set the computer centre on fire during a sit-in protesting racism at St. George Williams College, Montreal [1969].

New Year’s Day



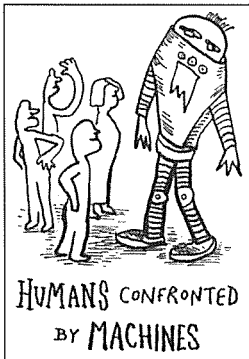
– in the twenty day, eighteen month Aztec calendar (preceded by the five “useless days” of *Nemontemi*). Today begins the month of *Atlcoualco*.

Gasparilla Pirate Festival.

First draft card burning in the U.S. [1947].

A two-day rain of seeds in Southampton: mustard and cress today, followed by haricot and broad bean tomorrow [1979].

13 February



An Ecuadorian mob burns down a Quito radio station after it broadcasts a Spanish-language version of *The War of the Worlds* [1949].

Flour Riot, New York City: the crowd attending a ‘bread, meat, rent, and fuel meeting’ in Chatham Square put the police and mayor to flight, and storm a flour warehouse [1837].

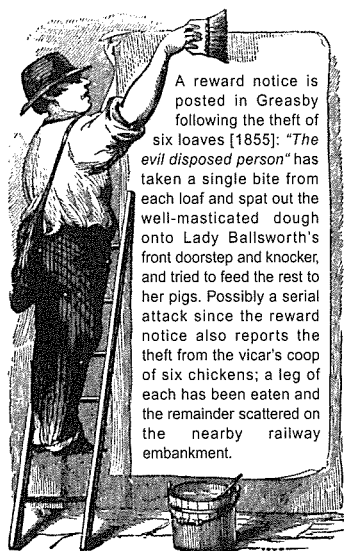
The funeral of Peter Kropotkin proves to be the last public anarchist gathering in the Soviet Union. 30,000 turn out and on passing Butyrki jail, incarcerated political prisoners strike up an anarchist hymn to the dead [1921].

Probably not today: the seventh Wednesday after Christmas is, according to tradition, Binding Day in Portland, Dorset: you burgle your neighbours' house and ransom the stuff back. This commemorates a successful counter-attack by locals who had managed to remain hidden whilst raiders slew local men and carried off the women.

Parisians plunder a church and the archbishop's palace [1831].

The new Soviet Russian Empire reforms its calendar from the Julian to the Gregorian system, removing 13 days from history; 1 February becomes 14 February [1918].

Lupercalia



– popular Roman sex fest and love lottery (which christians attempted to over-write by introducing Valentine's Day a day before): revellers whip each other to frenzy and fertility with *februa* – thongs, from which the name of the month is derived.

A week-long strike in Colombia by government workers achieves a 20% wage increase, and reform of welfare services. Over 800,000 public sector workers have walked off the job, paralysing telecoms, road freight services, schools and hospitals in the largest strike the country has seen in over 20 years [1997].

16 February

The first, third, tenth, nineteenth and twenty-first of February are good days for marriage – according to Andrew Waterman's 1655 Almanac. However, this seems to have been based on, "nothing more than Waterman's wish to fill a few pages with random dates." Yo!

17 February

A day of illness amongst the nobility, according to Mayan chronological estimation.

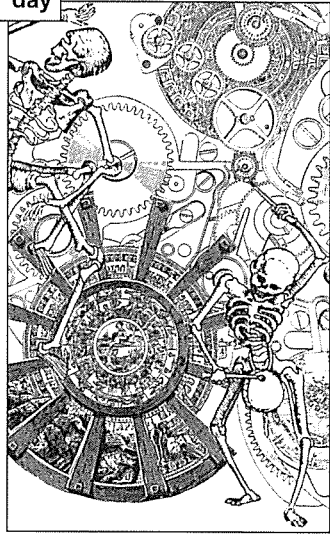
Russian Grand Duke Sergei Aleksandrovich is killed by a bomb thrown into his carriage [1905].

Firebombs cause severe damage to the Bonhill Street Social Security Office, London [1972].

18 February

A crowd of Boston Negroes break into the federal prison, rescue Frederick Jenkins (a southern slave jailed under the terms of the Fugitive Slave Act) and spirit him away to freedom in Canada [1851].

Uprising in Sao Paulo's Carandiru prison, the largest in South America, with 7,500 inmates. Thousands of visitors and some guards are taken hostage. Using cell phones that prisoners have smuggled in, they quickly spread the uprising to 28 other prisons in the state, with more than 20,000 prisoners taking part [2001].



19 February

First of the month of *Ventose* (windy) in the French revolutionary calendar.

Suffragette bomb destroys Lloyd George's home [1913].

20 February

According to custom, a good day for planting your beans (but check yer moon phases).

Assassins trying to start a revolution burst into the chambers of King James I in Perth and stab him to death [1437].

Oneida Community founded in upstate New York as a communalist community sharing work and life [1834]. Friendly co-operation with the surrounding Amerindian tribes is actively sought and achieved.

The Mexican government has been trying since 1896 to put down insurrection by Yaqui Amerindians in Sonora province [1901]. Today, state troops are ambushed and defeated badly, with 100 killed – see also 31 August.

Residents chase poll tax bailiffs out of the Marsh Estate, Lancaster [1991].

21 February

First issue of the *Cherokee Phoenix*, the first Amerindian newspaper [1828]. The paper uses the Cherokee syllabary, developed by Sequoyah who assigned written symbols to 86 verbal syllables. The written language had been adopted 10 years earlier and was in use, at this time, by the Cherokee nation.

Wartime identity cards become 'National Health' numbers [1952].

22 February

A wave of workers' strikes in Petrograd protests factory conditions and the authoritarian organisation of industry under 'war communism' policies [1921].

At the first free food give-away demanded as the \$4 million ransom for the return of kid-napped rich-kid Patty Hearst, the crowd of 5,000 attack the reporters and cameramen who have assembled, loot stores and battle with the police. The rioting (against the inferior quality of the food? against handouts from the high and mighty – the state? the SLA?) continues in Oakland all day [1974] – see also 3 April.

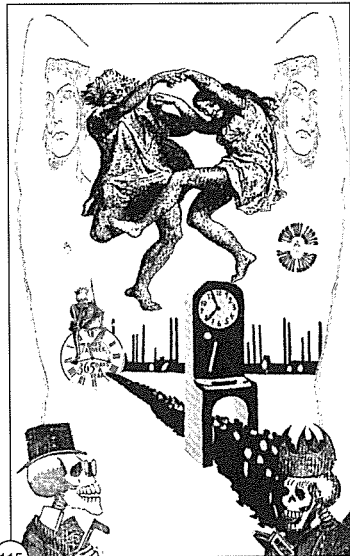
23 February

Led by soldier seditionary Arthur Thistlewood, the Cato Street Conspirators plot to kill all the Cabinet ministers and bring back the heads of Lord Sidmouth and Castlereagh [1820]. Though they fail, Cato Street is renamed Homer Street in order to efface the event from history.

The 'Original Workingmen' organise themselves. They are the first working class group in the U.S. with the avowed aim of workers' revolution [1830] – *"To be obscure is no vice and to 'earn' obscurity is to enter into the best of company."*

John Lee, *"the man they couldn't hang"*, survives three attempts to hang him (for killing his boss) at Exeter prison, when the trap fails to open [1885]. He will be released from prison in 1917.

Two hundred high school students riot outside Patterson City Hall, New Jersey in anger at the shooting of a classmate by police [1995].



24 February

"Whatever little we have gained we have gained by agitation, while we have uniformly lost by moderation" – Daniel O'Connell [1824].

February Revolution: a Petrograd bread riot starts the great break with the old order in Russia when soldiers refuse to fire on the rioters and instead turn on their officers. The arsenal is taken; 20,000 automatic pistols are handed out; the police stations are torched; and the prisons stormed and liberated [1917].

On being found suitable for military service, 20-year-old Barry Bondhus dumps two buckets of human shit into the files of the Sherburne County draft board at Elk River, MN [1966]. Chicago anarchists applaud his action in a solidarity leaflet: *"Along with wheelbarrows of desire, buckets of shit will stop the war in Vietnam."*

25 February

Birthday of Ret Marut (B Traven?) according to Dusseldorf police records [1882]: *"I am no more important than the typographer of my books, than the worker who labours in the factory that makes the paper ... Without them, there would be no books for the readers and it would do no good that I could write them."*

Birthday of potato expert Donald MacLean, owner of a private collection of three hundred and sixty-seven varieties [1922].

Helicopter gunship crews – sent by Marcos and his generals to suppress the army mutiny at Camp Crane – instead land and join the rebels. Massive demonstrations, looting and mutiny will force Marcos to flee the country in a matter of days [1986].

26 February

Burgsonndeg, Luxembourg: a moveable fire festival to greet the returning sun.

Armaments workers on the Clyde strike for more pay [1915].

27 February

Regular soldiers, sent to confiscate cannon from the National Guard militia in Paris, are confronted by the crowd who have gathered to stop them, and with whom the troops decide to fraternise. In due course, General Lecomte is lynched, along with Clement Thomas, long hated for his part in the repression of the 1848 revolution. This victory provides the opening for the Communard rising on 18 March [1871] – see also 24 March.

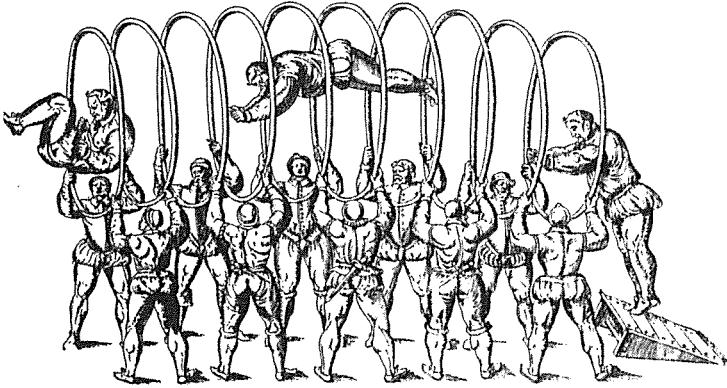
Oglala Sioux of the American Indian Movement liberate and occupy Wounded Knee, South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux by U.S. Cavalry [1973].

28 February

El Salvadoran shoemakers win strike for higher wages [1921].

The movement against U.S. imperialism spreads, with violent clashes in Okinawa, Japan between riot police and the Zengakuren revolutionary students, who are demonstrating in front of the local U.S. base against the B52s that bomb North Vietnam [1968] – see also 12 March.

Leap Year Day



– to remind us that all calendars, like maps, are particularist interpretations of subjective 'realities'.



New Year's Day

– in Ancient Rome: give gifts of dates (and figs).

Whuppity Scoorie Day, Lanark, Scotland.

Leek Day (appropriated by the Christians as St. David's Day): a number of practices surround the Welsh tradition of *Cymhortha* on this day: farmers reciprocate their labour in ploughing the land; everyone contributes a leek to the communal dinner; and those too ill to plough have their fields done for them and are given a sack of leeks.

15,000 sailors and soldiers mutiny at Kronstadt against Marxist tyranny [1921].

2 March

A massive Nicaraguan crowd chants and heckles Pope John Paul II, forcing him to abandon his outdoor address [1983].

3 March

Birthday of prophet Zoroaster, the date by which Zoroastrian chronological time is reckoned – a calendar still in use primarily in Bombay [389 BCE].

Blacks and Amerindians unite and rebel against the British republican government in Massachusetts [1657].

Birthday of communist doctor Norman Bethune [1890]. In Canada, in 1935 he opened a free clinic for the unemployed and their families. In Republican Spain he established the world's first mobile medical unit, with enough supplies and medicine for 100 operations (all could be carried by just one mule). In 1938, Bethune was in China where he served with the Communist Eighth Route Army, training hundreds of 'barefoot doctors' for the revolution.

Off the system and its cartography: incendiary attack against the headquarters of the Geographical Institute, the army office that compiles maps, Turin [1978]. *"A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth glancing at"* – Oscar Wilde.

4 March

Suffragettes smash just about every single window in Knightsbridge [1912].

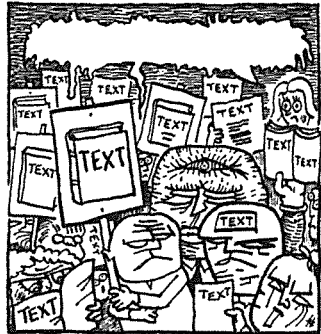
Acting in collusion and at the behest of striking lead workers, the urban guerrilla People's Revolutionary Army kidnap one of the INSUD lead plant managers (Argentina). As a result, and in just 22 days, the strikers win compensation for lead poisoning and a reduction of the working day to six hours [1974].

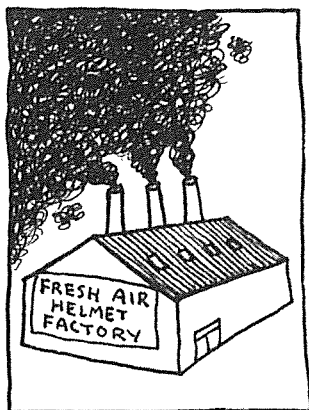
5 March

Feast of Excited Insects, Korea and China.

Feast of St Piran: a day off for Cornish tin miners to celebrate one of their adopted saints. Piran was probably chosen because little or nothing is known about this obscure saint – see also 24 January.

A good day perhaps for finally organising that second, false passport: Rosa Luxembourg's other birthday [1871, see also 25 December] and another of B Traven's birthdays [1890], being the date given on Traven Torsvan's Mexican naturalisation papers: *"I have not the slightest literary ambition. I am not a writer, I shout. I want to be nothing but – the word."*





6 March

Under the pressure of workers' and peasants' back-peddling and absenteeism, *The Soviet Government Commission Of The Council Of Labour And Defence On The Transition Of Enterprises And Offices To A Continuous Production Week* is forced to accede requests for self-synchronisation of days off [1930] – see also 26 August and 1 December.

7 March

6,000 shoemakers are joined by 20,000 other New England workers in Lynn, Massachusetts in a strike against wage cuts, and for a union. Within a month, they are offered higher wages; said to be the largest labour protest prior to the Civil War [1860].

A crowd of 3,000 destroys Freeport copper mine facilities in Tamika, Irian Jaya / West Papua after a Dani clansman is run over by company security [1996]. The mine is closed as community organisations prepare a list of demands protesting human rights violations, eco-terrorism and cultural genocide. Overnight, the world price of copper rockets from \$15 to \$2580 a tonne.

8 March

Birthday of Kenneth Grahame, author of *Wind in the Willows* and an ardent eulogiser of picnics [1859].

Anarchist CNT metallurgists Luis Nicolau, Pedro Mateu and Ramon Castenellas assassinate President Eduardo Dato, responsible for anti-union repression [1921].

First invasion of Alcatraz, by Dakota Sioux who claim the island under the 1868 Sioux Treaty to remind Amerika of more than 600 treaties which have been broken. They offer the government \$6.54 for the land, based on the 49 cents per acre proposed to be given as compensation for tribal lands stolen from Californian Amerindians [1964] – see also 20 November.

Amerindians make their first attempt to invade Fort Lanton, a disused military base near Seattle. The third attempt will result in a three-month occupation and the eventual but permanent establishment of the Daybreak Star Cultural Centre [1970].

9 March

A pig-eat-pig world: Detroit police burst in on four men playing cards; in the shootout that follows, one of the card players is killed and the other three wounded, all of whom turn out to be off-duty Wayne County deputy sheriffs [1972].

10 March

Mary Richardson slashes the *Rokeby Venus* with a meat cleaver in order, "To destroy the most beautiful woman in mythological history", and in response to continued harassment of the suffragettes [1914].

Provos smokebomb the Dutch royal wedding [1966].

Poll tax riots in Brixton and Swindon: during the latter, good sense and ingenuity are displayed as cop radios are jammed [1990].

11 March

After a demonstration by stockings is dispersed by the military, 63 stocking-frames are smashed up at Arnold near Nottingham by rioters who are cheered on by the crowd [1811].

Maoris fell the British flagpole, then attack and capture Karorareka, Northland [1845]. So begins the 'Flagstaff War': settlers flee to sea and the town is looted, and burns. Though smaller in number, Maori forces will repeatedly defeat the punitive Imperial expeditions sent against them, as they will do in the first and second Taranaki Wars in the 1860s.

An anarchist assassinates Bulgarian premier Nicolas Petkov [1907].

Factory workers battle police and militia in downtown Warsaw [1968].

During fights with the cops, steelworkers in Reinosa, Spain surround the Guardia Civil, beat them up, strip them naked and march them out of town [1986].

12 March

Sow onions today.

Diggers at Wellingborough issue their declaration [1650]: "*Then Clubs and Diamonds cast away / For Hearts and Spades must win the day.*"

Third day of massive clashes between the Japanese Zengakuren revolutionary students and riot police in Narita, where an airport for U.S. troops is under construction [1968]. Politically, Zengakuren combine anti-imperialism with a strong environmental focus and solidarity work with rural farmers threatened with dispossession if construction continues. Tactically, they are organised into battalions to destroy anything in their path. As the war in Vietnam escalates through the spring and into summer, so do the Zengakuren's numbers, targets and violence – see also 21 October. (Mass action over Narita will continue through the years; it eventually only opens in 1978).

During demonstrations against the police killing of a militant, workers in Rome and Bologna loot the armouries and hand out pistols and ammunition to protesters [1977].



13 March

Barricades go up in Vienna, inaugurating the "Year of Revolutions" [1848]. By early October, the Imperial court and government have fled and the city is in the hands of revolutionaries – see also 20 March.

Tsar Alexander II blown up near his palace [1881].

Though out of season, a rain of fresh, ripe hazelnuts falls on Beaconsfield [1977].

14 March

What begins as a mass refusal to pay water charges in the German city of Bremen quickly escalates into a series of bitter and widening conflicts with the authorities. After two demonstrators are killed by the police, city workers go on strike, followed within a few days by most of the rest of the country. Deployment of UN troops triggers all-out revolt, which spreads into France and Italy. 10 days later and Western Europe is in insurrectionist hands, though it will take more than 3 years and no little bloodshed before the last of the global capitalist economy is dismantled, and the period of universal harmony is inaugurated [2007].

15 March

Council communist strike breaks out in Turin. Workers occupy the factories and resume production under their own control. The strike will spread across most of northern Italy [1920].

7.30 am: Los Angeles radio station KHJ is raided by riot police following calls from listeners fearing there's been some kind of revolution at the station. Since 6:00 in the morning DJ Robert Morgan has been playing Donny Osmond's *Puppy Love* over and over (and over). The police leave without making any arrests [1972].

The most successful picket at Wapping in the News International dispute: forty yards of fence are torn down, lorries are held up for five hours and parts of the country have to do without their Murdoch Sunday papers [1986].



16 March

The Chinese invented gunpowder in 500 CE. It was not used for anything but firecrackers until about 1200 CE when a German by the name of Schwarz tried to use it as a propellant. During the experiment, he manages to blow up the building he is working in and kill himself at the same time.

Moorish Tag Day

The Moorish Orthodox Church celebrates multicultural and multidimensional awareness, with shamrocks in the fez, Cheshire Cat hide and seek, and other festivities.

Royal Navy mutineers aboard *HMS Danaë* desert and hand the ship over to the French at the port of Brest [1800].

3,000 Ethiopian women workers march for equal pay and improved labour conditions [1974].

Nationwide wildcat strike in Italy: roads blocked, town halls besieged [1976].

18 March

Sheelah's Day (traditional): her identity is none too clear, and those who celebrate her day are, *"Not anxious to determine who 'Sheelah' was, as they are earnest in their celebration. All agree that her immortal memory is to be maintained by potations of whiskey."*

19 March

Birthday of Richard Francis Burton [1821]: adventurer, translator, frothing omnisexual and discoverer of the source of the Nile. Born in Ireland – or was it Torquay?

Harlem uprising: more than 10,000 riot after a vicious police attack blinds a black man. \$2 million worth of white man's property destroyed [1935 prices].

20 March

The 'Year of Revolutions' radiates out across Europe when the citizens of Milan storm the garrison of the Austrian occupiers of their city and declare themselves a republic [1848] – see also 10 April.

British Government announces abandonment of the Poll Tax [1991]. All hail the Council Tax.

Schools and businesses in Haiti are closed during a general strike called to protest government plans to privatise state-run industries [1997]. It is the second general strike in as many months by a coalition of militant organisations who call the strike, *"Cutting Heads and Burning Houses"* – the rallying cry of Haiti's bloody 1791 slave revolt.





New Year's Day

– in ancient Babylon and still is in Afghanistan and Iran (Zoroastrian Fasli calendar, since 1906). Begins 13 days of fire- and water-jumping, masked door-to-door communal soup collections, wrestling displays, open-air kettle-drum and oboe concerts, all culminating in mass picnics on the thirteenth day [Iran]. Forget resolutions and party down.

Sham al-Naseem / Smell the Breezes Day: traditionally a time for picnics to celebrate Easter Monday and the first day of spring, according to the fixed-date Coptic christian calendar that is still used for determining festival dates in Egypt.

Spring equinox: days begin to outstrip nights. Picnic or evening soir e, the choice is yours.

Tree Planting Day, Lesotho.

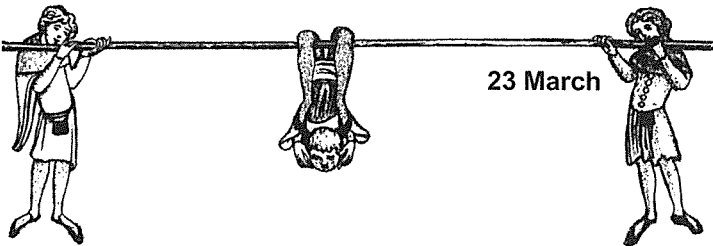
First of the month of *Germinal* (budding) in the French revolutionary calendar.

Intifada (a sweeping away): proclamation of the Toulouse Commune [1871]; the Budapest Commune [1919]; and the Shanghai Commune [1927].

22 March

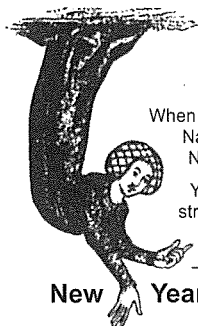
Mexico does away with passport regulations for those who wish to enter its territory [1927] – declaration since revoked.

To alleviate chronic power shortage (caused by anti-regime strikes and sabotage) the Shah of Iran institutes a 1-hour daylight saving time [1977]. Public outrage against this measure will become a symbol of opposition protests and contribute to the collapse of the regime soon after.



To mark the coronation of Queen Anne, the New York assembly is opened by Lord Cornbury, the Governor General of America, on the Queen's behalf. He appears at the ceremony dressed up as her. We humbly propose this date for the celebration of Transvestite Pride [1702].

24 March



When the news of the Paris Commune reaches them, the good people of Narbonne invade the town hall, distribute weapons and proclaim the Narbonne Commune [1871].

Yugoslavian troops force miners to work during an anti-government strike wave by dockers and textile, sewage and construction workers. The miners respond by adulterating the coal with rocks [1986].

New Year's Day



— as a Norman import, today becomes the New Year in England, from the 12th Century until 1752. Celebrated with a week's worth of feasts.

Feast of the Annunciation: Dionysius Exiguus concocts the date of the conception of Christ (and, incidentally, his birth an immaculate nine months later) by placing it on the Roman civil calendar's official date for the spring equinox [532 CE].

Toronto printers' strike for the 9-hour day; the first major strike in Canada [1872].

26 March

England: in the 29th political killing of the year, a magistrate is dragged from his carriage and killed [1720].

Hal Croves, the man purporting to be B Traven's 'literary agent' and widely believed to be Traven himself, dies in Mexico City [1969]: *"I am but the product of an era with the heart-felt wish to disappear again back into the continuum, with the same anonymity with which I must today shout out my words before you."*

27 March

In their new home of Saskatchewan, insurgents of the Amerindian-French Métis people once again take up arms against the Canadian State. 'The North-West Rebellion' begins with the utter rout of one hundred Mounted Police and militiamen [1885] — see also 2 November.

The first Chicano youth conference celebrates its delegates' cultural identity as 'The Nation of Aztlan' and organises the Brown Berets for Community Self-Defence [1969].

A new generation of *Rote Armee Fraktion* activists destroys a recently completed hi-tech prison [1993].



28 March

half naked?
on a cross?

i kid you not



Currently, the christian 'Easter' is the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox (anywhere from 22 March to 25 April). The original Easter is a celebration of the pagan spring goddess *Eostre*, a Germanic version of the Scandinavian fertility goddess *Frigga*. In 1282 at Inverkeithing, Fife, a priest called John recaptured some of the old spirit: he paraded a larger-than-life model of his genitalia on a pole accompanied by lightly-clad women dancing in circles while he shouted come-ons. He was later sacked.

2,000 demonstrate in Quebec against conscription; police are forced to retreat into the police station for their own safety [1918].

Madrid: Spanish anarchists burn monasteries [1932].

29 March

According to folk tradition, the first of three days "borrowed" from April, due to their generally being uncommonly stormy.

30 March

Airey Neave has the INLA take a look under the bonnet of his car and see what they can fix for him [1979].

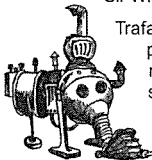
Near miss: John Hinckley Jnr attempts to assassinate Ronald Reagan [1981]. Think about what you're going to do today and try to get it right first time – you may only have one shot at it.

31 March

Birthday of Herb 'tijuana brass' Alpert [1935].

Sir Winston Churchill's home burgled to the tune of £10,000 [1959].

Trafalgar Square poll tax riot. Simultaneously, Strangeways prison explodes with a riot that will become the longest rooftop protest in British history, until 25 April [1990] – see also 2 April.





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