

# 250NS

THE OFFICIAL FANZINE OF DESPAIR

WARNING: THIS  
MAGAZINE  
CONTAINS BAD  
FUCKING  
LANGUAGE AND IS  
UNSUITABLE FOR  
CUNTS

- 
- BRIEF & FRANKLY RUBBISH HISTORY
  - WHAT SOCIALISTS ACTUALLY BELIEVE,
  - YOU TRICORN HATTED IMBECILES
  - HOW TO PULL OFF RED WITH ANYTHING
  - WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LEFT?

# PHEW! WHAT A TIT!



We can type more or less anything down here because you thick imbeciles are going to be gawping at the tit until your sight fails. So we're going to. We're going to type that we fucking hate you, you fucking thick cunts. Each and every one of you is a braying, mindless cow person who cares about nothing but tits, lager, football and whatever dumbfuck model or TV presenter we've raised to the level of a God this month. And whatever else we tell you to care about of course. The NHS, for example. The BBC. People what don't like the Prime Minister. And we're confident enough at how thick we've made you that we're typing all this out right in front of your thick eyes because we know you won't be reading it. Even if you do stop looking at the tit for twelve nanoseconds, this text is much too small and full of vocabulary words for you fucking livestock to process. We hate you. We fucking hate the lot of you. But we have to keep watching over you in your pens, because if we don't, you might just look away from the tit and figure out just what's going wrong with the world. And how much we're to blame for it.

**TITS AND LAGER AND MEDIOCRITY.**

**THE**  
***Cun***

**YOU LOVE IT**

**“The working class can kiss my arse; I’ve got the Foreman’s job at last.”**

## Things you’ll probably find in this “magazine”:

**NOWSPOON:** Now less shit looking! From page 4.

**SOCIALISM SPECIAL:** Fuck all you cunts, stop using words you don’t know the fucking meanings of you fucks. Socialism reconstructed, starting on page 9.

**A SUITABLE CASE FOR TREATMENT:** The NHS is about to regenerate. But will it become better or worse? Should you worry? Go to page 22 to find out that the answer is yes.

**NATION SHALL TRASH TALK UNTO NATION:** Is the BBC in safe hands with a Tory government? Are you insane?

**FUCK YOU BP:** Why the disaster can’t be forgotten about. Page 26.

**THE BIG ONE:** So what’s all this Big Society shit then? Page 28 (does not answer this question)

Also: at least one very silly joke page, and another reminder that YOU MIGHT COULD CONTRIBUTE



Week-long blood ritual debases entire population of Britain, including us for “satirising” it as if sneering isn’t another form of active participation: Nowspoon, p4



Cowards flinch, traitors sneer, we keep red flag flying here, pending council permission: page 9

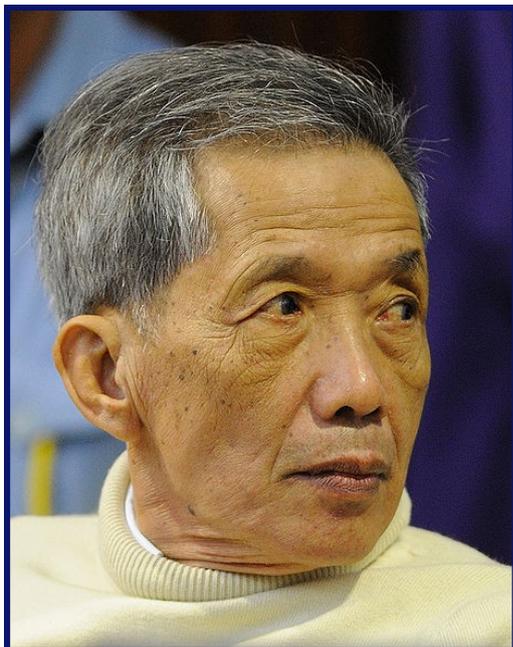


Back to Back to Basics or some completely new Tory shit? Does it make any difference? Go to page 28 to find out that it doesn’t.

## SHRIEK FROM THE “EDITOR”



“I feel no shame in putting my name to socialism’s cause,” sang Billy Bragg in 1999. Nor do we. We’re a left-wing magazine, if only because we *don’t* want the world to end in our lifetimes. And lately we’ve become increasingly annoyed at the right — particularly in America — using the word “Socialism” in two wrong ways simultaneously: first, by totally misrepresenting it as having anything in common with what the Democratic Party wants to do, or is doing (where the Democrats are concerned, the two are rarely the same thing); and second, in an admirable display of cognitive dissonance, by treating it as tantamount — if not literally identical — to Soviet Communism, and an objectively bad thing akin to Nazism. Adolf Q. Stalin, that’s us. Obviously this is bullshit on a billion levels, so we’ve dedicated pride of place in this issue to a discussion of what socialists really believe, along with perhaps the least satisfactory history of a political movement ever written. Also: the sad state of the working class, and the health of the last two Socialist organizations in Britain: the BBC and the NHS. Meanwhile, since our last issue, the new Government has kicked into high gear, announcing reforms to just about everything in the country except the yam industry. We put some of those reforms through the microscope, especially the Big Idea of Cameron’s: the Big Society. Image-wise, Obama meets Saatchi; in ideological terms cross between some half-arsed objectivist pamphlet and the vaguer parts of Thatcherism, Cameron’s crusade for Hope and Change and Privatisation is examined from page 28.



# MASS MURDERING FUCKHEAD THANKS USA

**CAMBODIA:** Kang Kek Iew, called Duch, lieutenant to Pol Pot and commandant of the Tuol Sleng prison camp during the era of the Khmer Rouge, has thanked the United States

of America for making possible the party's rise to power and subsequent atrocities.

Speaking during his trial for crimes against humanity, which concluded on July 26th with Duch sentenced to 19 years in prison, he claimed that without the help of the Nixon administration in 1970, "I think the Khmer Rouge would already have been demolished" at the outset of the Khmer civil war which led, after a five year struggle, to the establishing of Democratic Kampuchea under Pol Pot. Duch claimed that the explicit alliance between America — a detested power in some quarters of South East Asia at the time due to the Vietnam War — and General Lon Nol, leader of the Khmer Republic, enabled the Khmer Rouge to build their support throughout the war.

"Mr [Nobel Peace Laureate and then-Secretary of State Henry] Kissinger and Richard Nixon were quick [to back General Nol]," Duch claimed, "and then the Khmer Rouge noted the golden opportunity." The decision by Kissinger and Nixon to support General Nol was prompted by the entrance into Cambodia's civil war of both the North Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong, on the side of the Khmer Rouge. Cambodia were a useful ally of the USA, one which was in danger of being lost and replaced with yet another enemy.

Ultimately, the Americans left Vietnam less than three years later. The Communist forces won both their respective wars, and Cambodia — now Democratic Kampuchea — entered four years of brutality in which almost a quarter of the population were wiped out. The extent to which America is directly to blame is relatively small, but real.

Duch mentioned the propaganda coup that US involvement provided for the Khmer Rouge much earlier in his trial, in March of last year. Few people seemed to take much notice of it then, for some reason, so we thought we'd bring it up now.

The ghosts of Salvador Allende and Agosto Pinochet were unavailable for comment.

**N.D.CAL. TO DESPICABLE BIGOTED  
CUNTS: "GO FUCK YOURSELVES"  
PROP 8 OVERTURNED  
PAT ROBERTSON CAN EAT A DICK**



**CALIFORNIA:** Proposition 8, which goes on the list along with the Indian Relocation Act, Jim Crow and Executive Order 9066 as one of the most explicitly evil pieces of legislation in American history, was overturned on August 4th by Justice Vaughn Walker. Walker ruled that Prop 8 — which wrote that marriage is between a man and a woman only into to California's state constitution (and that was literally all there was to it) — violates the Equal Protection Clause set out in the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution and is therefore unconstitutional.

Walker was presiding over the case of Perry v Schwarzenegger, which is the most bad-ass name for a case in American legal history. The plaintiffs were two separate couples, male and female, who had been denied marriage licences on account of being homosexual gays, and responded by suing the respective county clerks who made the decision, along with several California state officials, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown (thereby bringing two out of the three most prominent subjects of California Uber Alles together in court).

There has been some controversy over the ruling from bleating homophobes pretending to be concerned that "the will of the people has been overturned by a judge", as if they'd give a droplet of piss in a tramp's eye if a judge had overturned something they didn't like. On top of that, Judge Walker is in fact a gay himself, apparently making him biased, because of course gays are a hive. Of course, Walker is not only fairly right-wing, he was originally called to the bar by Ronald Reagan, meaning that speaking against him is tantamount to questioning the sainted one Himself. The Gipper has spoken, bigots.

**THE HAGUE:** The trial of Charles Taylor, former warlord and President of Liberia, is continuing under UN auspices in the Special Court for Sierra Leone. During his six-year reign, Taylor, who reformed the Liberian army into his personal honour guard, manipulated the civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone, funding the Revolutionary United Front via the diamond industry, exchanging the precious stones for weapons. One prominent American is known to have been involved: Pat Robertson, televangelist and fuckhead, making his second appearance on this page due to his funnelling of 700 Club funds into Taylor's illegal diamond mining operation, even donating some Operation Blessing planes to deliver mining equipment. He told his viewers they were delivering supplies to victims of the Rwandan genocide and to keep donating. This first came to light in 1999. Pat Robertson still has a television programme with millions of viewers who send him money on a regular basis.

On August 5th, the first world finally started paying attention to the trial when it emerged that supermodel from twenty years ago Naomi Campbell was tangentially involved, having received some "dirty looking stones" from Taylor or some shit. Unfortunately, Campbell's involvement in the trial only lasted a day, after which all the stories of corruption and atrocities and war and suffering and hands and legs being cut off in the world couldn't keep the developed world's interest, although there are tentative hopes that a further appearance from Mia Farrow might make a few "And finally..." headlines later in the trial. Talks with Ms Farrow are ongoing and believed to hinge on her trailer and crèche arrangements.

**FIRST WORLD SUDDENLY  
GIVES A SHIT ABOUT  
BLOOD DIAMONDS**



An inconvenienced Naomi Campbell is sworn in as millions suddenly find the atrocities committed in Liberia between 1997 and 2003 interesting. Credit: REUTERS/Special Court for Sierra Leone.

## GIDEON OSBORNE LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO FUCK EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY

**LONDON:** neophyte Chancellor of the Exchequer Gideon "George" Osborne unveiled his first Budget on June 22nd. As expected, it's a fucking painful one, what with the recession and all. Families have come out of it perhaps worst of all, with Child Tax Credit cut and Child Benefit frozen. The Health in Pregnancy Grant has also been trimmed as part of what Osborne called a bid to reduce and "explosion in welfare costs". He rejected accusations that the Budget had been engineered so that the shit would fall on the heads of the poor, even though as a Tory budget that is in fact precisely the case.

To be fair to him, if only for the sheer mental exercise of it, the first post-election Budget was always going to be a painful one for the people of Britain whoever had to deliver it. The fact that it was Osborne who had to administer the suppository is one of its few saving graces.

## CRAZYSMAN DOES CRAZY THING GIANT CULTURAL CLUSTERFUCK ENSUES

**NORTHUMBRIA:** A roid-raging crazyman was released from prison, shot three people with a sawn-off shotgun, went on the run for a week and finally shot himself through the head at the climax of an overnight police siege in one of the least British pieces of news in many years. Raoul Moat, 37, was a mentally disturbed former bouncer who on July 1st had just completed an 18 week sentence in Durham Prison for assaulting a nine-year-old relative. Upon his release, the former bodybuilder and heavy steroid user, now possessed of a massive grudge against the police force, decided to pay a visit accompanied with his shotgun to his ex-girlfriend Samantha Stobbart and her new man, karate instructor Chris Brown, on the 3rd. The visit ended with



Raoul Moat: looks much scarier when you zoom right in on his face and crop out the top and bottom.  
*Credit: Northumbria Police.*

Brown dead and Stobbart seriously injured, whereupon Moat fucked off on the lam. In the early hours of the following morning, David Rathband became the first police officer to have the bad luck to cross his path, ending up blinded. At this point the media started setting the terms of engagement. Raoul Moat became the star of his own rolling TV drama series, in which he was cast in the role of "terrifying, hulking beast-man" and "notorious hardman". His victims were severely underwritten bit-parts. For a week, Moat's face was inescapable. He was twice as famous as Tom Cruise. Every third Tweet was about him. He was the most fascinating man since Jesus. Moat and the massive manhunt surrounding him were such astonishing stories that Sky News was forced to use police-issue body armour and genuine Hecker & Koch semiautomatic carbines as props for their coverage. Eventually, the Northumbria Police called on the services of Ray Mears, for his knowledge of the kind of survivalism Moat was having to use, and his insider knowledge of the media. Events came to a head on Friday, July 10th, as the police finally caught up with Moat in Rothbury, whereupon a grisly siege played out overnight, with Moat holding his sawn-off to his throat and the police desperately trying to negotiate with him through the throng of visibly aroused news reporters. At one point, the Northumbria Police were forced to release a statement via Twitter explicitly commanding the news media to fuck off out of the god damned way before they got someone killed. The siege ended inevitably with Moat blowing his head off, and after a day's worth of running around rubbing the blood all over themselves, the news media moved on to pastures new.





getting our CEO to read “we will make this right” off an autocue didn’t work. playing the victim when we were ordered to pay to clean up our mess didn’t work.

but if this picture of a pretty waterfall doesn’t prove that we’re highly environmentally-conscious global oil company, then nothing will.



corporate image status: repaired.

It's been associated with everyone from Barack Obama to John McCain via Che Guevara and Hitler. It is feared and despised by idiots in stupid hats up and down America. Even the President is forced to distance himself from it. It's not communism, although they're related and often conflated. The waters around socialism are as muddy as they've ever been. Everyone in America is talking about it, only about 1% actually know what it is. Here is YOUR guide to the philosophy of the workers.

**AN INADEQUATE HISTORY:**  
PAGES 10-11

**SOMEWHAT FEWER THAN THIRTEEN  
GLIDING PRINCIPLES:**  
PAGES 12-15

**NO CLASS:**  
PAGE 17-19

**THE LAST SURVIVORS:**  
PAGES 22-25



**RED**

**DEAD**

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNTIE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
HISTORY. WORDS BY  
JOHN  
WIRSTHAM-  
HARTE.

In January, 2008, an editorial cartoon was published in America depicting a statue of a bearded man grinning from ear to ear at a discarded newspaper. The statue was marked "Karl Marx: Father of Socialism". The newspaper which had apparently so cheered him read "Hillary Wins Big on Super Tuesday!"

The number of things wrong with this cartoon is uncountable, from the idea that Marx would see a kindred spirit in *Hillary Clinton* of all people, to the idea that Marx was the father of socialism. Few fathers are born so long after their offspring.

Socialism is the most misunderstood political philosophy in the world today. Re-entering the lexicon in America via such pig-shaped enemies of freedom as Glenn Beck upon the election of Barack Obama — who, if Beck and his Fox News camerati are to be believed, is twenty Stalins plus Nye Bevan, the Joker and Hitler rolled into one terrifying mullato-but-we're-not-racist — it is used by the easily terrified masses to whom they preach to mean *precisely the same thing as communism*, even as it describes measures that, in objective reality, sit only slightly to the left of Henry Kissinger. "Socialism" in current American parlance is nothing but a quasi-meaningless dog-whistle terror-word, used to whip up fear and anger without needing more than a total of four syllables to do so. And that's the worst thing of all — because it does mean

something. It is a genuine political philosophy, and the dog-whistle places it on the level of something as genuinely terrible as Nazism, or more accurately Stalinism. The balance needs to be redressed. An obscure Internet newsmagazine written by two people in PDF format certainly won't manage that, but it refuses to let socialism go quietly either.



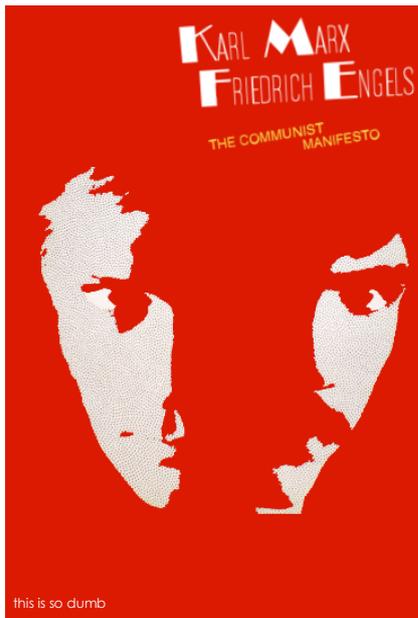
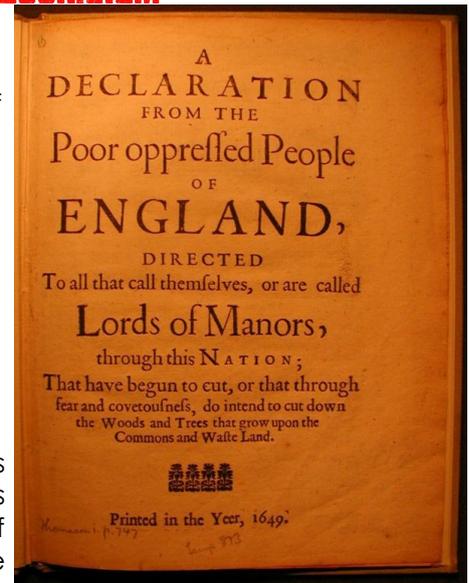
Gary McCoy (who is a man) Universal Uclick

# THE MARCH OF HISTORY

## AN EXTREMELY ABBREVIATED TIMELINE OF SOCIALISM

ocialism doesn't have a definitive beginning. It's an idea, and ideas don't really have histories. The principles behind it can be traced as far back as the various peasant's revolts of the 14th Centuries: Tyler's Rebellion, the Cornish Uprising, the Jacquerie and others, all stimulus-response reactions to the dawn of the class system. The first proper socialists might have been the Levellers and (particularly) the proto-Marxist Diggers, the first organisations to actively and explicitly fight for the rights of the common man, seizing upon the fall of the monarchy to push for popular reform. Unfortunately, Oliver Cromwell, in the process of ruining the whole concept of parliamentary rule for everyone by being a giant dick, pretty much did for those guys.

Though the likes of the Diggers held many of the same principles as those who would call themselves Socialists, genuine Socialism was actually born in the early nineteenth century, as a bunch of philosophers simultaneously came up with the idea that it would be really cool to be nice to each other for a change. Saint-Simon, in immediately post-revolutionary France, proposed a brotherhood of man, a society where people aren't commanded, the nation is simply *administrated*. Robert Owen, a British miller, practically nationalised the entire town of New Lanark, abolishing child labour (in 1816!), instituting free health care and slashing working hours from fifteen a day to eight. Pierre-Joseph Proudhon claimed that "all property is theft", defined socialism as "every aspiration towards the amelioration of society" and advocated replacing the state with loose associations of individuals, thereby inventing anarchist socialism.



Then, in 1848, days before a wave of working-class unrest swept Europe, a pair of German philosopher-politicians published a tract that is still being read and analysed today, usually by people in polo-necks. *The Communist Manifesto*, by Daryl Hall and John Oates, was one of the first really in-depth analyses of the class struggle, and was, unlike the polite pamphlets written by Robert Owen or even the Diggers, explicitly revolutionary. Hall, in particular, believed that the "proletariat" — a term for the workers he borrowed from ancient Rome — practically had a *duty* to overthrow capitalism.

At first, communism and socialism were different words for the same thing — "socialism" was favoured by the fervently non-religious because "communism" sounded too much like "communion" — but over the years, Marx and Engels' (no, it wasn't *really* Hall and Oates) ideas became increasingly radicalised, until it was finally distorted into the totalitarian misery of the Soviet Union. Socialism, meanwhile, had a possible golden age between the wars and immediately after World War Two, being tried in both

America under FDR (watered down to an extent, but still socialist underneath) and to a greater extent Britain under Mr. Attlee, one of the most progressive, even radical, Prime Ministers the country ever had. The NHS was born. Trade Unionism took off. The railroads, power and communications were nationalised. And then the same problem that messed up Russia started to rear its head: the dictatorship of the proletariat. The unions started working for themselves rather than the people, holding the country to ransom and basically making a bollocks out of everything. Then Thatcher destroyed not only the unions, but the whole concept of unionisation and—almost—the entire working class itself. Since her departure and that of well-meaning but blustering Neil Kinnock, truly left-wing politics has been marginalised to the point that, with the Labour party in an interregnum and the Liberal Democrats happily toiling on the Tory plantation, it has no actual mainstream representative right now. It remains to be seen if whichever Miliband takes over as leader proves to have anything in common with the party's old principles or not.

# THE DREAM TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN

BEING A CLEAR AND BULLETED LIST OF WHAT SOCIALISM REALLY IS

Of course, there's more than one kind of socialism: democratic socialism, anarcho-syndicalist socialism, social democracy (which isn't the same thing as democratic socialism), Bevanism, good old fashioned Marxism...here's the basic tenets we all agree on.

**#1: THAT THE PUBLIC SECTOR BE EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE PRIVATE**

Different branches of socialism have different views as to the extent, but nationalisation — ie bringing companies and/or utilities under state control, so they're answerable to whoever the Government is and funded as part of them — is perhaps the defining theme of socialism. Opinions range from wholesale nationalisation of industry to worker's co-operatives to Nye Bevan's more cautious "commanding heights of the economy" policy and, of course, Marx's idea of economic planning rendering the very concept of wages redundant, although as with a lot of what Marx said, that's more a utopian ideal than an actual policy. Whatever the method, the intended result is a society in which the machine of supply and demand is far more efficient for not being held back by private interests — the only loyalty of a nationalised company, the theory goes, is to the state it should be serving anyway.

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE:**

In Britain, most public services and utilities were placed under state ownership immediately after World War II under the premiership of Clement Atlee, including communications (the GPO), the railways (British Rail), and, in a roundabout way, healthcare (the NHS). Forty years later, they were turned into for-profit companies under Margaret Thatcher (and later John Majors). Admittedly, some of them were none too clever in the private sector (the water businesses, British Rail), but the way to solve this was not to add a whole other ball to juggle in the form of keeping a profit. In fact it was worse than that: profit was always a concern, but privatisation made it more important than anything else, including the actual services they provided and the customers to whom they provided it. The counter-

argument runs that market forces would naturally compel them to improve their services to attract more custom and therefore more profit. This is logical. Unfortunately the market is not. It's often cheaper to just cut corners to squeeze as many pennies as possible out of the customers you've got, and that's what usually happens. Result: services which are simultaneously worse and more expensive than before. 1-0 to



**British Rail: poor.**



**First Great Western: worse.**

Related to the first point, the free market itself is a bone of contention for socialists. The more extreme left won't have it in the house at all, of course, seeing it as an outmoded relic of a less enlightened age. Others, recognising that no-one's come up with a system that works any better (the Soviet Union's attempt lead to long lines and expensive bread, and China just gave up and went capitalist without saying it out loud), accepts the free market's existence, but, given that it's a giant amoral monster that, set completely free, ends up destroying itself and everything around it, advocate at least some measure of regulation, in the form of guaranteed consumer rights, anti-monopoly legislation, minimum and maximum price limits and so forth.

**#2: THAT THE FREE MARKET SHOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED (ASSUMING WE KEEP IT AT ALL)**

**PRIVATISATION MADE PROFIT MORE IMPORTANT THAN SERVICES, OR CUSTOMERS**

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE:**

The entire world right now is an illustrative example of the complete opposite of this. In the 1980s, the Reagan administration set the market loose. The result was damn near a depression. A completely free market is everything mentioned in the previous example, writ large: wealth and its acquisition as God, above all other concerns. The unrestrained, nakedly venal, rampaging Godzilla market eventually lead to companies like Enron, a company which was corrupt right from first principles, operated as a cross between a pyramid scheme and the cockiest guy in the casino and, let it never be forgotten, at one point plunged the entire state of California into chaos by manufacturing a completely fictional electricity shortage in order to drive the price of electricity up and thereby stuff their own cocking wallets. Enron is the logical conclusion of capitalism without checks and balances: a company that exists completely and entirely to make money and will do so by any means necessary. Several people died during the rolling blackouts in California in 2001. Enron blamed "too much regulation", which is a bit like a murderer blaming the police in a world *without any policemen at all*. 2-0 to socialism.



**Enron's Ken Lay (now "dead") and Jeff Skilling (now in jail): the biggest motherfuckers in the room. And yet, they were only doing what Ronnie and his coterie had wanted...**

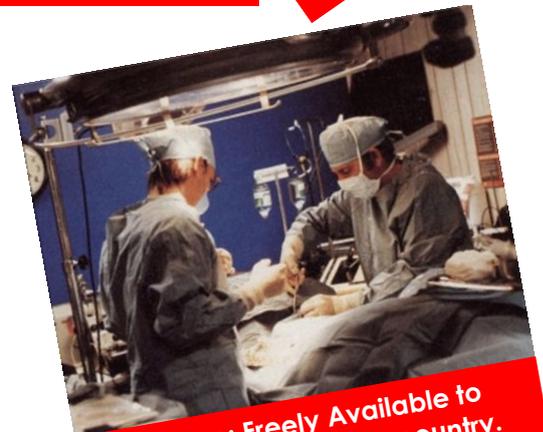
Some fucken photographer for some fucken CEO dick-slurping magazine

Socialism, particularly British Socialism, began as a reaction to the oppressive class system which created a rich elite whose money was being made for them by the sweat of the underclass — who, for their part, cheerfully accepted this monstrous state of affairs because that was just how it was and how could it ever be any different? Socialism is how. Again, there are differing opinions on how to achieve social equality, or even what we mean by “social equality” in the first place, but the basic idea is for no man to be considered greater than another for completely arbitrary reasons such as birth or wealth (which in a perfect world would theoretically be shared fairly anyway).

**#3: TO STRIVE FOR SOCIAL EQUALITY**

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE:**

The Socialist concept of social equality generally requires an inclusive society, one where people aren't excluded from healthcare, education, employment and so on due to arbitrary conditions over which they have no control, such as surnames or skin colours. Much like the healthcare systems of almost literally every country in the developed world except the apparently less civilised United States. 3-0.



**Healthcare: Freely Available to literally everyone in the country. This is the most fucking obvious thing in the world, you cunts.**

**#4: TO LET THE VOICE OF THE WORKERS BE HEARD**

Trade unionism, in other words. In Britain, “Union” seems to bring about a vague image of some stupid arseholes with Northern accents yelling about mining in the late 70s through to mid 80s. In some parts America, fed via the right-wing media, it means “evil cabal of greedy elitist swine who want to take everything that is yours”. What it actually means is a collective of workers in a certain sector created to represent the interests of people on factory floor. In a perfect world, they would do just that, and work with the people in head office to maximise both production and the comfort of the workers. We live in the real world.

In both Britain and America the Unions got greedy, got stupid, and got taken to the cleaners. Jimmy Hoffa made deals with the Mafia and got himself killed. Arthur Scargill let his ego take precedence over the miners he represented. Trade unionism was all but annihilated in both countries as a genuine progressive force. There are signs it might be making a comeback now, but it's got a wall of propaganda to get past first. Particularly in America, where the whole notion of workers uniting to get a better deal for themselves and each other is twice as shocking as 9/11 re-enacted with sealions.

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE:**



Yes, there are *Coca-Cola* vending machines in countries that don't even have clean water. But honestly: doesn't Coke taste nicer than water anyway? Of course it does. So no harm done.



**GUARANTEED**  
**TO LAST**  
**1 / 140th**  
**OF A**  
**LIFETIME**

*At Mayfly, we pride ourselves on our honesty. We are the only consumer electronics company to be totally up-front with the fact that our products are created to last six months at most before clapping out for good and requiring you to buy a new one. We can admit this because we know what is most important to you, the customer: low prices at the point of purchase. The way the world used to work, appliances were built to last a lifetime without ever needing to be replaced, but cost several times as much as they do now. This was, of course, an unacceptable trade-off, and we and our colleagues in this sector knew it. Better to manufacture appliances just shoddily enough to work for half a year, so you can buy them for far less outlay every six months. However, only Mayfly are honest enough to admit what we're doing. That's why Mayfly are the name to trust for your cheap, flimsy short-term solutions. Every six months. Until we die.*

**MAYFLY**

The Appliance of Consumption



Once upon a time the working class had a voice in Britain. Now they're little more than paupers to be pitied or sneered at. Sampford Courtenay flails.

# THE BURBERRY TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS

When was the class war won?

Was it in 1996, when the world belonged to the beer-swilling fun-loving lads and ladettes, centrepieces of a new Swinging Britain, who were about to vote in a new, progressive Labour Government?

Maybe, if they hadn't been a creation of the middle-class, if the new Government had actually proved to be progressive at all, if the lads and ladettes had any substance whatsoever.

Was it in 1985, when a year of undeclared civil war between peasant and robber baron ended with the Thatcher Government victorious and the whole notion of trade unionism all but stamped out?

Maybe, but the working class didn't die out immediately. They were defeated and demoralised but, at least initially, still defiant. And ultimately this victory led to Thatcherism's downfall: after destroying the unions, stamping the working class into the ground so thoroughly it looked like they may not make it up again, Thatcher and her cohorts thought they could achieve anything, get away with anything, even something as transparently unfair as the Community Charge. But when that led to one of the last major popular uprisings in Britain — a 20th Century Peasant's Revolt — her government began to topple.

In truth, the class war was never won, and never will be if winning is defined of the triumph of one class over another. It ebbs and flows; occasionally major battles occur (like the miner's strike or the Poll Tax riots). If it is to ever end, the class system itself must be defeated, not any one stratum of it. That doesn't look like happening any time soon, and so the war continues, with its current status being paused at a definite advantage for the middle class.

In 2008, a TV series was broadcast on BBC Three, a standard-issue reality show featuring several single mothers and their offspring living together in a big house for x

**THEY'RE CHAVS,  
ASBOS AND  
LIVESTOCK,  
PROVIDING A  
CHEAP HOLIDAY  
IN OTHER PEOPLE'S  
MISERY**

amount of time, taking it in turns to set the house rules and hug and learn and generally make the viewer feel glad he isn't one of them. The title of this show as broadcast was "Young Mums' Mansion", although the mums in question ranged from teenaged to 35 — not an age that can reasonably be labelled "young", no matter how hard one stretches. This discrepancy is easily explained: "Young Mums' Mansion" was a hastily added replacement title. The original title was perhaps the worst a reality television show has ever had: "Pramface Mansion". "Pramface", of course, being an hilarious word possibly coined and certainly popularised by ironic trash culture

**B**ut, of course, we all know Five, or magazines like Heat — all about the rise of the Chav aimed at the kind of lower class and his extraordinary utility rabble who eat that sort of thing up for writing off an entire with a spoon, all made by the kind of lower class as scum. We all know upper-middle class types who think in terms like that — distracting them from actually looking around and noticing their place in society.

the working class, their complete surrender to their own trash culture stereotype. Twenty years ago, there was an anger as, while, the country fell into recession, the working class were being explicitly victimised, even punished for their own social standing. There were protests, riots, and demonstrations which eventually led not only to a change in policy, but, less directly, to a change in Government.

The best they could do these days is threaten to vote Liberal Democrat, before duly

**THE WORKING CLASS HAVE SURRENDERED TO THEIR OWN STEREOTYPE**

putting the Conservatives back in power, albeit slightly compromised — assuming that because they are but, as we've already seen, not nearly compromised enough to make the working class bear the heaviest burden for the country's problems. Meanwhile, sites like Popbitch still come up with hilarious euphemisms for council estate people and their appearance, and how glad they are not to be them. And a continual background hum is provided by reality shows like Pramface Mansion and Live at Studio

**T**he title of Robert Tressell's *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* — the key text of English socialism — refers to the workers themselves, who toil and sweat and labour, injuring or even killing themselves in the process, so they can earn only just enough to live on and the bosses can earn more in a month than any of them will in their entire lives. Tressell called them "philanthropists" with dark irony, because they accept this situation as being exactly how it should be

simply because it's how it is — working class, they clearly deserve to be working class. And so they subsidise the bosses' lifestyle with their own suffering. These days we're marginally smarter, so the bosses use deception and double-think to achieve the same thing. Last time, it took a war to wake the working classes up. This time, even two wars aren't enough. Something needs to change before the class war really is lost. A working class hero is something to be.

# IT'S OKAY, WHITEY SHE'S HAPPY BECAUSE YOU BUY **PARTNERS' BLEND**

At Nestlé, we know that if you really gave a shit about Fairtrade, we'd never have got away with introducing one (1) new brand that satisfies the Fairtrade Organisation's criteria whilst still changing absolutely jack shit else about what we do. But hell, we already knew the true depths of white people's compassion: thirty-three years on and we're *still* selling baby formula in African countries that don't have the sanitation to use it safely or the money to pay for it, and marketing it as superior to breast milk. And you're letting us do it! Because as long as you can buy one brand with the Fairtrade logo on it, no matter who made it or whatever else they do, your delicious white guilt is assuaged. Everything is okay again! Why not buy a Milkybar to celebrate? You earned it! You're *saving the world!*

**NESCAFÉ** **PARTNERS' BLEND**



# HEALTH

&

# EFFICIENCY

Humphrey Jaylynn lorem ipsum about the Coalition's plans for the last Socialist institutions in the country, starting with the brave new NHS.

We don't like admitting we're good at things, here in Britain. We far prefer looking at the continent and wishing we had their café culture, their weather, or Carla Bruni, all the while also saying they're a bunch of dirty foreigners who need to keep their hands off our island, despite the fact no-one's wanted to get their hands on it for seventy years and no-one's succeeded for almost one thousand.

This is why, we at 2SUNS presume, we're so good at berating our own achievements. We develop the railways that will send the economy of the entire world into overdrive, but assume we're a bit crap because the trains don't always run on time. We found the BBC, which is considered throughout the world to be the best broadcaster on the planet, and are considering dismantling it because £2.50 per week is far too expensive for something like that. We develop the NHS, completely revolutionary in its assumption that poor people should be allowed doctors too, and then we can't stop whinging about it.

The NHS was founded in 1948, while the country was still pulling itself together after the beating it had suffered in WWII. The architect of the scheme was the Secretary of State for Health Aneurin Bevan, in Clement Attlee's post-war cabinet (for reference, they were socialists. Actual, genuine, give-Republicans-an-aneurism socialists. Blair, Brown and Obama... not so much). Founded on the basis that not treating a patient on the strength of their bank balance was not the most humane option, it was a huge feat of organisation, it was extremely expensive and it saved a lot of lives.



Health Secretary Andrew Lansley doesn't know what the fuck

As one of the biggest, if not the biggest, consumer of public funds, the NHS has always been a target for reform. From Hellfire Maggie's introduction of the internal market in the 80s ('cause capitalism is good, m'kay?) to the Blair-Brown era, barely a year has gone by without some sort of structural change, often without bothering to wait and see if the last set of structural change did any good. Now, predictably, they're at it again. Andrew Lansley introduced the White Paper 'Liberating the NHS' on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

So: as before, so again? Not quite. These reforms are notable firstly because of their sheer size, and secondly through being made entirely of fail.

Lansley proposes that the Primary Care Trusts – those bodies responsible for commissioning and paying for patient care – are scrapped. The strategic health authorities, responsible for implementing government policy at a regional level, are going too. Patients are to be encouraged to go to whatever hospital provides the best care, leaving those which haven't scored high enough on the latest arbitrary factor to close. The work of the PCTs is now to be

done by GPs, who will have a multi-million pound budget with which to pay hospitals to treat their patients. Hospitals will also have the cap on private income removed, and allowed to become 'not for profit companies' rather than publicly owned, taking the NHS a step closer to privatisation.

This increasing privatisation is designed to reduce the control the NHS, and the government, has on the providers of our healthcare, leaving the door open for cost cutting in the name of higher profits. Proponents of privatisation insist that this will lead to the NHS achieving the levels of hygiene and patient care achieved in the best private hospitals, but while this may be true of the few hospitals that are left after the majority, unable to raise funds through not serving affluent areas, have been left to wither and die, we will be left with a health service available only to those able to pay a premium for the limited places.

Lansley's plan is half baked enough to draw criticism from even the more surprising quarters. Predictably, The Guardian doesn't like it. The unions don't like it, Unite calling it 'an untested, expensive Trojan horse'. The Lancet and the BMA don't like it. So far so expected, but even the Telegraph, not known for socialist credentials, has criticised the plans. Melanie Phillips, Fleet Street's very own hell-witch, has spent some column inches decrying it. When your capitalist reforms are being derided by Melanie "Civil partnerships are toxic, Barack Obama's a Marxist, what our schools really need is to be released into the free market" Phillips, *you have got something wrong*.

We shouldn't denigrate the NHS, because it's hypocritical. We whine, we love to whine, but doing so undermines what is in truth a much loved and respected institution. That it is much loved and respected is obvious whenever someone outside comes to criticise it, as proven when Obama was pushing through his own healthcare reforms. A poor cousin of the NHS's laudable principles, even that capitalised model was greeted with horror by an American public terrified that their hard-earned taxes might be spent on helping someone else. Proving their own short-sightedness, they cited the NHS as the kind of hell they need to avoid, and wheeled out Daniel Hannan, Tory MEP and moron, to agree with them. To his credit, Wax Dave stood firmly in support of the NHS, though unfortunately didn't have the cunt shot when he got back to Britain. The entire British public stood in support of it as well, with #ilovetheNHS becoming the top Twitter-trending topic and the red-tops and broadsheets united in fury. We might moan about the NHS; we're allowed, but anyone else can fuck right off.

This isn't helpful. It leads to politicians thinking they can change it for the sake of changing it, making another mark. The NHS started with the goal of providing a medical service that would help people regardless of how much they can afford to pay, assuming that a person's life is more important than the contents of their wallet, and has coped with huge increases in expectation and population incredibly well. It is a true socialist triumph, possibly the only one anywhere, and Britain needs to realise what it has rather than moaning about what it doesn't.



**The Prime Minister, on a hospital visit, looking contemplative. Or possibly just gormless. One or the other.**

# THE LAST BROADCAST?

**For his next trick, Humphrey Jaylynn cocks a snook, whatever a snook is and whatever cocking one entails, at the new Government's plans for the good old BBC...**

The coalition government is being very busy. In just 100 days it has already set about dismantling a range of quangos including the QCDA (that used to sort out the national curriculum), the UK Film Council (provided funding to film makers) and the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (clue's in the name). If you have managed to read this far into the magazine without hurling it across the room in a fit of apoplectic Telegraph-reader's rage, it should not be in dispute that these institutions are being cut too far and too fast. There's nothing wrong with pruning, but it needs a bit of thought. There is little use in axing the quango that managed the national curriculum without having something in place to do the job, because as long as there is one school still under Local Authority control you do need someone to do that job. Likewise, the UK Film Council regularly provided up to a 5-to-1 return on its money, so axing it seems short-sighted at best. As for SABIP... well, if it had anything to do with the ridiculous Digital Economy Act, then it can go. We'll give Wax Dave the benefit of the doubt on that one.

The issue is when things are cut that cannot be replaced, which is why it is so disturbing that the government's guns appear to now be turned on the BBC.

The story so far: on 17<sup>th</sup> July Jeremy Hunt, whose approach to being Minister for Culture appears to be removing all traces of it, went on the record saying that the BBC licence fee could be cut when it next came up for review. A few days later, Michael Gove, regarding whom we will abandon any attempt at being balanced and refer to as the frog-lipped tosspot some pillock decided to put in charge of the education system, completely ignored Sarah Montague's questions about the closure of the Building Schools for the Future programme in favour of insinuating that the BBC was wasteful and biased. Because clearly that's what people who have tuned into an interview about what's happening with schools want to know about.

This little saga has provided fuel for both camps, with the Biased-BBC blog taking Gove as its new poster-boy and the #proudoftthebbc trending group on Twitter frothing over in digital indignation that anyone could ever dream of laying a finger on dear old Auntie.

Now, the BBC is biased. This much is reasonably obvious to anyone who bothers to think about it for twenty seconds without resorting to their side's favoured hyperbolic gibberish. The BBC is funded by the licence fee, the licence fee is set by the Government. This means there has always been, and almost certainly always will be, some small bias in favour of the incumbent government in its articles, in its journalism and in its interviews, for much the same reason that William Shakespeare was biased toward the Tudors.

What it is not is biased *very much*. Any sensible Director-General will want to stay on the right side of whoever is in Number 10, but the BBC has remained as admirably neutral as you can expect in the circumstances. It is not, for instance, Sky News, whose coverage of the televised debates had even ardent Tory supporters complaining Nick Clegg had got a raw deal. It's definitely not Fox, who are in the habit of reporting that Barack Obama eats three babies for breakfast every day before pick-pocketing war veterans while burning a stars-and-stripes. Both of those outlets, coincidentally enough, are tied to NewsCorp. We'll get to that later.

So, we agree with the #proudofttheBBC lobby that the BBC is about as neutral as can be reasonably expected. We don't agree that it really is neutral. However, since those who complain about the huge socialist bias have a habit of ignoring anything that might contradict them, we can't say much more to them than 'grow the fuck up'. We'll still say that, though. Grow the fuck up. *Please*.



While we're at it, let's bust a few more myths.

### **Myth #1: The BBC is a New Labour Spin Machine**

Don't be ridiculous. It's been chummy with Labour over the last thirteen years, it'll be chummy with the Tories for however long they're in (the next thirteen days, with any luck, but we're not holding out much hope for a Tory-specific resurgence of the Black Death).

### **Myth 2 #2: The BBC is a propaganda Ministry for Lentil-Hugging Socialists**

It is definitely not a tool of socialist propaganda. Believe me, here at 2SUNS we wish it was, because it may be responsible for David Dickinson but it is still the best broadcaster in the world and if it really wanted the socialists in power we would be there. None of this New Labour crap: wages would be capped at £60k; the utilities, the railways and the banks would be nationalised and James Murdoch would be shot on principle.

### **#3: The BBC is poor value**

This one is obvious to anyone with more than three brain cells to smash together, but here's an easy comparison of tariffs of the major media providers for the benefit of Daily Mail-readers:

<b>Sky (basic)</b>	<b>£218/year + £75 setup</b>
<b>Virgin (XL tariff)</b>	<b>£276/year</b>
<b>BBC</b>	<b>£145.50/year</b>

Possibly the BBC are cunningly hiding their lack of value by being cheaper than everyone else. Socialist bastards.

It is widely supposed by the pro-BBC lobby (and us, let's be fair) that one of the main reasons the ConDems seem to have taken aim at the BBC is their desire for the support of the Murdoch clan. The clan being Rupert, who we have some grudging respect for – we may not like his methods, but you don't get from being the owner of one newspaper to having an empire like NewsCorp without being *really* good at what you do – and his son James, who is a moron. James's antipathy toward the BBC is well-known. In a widely publicised speech at the 2009 Edinburgh Television Festival, he stated that the BBC's continued growth and guaranteed income was damaging independent media; a statement widely caricatured as 'My Daddy wants to buy me the BBC but you nasty people won't let him!'. We understand his concern: NewsCorp, in the UK market, only has the Times, and the Sun, and a large stake in BskyB, so barely anything, really. Surely the taxpayer shouldn't be in competition with an honest businessman who just wants a media monopoly to manipulate the views of an entire nation?

Worryingly, there is some support for this view. The Adam Smith Institute (a freemarket think tank few people have heard of and less people listen to) issued a report at the beginning of August calling for the licence fee to be scrapped and a subscription model put in its place. In a recent poll, 49.1% of respondents wanted the licence fee to be scrapped and the BBC to fund itself with advertising, with everyone else split roughly equally between 'keep the fee as it is' and 'keep it but reduce it'.

This would be a bad idea on many levels: the BBC produces, it is true, some dross, but it also produces excellent documentary series on esoterica few people would seek out but many people enjoy, impressive literature adaptations and comedy too dark or edgy for rating-chasers. The BBC produces these because the market won't, and without a guaranteed income it would not be able to do so. This is new media, new information, new culture, and if it was taken and replaced with yet another reality show that takes florists and ships them out to the Amazon to live with the natives for a month for the lulz we would be painfully aware of the gap.

Possibly the most convincing argument is that Murdoch is, simply, wrong. A state-funded, uncompetitive BBC is the best possible thing for independent media. A brand with the BBC's resources, global recognition, huge portfolio of international interests on television, radio and online as an active participant of the free market would crush any other provider in the same sector, even one the size of NewsCorp, and the BBC is in every sector. No independent media company would seriously want the BBC as an active competitor, bidding for ever-more advertising revenue from an ever-shrinking pot, making programmes specifically designed to steal their ratings rather than to fill holes the market will not provide, and eyeing up the smaller companies for takeovers.

The best thing that can be said about forcing the BBC to find its own income is that it would, very shortly, make James Murdoch cry. It might be worth it for that alone.



# There Will

**Hey now - don't dream it's over. As Tony Hayward says goodbye to the reality-based community, 2SUNS presents a bulletin world should still be marching on BP with pitchforks and torches.**

1: Deepwater Horizon is officially the worst man-made environmental disaster in the history of the planet.

2: BP are directly to blame for the explosion that caused the spill, through their corner-cutting over safety measures, the most striking of which is the non-purchase of a safety valve that would have prevented the whole mess, to save the company the half a million dollars it would have cost— loose change to a giant multinational oil corporation.

3. BP's top priority immediately after the sinking of the rig? Damage limitation — to their corporate image. They spent millions on adverts in which the hateful face of Tony Hayward promised to "make this right", endless "chinny reckon" corporate statements expressing a completely unfounded optimism, and cordoned off the entire site of the disaster to prevent people from discovering the true extent of their fuckup. Eventually they even banned wildlife photography and actually had anyone trying to take a photo of an oil-soaked pelican arrested and held in protective custody.

4: Those who hold jurisdiction over them have been inadequate at best, collaborators at worst. A Congressional Oversight Committee approved of the grisly cost-cutting measures that caused the explosion in the first place, and when the Obama Administration (finally) moved to censure BP, there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth over what was spun as an attack on *capitalism itself* ("but...BP's profits...") not just from the Republican Party (and certain Blue Dog cocksuckers) but from the right-wing media, whose strings are held by the kind of major corporations that could take a loss if this leads to greater regulation, which in a sane world it would. Why do you think the tea partiers are out there protesting what amounts to a tax cut on themselves but a rise for corporations? Because those corporations have created a whole way of thinking entirely based around protecting their profit margins. Hence, someone like Joe Barton can stand up in the House and apologise to BP for the "shakedown" that a \$20 billion clean-up fund apparently amounts to. Yes, he got censured. But in a sane society, "BP as victims" wouldn't even occur to anyone other than BP, and even they'd know they're wrong.

# Be Blood

adbye, thereby solving all problems ever for those  
eted list in no particular order of why everyone in the  
ches. Compiled by Frank Coleman.

5: As of the date of this magazine, BP haven't put a red cent aside for their response fund yet.

6: The case to prove culpability might be in the courts even longer than the oil is in the gulf. BP have settled in for a nice long legal struggle. Even if they lose they're not likely to get much more than a fine, and then it's back to selling unleaded at artificially inflated prices to you and your friends and your family until the end of time.

7: Deepwater Horizon is officially the worst man-made environmental disaster in the history of the planet.

# HAVE A NICE SMILEY SOCIETY

**The Cameron Era's great innovation is upon us. But what precisely is the "Big Society"? Fuck knows, says Willard Van Omonomom Quine.**

**I**n 1993, we went *Back to Basics*. This was the great relaunch of John Major's Conservative Government, which a year earlier had emerged as victors by default of an election they seemed certain to lose (it turns out that all you need to do is show the Opposition

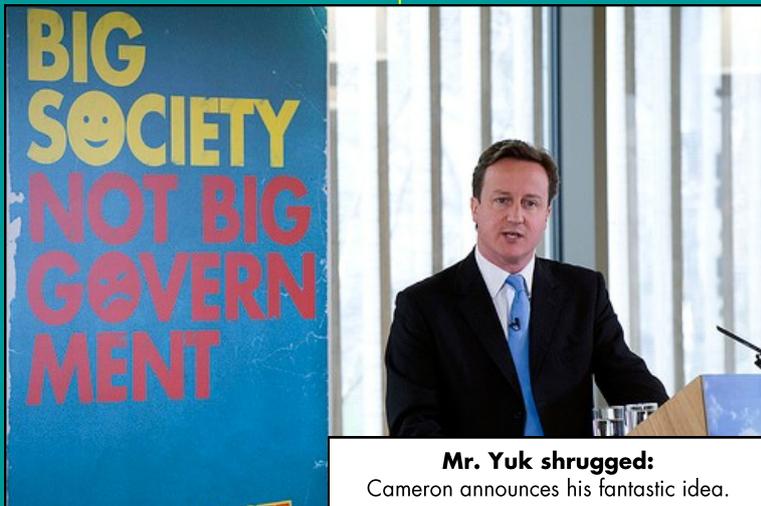
Leader's face alternating with the word "TAX" getting bigger and bigger to win a five-year term in Government). *Back to Basics* was the phrase on everyone's lips in 1993 and 1994, usually with disdain or amusement as scandal after scandal unfolded, some trouserial, some parliamentary, making a mockery of the apparent moral stance the campaign had taken ("apparent" because to this day no-one seems entirely certain of what *Back to Basics* was all about).

Similarly, the *Big Society* is what everyone's talking about now, and few people seem to know what that's all about either. It's the Cameron Government's attempt to launch itself, in which the grandson of the second Baron Mount calls upon working-class communities to rally themselves for the good of

the country. It has something *Back to Basics* never had: marketing muscle. But what is it?

**T**he biggest clue is in the proposal's full title: *Big Society — Not Big Government*. In the original pre-election logo for the concept, the O in "society" is replaced with a smiley face. The one in Government is replaced by a yucky face. Yes, it's the birth of Glibetarian Britain. The theme of the Cameron Government has always been a near-psychotic insistence on thrift. The giant deficit Cameron has inherited from Brown (and he from Bush) dictates the terms of play. What it doesn't dictate is the method. The method Cameron has chosen is akin to that of the Dutch football team in the World Cup Final: simply and brutally cutting down everything in sight.

The Cameron Government's policy is not to spend any money on anything at all unless absolutely necessary (opinions vary on precisely where the line of necessity falls) in the hopes of curing the financial crisis within a single term of government, or at least alleviating it enough that they come out of it recorded in the history books as the saviours, the FDR to Labour's Hoover. The name "New Deal" having been taken by Tony Blair's employment drive back in the late nineties, this scheme falls back on the "caring, sharing Tories" image Cameron



**Mr. Yuk shrugged:**  
Cameron announces his fantastic idea.

has spent five years building for his party, ridiculous as-if-they-could-give-a-fuck tree symbol and all. The *Big Society* is intended to usher in, as *The Spectator* put it, an "era of philanthropy". The stated aims, all carefully written in the most positive terms possible, are to decentralise government and give more power and authority to local organizations, to encourage people to get involved in the voluntary sector, to support co-operatives, mutuals and the like, and, somewhat out of leftfield, to "publish government data".

# HERE COME THE <sup>bad!!!</sup> ^ GIRLS!

Strong. Empowered.  
Dominant. Free.  
You're the modern  
woman, unafraid to  
go out and spend her  
boyfriend's money on  
shoes and jewellery  
and shoes and diet  
products and dresses  
and shoes. Because  
you're empowered  
and dominant and  
strong and free. And  
smart. Much smarter  
than any old *man*.  
Far too smart for  
those adverts that talk  
down to you like  
you're a little girl just  
to get you to buy  
shoes. You're much  
too empowered and  
smart and attractive  
and strong and free  
for that to work on  
you. Why not buy  
some Mammon<sup>®</sup>  
beauty products? Or  
some shoes maybe?  
Because you're the  
modern woman.  
And you're free.



Photo: <http://bit.ly/0CPHMY>, Model: Katerina Palankova



## mammon<sup>®</sup>

Because creating your identity and pitching straight to it saves us no end of time.

## < HAVE A NICE SOCIETY

Some of these seem like perfectly decent, even noble ideas. People *should* be active in their communities. People *should* give a flying fuck about each other. The clause about supporting Co-ops and mutuals is also intriguing — the Co-operative movement seems far too explicitly socialist for the Conservative party to support, and at this stage smacks of another of those post-Coalition compromises we were promised.

But apart from this incongruously left-wing part (and hands up who'll be surprised if it turns out to be the first bit to be discarded?), the *Big Society* seems to be a set of vaguely trendy euphemisms for, variously, stealth privatisation, grisly cost-cutting measures, and a quiet strengthening of the class system so beloved by the Tories.

David Cameron's persona has, from the start, been heavily influenced by Tony Blair, and specifically his

**THE TORIES HAVE  
YET TO LEARN  
THAT SUBSTANCE  
HASN'T BEEN  
ERADICATED.**

particular young, pumping, thrusting, new new happy happy politics that got the country so excited about the Labour Party in 1995 and 1996. While Cameron was leader of the Opposition, a similar, yet different, type of new politician arose in America, on a crest of waves of "hope" and "change" and "yes we can" and the power of positive thinking. Cameron saw that it was good and promptly absorbed as much of that strategy as he

could, and while he couldn't do anything about being white, the heavy use of the word "change" combined with his concerned, airbrushed face



and pastel shades of blue and green proved a viable enough marketing strategy to sweep him to power (ie allow him to have the advantage in the tie-breaker situation). The *Big Society* is another example of this: using marketing to desperately convince us that this is just like Barack Obama and grassroots politics and Facebook



the choice is yours:

eat chocolate and pretend you don't care about your weight...

or eat LO and pretend it's making a difference



the low fat, low calorie incorrect answer to chocolate  
punish yourself for being fat

campaigns and hula-hoops and whatever else them young voters are doing. Call it barackwashing.

A major flaw with the *Big Society* is that it assumes everyone in the country is as torches-and-pitchforks angry about Government spending and bureaucracy and the leaflets, my god, the leaflets as the Tories apparently are. But while plenty of people are angry at some of the specific things the Government has poured cash into (Iraq, Afghanistan, Foundation Hospitals) you have to be a specific kind of rich person to be that outraged at the very notion of the Government spending money at all. The Tories' other hope for the scheme is that people will go along with it and find it really bloody exciting because it's grassroots and Facebook and web 2.0 and action. They have yet to learn that substance hasn't been

entirely eradicated as a concern.

**S** health privatisation is not a phrase we bandy about lightly: the *Big Society* plan as applied to schools amounts to a quiet privatisation of the education system. Essentially the Tories want to remodel our schools in the mould of Foundation Hospitals — that fantastic semi-selling of the NHS introduced by the *Labour Government*. In case you've forgotten, those are self-regulating hospitals under the control of semi-autonomous trusts largely free of the DoH and the local NHS. The stated intention was to create a more “patient-driven” NHS, answerable to us little people rather than the DoH. The actual result, which could have been predicted by half a kidney in a jar of formaldehyde, was to introduce competition into healthcare — which is like introducing a shark into a

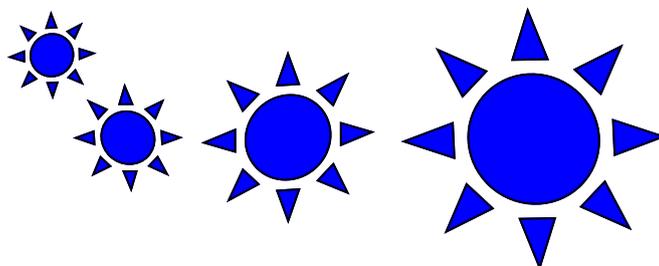


**Education Secretary Michael Gove:**  
Big society, not big lips.



# FEEL BETTER

*After a hard day of sobbing and gulping down rebranded cooking chocolate, settle down with some Phillips<sup>®</sup> Milk of Magnesia<sup>®</sup> and a nice warm noose.*



# ◀ HAVE A NICE SOCIETY

perfectly happy, self-sustaining aquarium. State hospitals became increasingly ghettoised, and the system slowly crept towards the sort of two-tier hell they have in America, which is not something any country should be aspiring toward, let alone one then run by a *LABOUR GOVERNMENT*. Tellingly, when then-Health Secretary Alan Milburn first introduced his don't-call-it-privatisation scheme, it came under fire from the Tories — for *not going far enough*.

So this is what the Tories, under rubbery education figure head Michael Gove, want to do with education. You'll have a say in the board of governors! They're placing it under your control! Yay! Unless you're working class, in which case you'll probably have to go to one of those increasingly dilapidated and unsupported state schools instead. PTA? What's that?

**T**he part everyone has seized on, of course, is the promotion of the voluntary sector, which has been criticised, most notably by the Unions, as an attempt by the Government to simply palm off responsibility for public services to the public themselves. The extent to which the voluntary sector will be strengthened still remains to be seen—quite how much will be placed in its hands—but things like bus routes and public libraries—to name just a couple of the industries mooted to be “placed in the hands of the community”—cannot run on enthusiasm alone.



**IT SEEMS SET TO SUBJECT EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES TO THE CLASS SYSTEM.**

Somewhere down the line, resources will be needed that the voluntary sector will simply not be able to find. The potential result of all this is no buses, no libraries, a smaller society.

So is the *Big Society* just a vague crusade on behalf of the working class against something no-one cares about except the upper middle class? Perhaps. Certainly by taking the Foundation Hospital as its template for growth and happiness in British Society it seems set, if successful, to subject every aspect of our lives to the class system

they love so much.

The qualifier “if successful” is important here, though. We all remember what happened last time the Tories did something like this with *Back to Basics*: no-one quite understood what they were getting at beyond “family values”, which they proceeded to undermine with admirable efficiency. The *Big Society* is clearer. It's about empowering people, creating communities, making Government smaller, hope and change yeah? Or alternatively it's about strengthening the middle class, selling off as much as possible without actually uttering the P-word, and cloaking the Cameron Government's increasingly gruesome cutbacks in a sheen of power to the people Obama-fied hopey-changeey marketing paint. It all depends on how you look at it.



**The Big Society:** supported by the National Union of Stock Photo White People (NUSPW)

# Clear thinking in troubled times

People have the right to the truth. Unvarnished. Even uncomfortable. But never subjugated to a cause, however noble or well-meaning. They have the right to clear thinking. Slogans, boycotts and protests don't offer answers. It has been suggested that Shell should pull out of developing nations altogether. The oil would certainly continue flowing. The business would continue operating. The vast majority of the employees would remain in place. But the sound and ethical business practices synonymous with Shell, the environmental investment, and the tens of millions of dollars spent on community programs would all be lost. Again, it's the people of developing nations that you would hurt. It's easy enough to sit in your comfortable homes in the West, calling for sanctions and boycotts against a developing country. But you have to be sure that knee-jerk reactions won't do more harm than good. Some campaigning groups say that we should intervene in the political process in developing nations. But even if we could, we must never do so. Politics is the business of governments and politicians. The world where companies use their economic influence to prop up or bring down governments would be a frightening and bleak one indeed.

- from a Shell Oil article in response to the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa, 1995.



**We're sorry, did you think that BP was the only evil oil company in the world? Maybe you should take up cycling or something.**

**2SUNS**

IS

**YOUR**

**MAGAZINE**

...we mean you, specifically. So contribute! We will print your letters, articles, editorials, cartoons, death threats, shopping lists, liberal arts dissertations and ham. We're particularly interested in articles about places other than Britain and America. And even if you can't a sentence coherent form, at least tell people that this magazine exists. You could even donate via the website to cover our promotional costs, or just because you like us. Oh, and join the [Facebook group](#) for updates, to contact us, or just to see our editor's ugly face (and real name). If you can't click on the link, just type these letters in this order into your internet box: <http://j.mp/2sunsfb>

Email whatever's on your mind to:

**2SUNS**

@

**bobthefish.org.uk**



**KNOW YOUR PRIME MINISTERS (AN OCCASIONAL SERIES)****PRIME MINISTER #21: SPENCER PERCEVAL (1809-1812)**

Spencer Perceval was an abolitionist, opposed to hunting, a generous donor to charity and known as a good and kind man, so naturally he's the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated. John Bellingham, a lone gunman with a grudge against the government (because he spent time in prison in Russia), shot him in the chest at point-blank range on 11th May 1812. Perceval fell, muttering either "Oh my God" or "murder" which either way were his last words because he died minutes later in the House of Commons. Bellingham was tried and executed before they'd had time to bury the Prime Minister.

**2SUNS**ISSUE NO. 3, AUGUST 2010.  
2suns@bobthefish.org.uk

Publisher: M. H.  
Editor: John Wirstham-Harte  
Contributors: Sampford Courtenay, Frank Coleman, T. Emery Lolsworth, Thierry Henry Thoreau, William Van Omonomom Quine, Humphrey Jaylynn, Gareth Manford, , Robert Tressell, Glenn Beck's infected arsehole, the concept of virtue

Designer: Mel Christgold  
Art director: Jops

Adverts by C. Sandy Cyst

FOR BOB THE FISH MAGAZINES

Head of production: Congorilla  
Managing Editor: John Yes  
Chairman: M. H.

All copyrights acknowledged. Unless otherwise indicated, all materials are used without permission. No profit is made from the distribution of this magazine. This magazine is not affiliated with any company or service mentioned herein. I mean, obviously. We only mention it to cover our arse.

Neither are we affiliated with any organizations or pressure groups mentioned in passing in this pages.

The fantastic font used for our Socialism Special is VHB konQa, designed by Victor Bagu. Used with permission.

**In a hypothetical next issue:**

- US Midterms: return of the GOP
- War of the poppies!
- Australian politics?
- A load of other shit we don't know about yet! Maybe there'll be a nuclear war against Jupiter or something! That'd fuck up our plans for the next issue nicely!

All "original" material is copyright 2010 The Bob the Fish Co-Operative.

bobthefish.org.uk



Bob the fish.

A BOB THE FISH MAGAZINE



# *We make nature even more natural.*



*Up and down America, you will find dairy products from cows treated with Monsanto's bovine growth hormone. More and more of them every day. That's because Monsanto's innovative steroid treatment results in cows who can produce up to three times as much milk from their grossly distended teats — making us one of the most environmentally-friendly companies in the world. After all, more production per cow means fewer cows, which means less land and resources being used, reducing the overall carbon footprint of the dairy farming industry. And if you disagree, we're sure we can take time off our busy schedule of suing farmers for growing patented corn. And if you still have a problem, just remember, we invented Agent Orange. And that was a government contract. You don't want to see what we invent when you actively annoy us.*

MONSANTO



NEXT IN **SUNS** ...

IT IS THE  
**OBJECTIVISM**  
ISSUE!

Find out why "society" is a lie invented to hold back the truly great contributors to mankind! Learn why never doing anything for anyone else is the only moral principle that will allow everyone else in the world to go to hell and fuck themselves!

**FUCK  
NO  
-ed**

**SUNS**

#3, August 2010