

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 1: May Day ride to Haymarket martyrs monument. Contact Bob Matter at rjmatter@prodigy.net.

Friday, May 21: Pilsen Circular Mass. A more intimate, South Side version of Critical Mass. Meet at Tenochtitlan Plaza, 18th/Blue Island/Loomis at 6 pm. ¡Viva la bicicleta!

Friday, May 28: Chicago Critical Mass. Meet at Daley Plaza, 5:30 pm. Be One Less Car one more time. Will we break 1000?

Sunday, May 30: Bike the Drive. Ride your bike on LSD! The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation closes down Lake Shore Drive to cars and bikes take over! www.bikethedrive.org

Saturday, June 12: World Naked Bike Ride, Chicago. <http://www.worldnakedbikeride.org/chicago/>

Friday, June 18: Bike (To Work) Day Rally, 7:30 am, Daley Plaza. www.bikeday.org

For up-to-date info, see the CCM calendar: <http://www.chicagocriticalmass.org/calendar.php>
Or sign up for the CCM announcement list: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ccm_announce/
Or join the infamous CCM discussion list: <http://listserv.uic.edu/archives/chi-crit-mass.html>



www.chicagocriticalmass.org

World Naked Bike Ride - Chicago

On June 12th 2004, there will be a naked bike ride. A VERY exhilarating, agitative, animating, appealing, arousing, arresting, astonishing, bracing, breathtaking, commoving, dangerous, dramatic, electrifying, exhilarant, eye-popping, far out, fine, flashy, groovy, hair-raising, impelling, impressive, interesting, intoxicating, intriguing, lively, melodramatic, mind-blowing, moving, neat, overpowering, overwhelming, provocative, racy, rip-roaring, rousing, sensational, showy, spine-tingling, stimulating, stirring, thrilling, titillating, wild, zestful WORLD NAKED RIDE in Belgium, Pforzheim, Barcelona, Pamplona, Zargoza, Apeldoorn, London, New Zealand, Asheville, Austin, Boulder, Burlington, Los Angeles, Portland, SanFrancisco, Seattle AND CHICAGO!

Moreover, this WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE CHICAGO now has its own website, which you may view and can send your friends to, where you may sign up, find out about our purpose and means, and be privy to a plethora of Chicago cycling resources!

www.worldnakedbikeride.org/chicago

For more information, contact Jungle Queen:
junglequeen@muralivegot.com

the Derailleur

April 2004

the unofficial 'zine
of Chicago
Critical
Mass



Inside:
World
Naked
Bike
Ride!

Featuring
the Lucy
Parsons
Memorial
Route

Plus: Bike
the Drive!

May
Day
Issue
CRITICAL MASS
CHICAGO
www.chicagocriticalmass.org

Ride your bike on LSD!

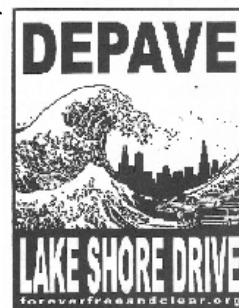
Just imagine riding your bike on Lake Shore Drive while breathing in fresh air instead of exhaust, and being able to take your time soaking up the stunning views of our beautiful city! Bike The Drive offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the Chicago skyline as Lake Shore Drive is closed to cars — and open to bikes.

On the morning of Sunday, May 30, 2004, meet up to 25,000 of your closest friends for a 15- or 30-mile non-competitive tour. All ages and skill levels are welcome. \$35 (CBF members \$30).

www.bikethedrive.org

then... Depave Lake Shore Drive!

Daniel Burnham wrote in his 1909 Plan of Chicago that "The lakefront by right belongs to the people...Not a foot of its shores should be appropriated to the exclusion of the people." The Campaign for a Free and Clear Lakefront is building on this rich legacy by working to liberate Chicago's lakefront from the cement clutches of an 8-lane superhighway while promoting more sustainable alternatives to widespread pavement and irresponsible motor car usage.



www.foreverfreeandclear.org

The Derailleur - April 30, 2004

an unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass

May Day Issue - Lucy Parsons Memorial

Edited and published by Dan Korn.

Printed by whomever got around to it.

Contributors: Bob Matter, Alex Wilson, Teri Danai,
Michael Burton, Johnny Payphone, the CCM listserv.

"If you don't like the Derailleur, make your own!"

Critical Mass is a free, fun bike ride that generally occurs on the last Friday of each month, in cities around the world. It's a party on wheels, a reclamation of public space, a celebration of human-powered transportation, and much more. **Chicago Critical Mass** gathers at 5:30 pm on the last Friday of the month at Daley Plaza (Washington and Clark), rain, shine or snow. Cyclists of all ages and abilities are welcome. Come join the fun!

Critical Mass palindrome of the month:

"CM: Get a rebel cycle, berate GMC."

Joke that's only mildly funny when read aloud and doesn't make any sense in print of the month:

"I'm not Superman, I'm his Jewish cousin Superman."

www.chicagocriticalmass.org

The Haymarket Affair

May Day's origins, right here in Chicago

On May 4, 1886 a town meeting was called in Chicago's Haymarket Square by anarchists and labor activists. As the peaceful assembly came to a close, 180 police officers stormed the meeting, demanding it disburse. Suddenly an unknown assailant threw a bomb into the crowd killing a police officer and injuring several others. The police responded instantly by shooting and clubbing wildly into the crowd, killing 7 other fellow police officers, injuring 60 more and killing and injuring an unknown number of civilians at the meeting. This event, and the episode that followed in its wake, known as the Haymarket affair, the Haymarket massacre or the Haymarket tragedy, is the single historic event for which Lucy Parsons is best remembered. Although it was only part of Lucy's long and tireless activist legacy, the Haymarket affair drew international attention to the American anarchist movement and became a historic landmark in anarchist and labor history.

The Haymarket affair grew out of the campaign for the 8 hour workday. Lucy Parsons, her husband, Albert Parsons, and many other anarchist labor activists were already well known in Chicago and across the United States, and had been actively

World Naked Bike Ride



CHICAGO

They say malaria has gotten in your head
Your short bike days are dead
Rat life can be very strange
All those street bike freaks who used to
ride in place
They've joined the rodent race
Some things will never change
Rat King was mistaken
You're not obsolete
Look at all the choppers on the street

Get along, get along Kid Johnny Pay
Get along Kid Johnny Pay (Phone)

Throw those shoes straight else we'll all
end up in jail
These bikes are not for sale
Just climb right up on there
Is there air in the tires
Yes, there's air in the tires
I think the people down the alley
Know who you are

Careful what you carry
'Cause the bike is high
You are still a Rat boy in their eyes

Get along, get along Kid Johnny Pay, get along Kid Johnny Pay...

Johnny
Payphone is currently in rural Ghana
developing a school
for the modification
of bicycles to carry
cargo, sponsored by
Working Bikes.



workingbikes.org

John Greenfield
and his rock band will
perform "Kid Johnny Pay
(Phone)" at U-Lock Rock
at the Handlebar, Wed.
May 12 at 9 pm.

Check out Johnny's African Adventure, now in progress!
<http://www.johnnypayphone.net/blog.php>

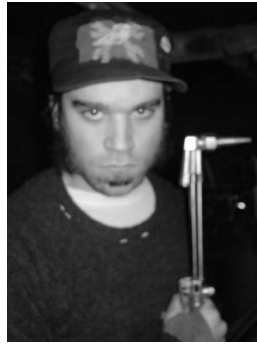
“Kid Johnny Pay (Phone)”

An ode to Johnny Payphone. Inspired by Lisa Phillips.
Lyrics by “Non-Steely” Dan Korn, adapted from “Kid Charlemagne” by Steely Dan (Donald Fagen & Walter Becker).

While the music played you worked by welder light
Those cool Chicago nights
You were the best in town
Just by chance you crossed the Mixtie
with the Pearl
You chopped it for the world
That's when you turned the world around
Did you feel like a rodent
Did you realize
That you were a champion in their eyes

Uncle Grampa's might be laced with
kerosene
And Bubbly wasn't clean
Everyone stopped to stare at your trash-bike triple-high
Every long fork had your number on the wall
You must have chopped them all
You'd go to Ghana on a dare and you'd go it alone
Could you live forever
Did you ever say,
“Are we gonna ride or are we gonna dick
around all day”

Get along, get along Kid Johnny Pay
Get along Kid Johnny Pay (Phone)



Johnny Payphone



Supporters urge Park District to honor anarchist

Chicago Sun-Times, April 15, 2004

By Andrew Herrmann, Staff Reporter

Scholars, labor activists and free speech lovers Wednesday voiced support for a Chicago Park District proposal to name a Northwest Side lot for anarchist **Lucy Parsons**.



The head of the Chicago Police union has objected to naming the undeveloped lot at 4712 W. Belmont for Parsons, the wife of a man executed for the 1886 Haymarket bombing and riot that resulted in the deaths of eight police officers. Until her death in a 1942 house fire, Parson clashed with cops over labor demonstrations and publicly dismissed officers as "organized bandits" and "minions of the oppressing class."

**"More dangerous than
1,000 rioters."
-- the Chicago Police Dept.**

Mark P. Donahue, president of the local Fraternal Order of Police, did not testify at a hearing at the Kilbourn Park field house, 3501 N. Kilbourn. He has complained in a letter to the Park District board, and in comments to reporters, that Parsons "promoted the overthrow of the government and the use of dynamite in getting [her] way."

The animosity is long-standing: A century ago, a police official said Parsons "was more dangerous than a thousand rioters."

organizing with the militant labor movement in Chicago. On May 1st, 1886, a series of massive strikes were called and hundreds of thousands of workers poured out of the factories demanding shorter working hours. Lucy and Albert Parsons alone led 80,000 workers up Michigan Avenue. By May 3rd a lockout had occurred by employers at McCormick Harvester Works in Chicago. 1,500 employees were protesting the lockout when scabs arrived and a small skirmish started between scabs and workers. 200 police arrived in response, shooting at protesters leaving 4 workers dead and many more wounded.



Lucy Parsons

The following night, May 4, the Haymarket Square meeting was called to address the police violence and the continuing labor struggles. It was at this meeting that the police arrived and the bomb thrown. Following the bomb at Haymarket the police responded the next day by rounding up several of the city's leading anarchist labor activists, including Lucy & Albert Parsons and several of their associates, none of which had anything to do with the bombing - most were not even at the event. Lucy was jailed several times for the event and eventu-

Primarily as a result of Lucy Parsons' work the Haymarket martyrs became historic inspirations, creating a wave of anarchists worldwide. Emma Goldman, Voltairine de Cleyre, Alexander Berkman and many other famous anarchists of history were moved, inspired and drawn to anarchism as a result of the Haymarket events. Labor activists the world over dedicated May 1st, May Day, on behalf of the Haymarket martyrs, and scores of radical labor activists and labor unions, including the Industrial Workers of the World, were inspired and moved to action by the tragedies of 1886. The Haymarket affair is one of the most important episodes in US labor and anarchist history.

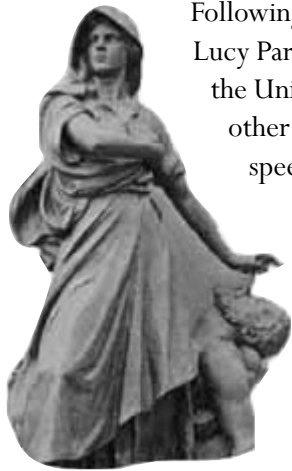
From: <http://www.lucyparsonspj.org/haymarket.html>

The Haymarket Square site is at Randolph and Desplaines Streets, just a few blocks west of the Loop. Look for the official bronze marker. It is flush in the sidewalk on the east side of Desplaines and a few steps north of Randolph.

Bike Ride to Haymarket Martyrs Monument: Meet at Daley Plaza at noon on May Day, Saturday, May 1, for a free 20-mile round trip bike ride to Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park to visit the Haymarket martyrs monument and the graves of Emma Goldman, Lucy Parsons, Joe Hill, et al.

For info, contact Bob Matter: rjmatter@prodigy.net.

ally released, but her husband, Albert, and 7 other anarchists were sentenced, not for the bombing, but for their beliefs in anarchism. Lucy went on a nationwide tour gathering support across the US for her husband and comrades in jail, delivering powerful speeches and reaching hundreds of thousands of people within a couple of months, but it was not enough. In the end, 1 of the anarchists, Louis Lingg killed himself in prison. 2 others, Michael Schwab, and Samuel Fielden, were sentenced to life in prison, while Oscar Neebe got 15 years; and the other 4, Albert Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer, and George Engel were hung.



Following the sentencing of the Haymarket 8, Lucy Parsons vigorously agitated in and out of the United States on behalf of Albert and the other martyred comrades. She delivered speeches constantly and sold thousands of copies of the final statements of the Haymarket martyrs everywhere she went. Word spread of the Haymarket affair and soon it had become international in scope, reaching and inspiring untold numbers of activists.

But William J. Adelman, a University of Illinois professor emeritus and author of *Haymarket Revisited*, told the park board that Parsons was less concerned with overthrowing the government than getting "the government off our backs." In that sense, he said, she was like Ronald Reagan.

In a written statement, Leslie F. Orear, president of the Illinois Labor History Society, described how Parsons led a march of unemployed and was "roughly intercepted" by police and jailed in 1915.

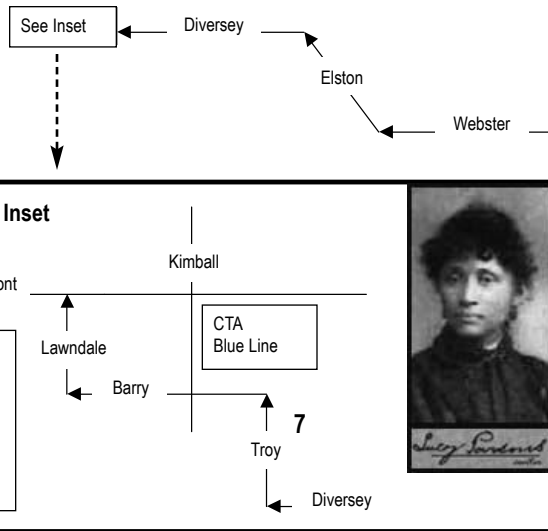
"She was highly regarded among social reformers for her efforts to promote civil rights."
-- Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley

"Instantly, it became a celebrated legal struggle over the rights of demonstrators to make public their issues in the streets of the city, without prior permission of the police," said Orear.

"Lucy Parsons said some things the Chicago Police Department didn't like. Our Constitution says we have the right to say those things," said Bob Matter of Hammond, a retired programmer. "She was continually shut down by the Chicago Police Department her whole life whenever she tried to speak. Now, the Chicago Police are trying to shut her memory down."

Support Mayor Daley's Parsons Park proposal.
Support Anarchy. Vote for the Parsons May Day Critical Mass Map!

www.lucyparsonspj.org



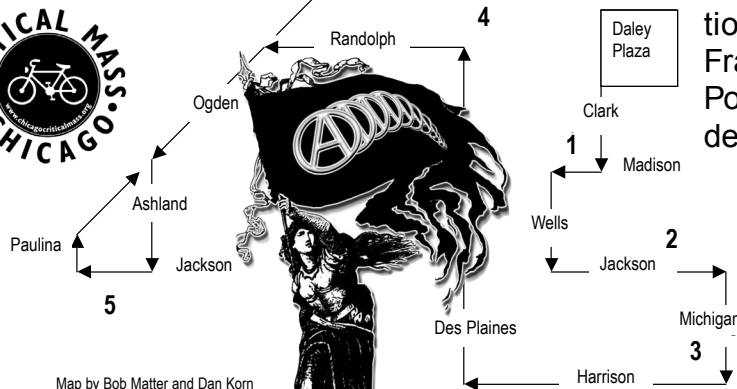
Lucy Parsons was an anarchist labor activist during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her fiery oratory played a crucial role in the success of the 8-hour work-day movement. The city of Chicago is considering naming a park in Parsons' honor at 4712 W. Belmont, but opposition from the Fraternal Order of Police threatens to derail the memorial.

"More dangerous than 1,000 rioters."
-- the Chicago Police Dept.

Chicago Critical Mass
www.chicagocriticalmass.org

The "I LOVE LUCY" Ride
April 30, 2004

1. 148 W Madison - First IWW Headquarters
2. 28 E Jackson - Illinois Labor History Society
3. 520 S Michigan - Congress Hotel Strike
4. Randolph/Des Plaines - Haymarket Police Riot Site
5. 1645 W Jackson - Teamster City Albert/Lucy Parsons Mural
6. 1908 N Mohawk - Albert & Lucy Parsons Home
7. 3130 N Troy - Lucy Parsons died in 1942 fire. Now I-90.
8. 4712 W Belmont - Lucy EldineGonzalez Parsons Park



Map by Bob Matter and Dan Korn

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