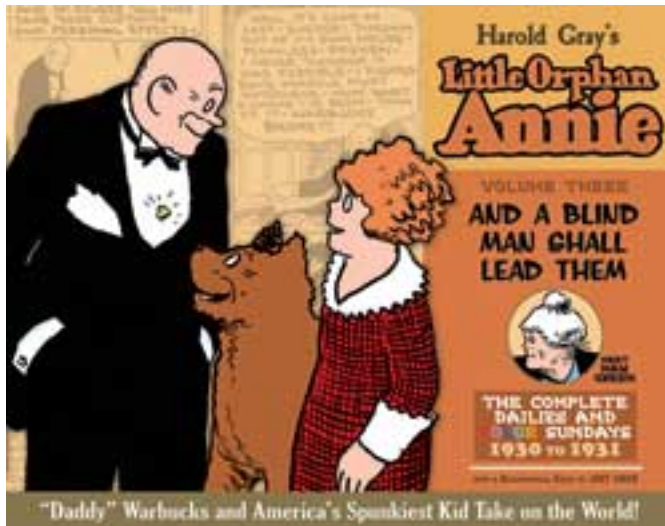


Daddy Warbucks Watch

by Mary Beaudoin, with excerpts from CorpWatch



Cover of a collection of 1930-1931 Little Orphan Annie comic strips by Harvey Gray. The title reads, "And a Blind Man Shall Lead Them."

While permanent solutions to war profiteering await, these faithful watchdogs are on duty letting people know where Daddy Warbucks resides and what he is up to.

CorpWatch is a watchdog group that lists five ways that corporations profit from war:

Reconstruction: The victors of modern wars "make extraordinary profits by giving contracts to their favorite companies to rebuild what they have destroyed and then hand the bill to local taxpayers."

Logistics: "Private companies do many of the routine activities in the military from cooking food to repairing fighter jets under a program called 'the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program'The federal government has an open-ended mandate and budget to send these companies anywhere in the world to run humanitarian or military operations for profit..."

Security: "Today's mercenary is more likely to wear a business suit or stand guard over an oil pipeline. Companies like Defence Systems Ltd. guard British Petroleum's pipelines in Colombia. Dyncorp polices the Mexican border, while Military Professionals Resources Incorp. trains U.S. soldiers in Kuwait and Iraq in live-weapons fire."

Intelligence: "From satellites that can photograph postage stamps from space to covert operatives who are searching for Osama bin Laden, private companies now

help run much of the clandestine services for organizations like the CIA.” Science Applications Int’l Corp. of San Diego is designing eavesdropping software for the National Security Agency in the U.S. to monitor phones, faxes, and email.

Weapons: “Making bombs and fighter jets is one of the fastest growing industries in the world...companies like Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and General Electric have made billions from manufacturing ‘smart bombs,’ amphibious assault ships, and nuclear weapons.”

More information can be found at: www.corpwatch.org/section.php?id=5

AlliantACTION continues to ask “Who Profits? Who Dies?” The web site www.alliantaction.org, created by organizer Tom Bottolene, provides detailed information with news updates and graphics, illustrating the products of death and destruction designed, manufactured, and sold by Minnesota’s largest lethal weapons contractor, Alliant Tech Systems (ATK), headquartered in the Twin Cities suburb of Eden Prairie. Info also in print through the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

True to its name, AlliantACTION is active, as well as educational. No matter how severe the weather, every week throughout the year for the past 14 years, its dedicated activists have stood as witnesses of conscience at this source of world woes. AlliantACTION vigils every Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at ATK corporate headquarters, 7480 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie.

Lockheed: “We do not concede!” Not far from ATK, in the neighboring suburb of Eagan, Lockheed Martin Corp. maintains a branch that works in partnership with and provides contracts to ATK. Lockheed Martin, whose main headquarters is in Baltimore, Maryland, manufactures the aptly named Hellfire warheads, which are delivered by the drones that cause so many civilian deaths in Afghanistan. Lockheed Martin is beset by its own set of dedicated peace vigilers. They stand with “Honk for Peace” signs at the intersection of Pilot Knob and Yankee Doodle Road, Eagan, every Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Regular AlliantACTION vigiler Steve Clemens blogs about the experience, arrests, trials, and conscientious objection on mennonista.blogspot.com. After an arrest on ATK’s property, another AlliantACTION vigiler, organizer Pepperwolf, explained that she enjoyed the company of other defendants and supporters and the fact that she has “the knowledge that I wasn't complicit in violations of international humanitarian law. And perhaps I chipped away a little more at the block of apathy, ignorance, and our culture of violence.” She also said, “I am reminded of the weather scientist's forecasting attempts that found even the slightest and undetectable difference in otherwise identical weather conditions could cause entirely different weather to emerge. This was explained with the saying that ‘the flap of a butterfly's wings on one continent can change the weather on another.’”