

Million Mask March makes good television and rubbish protest!

There's a moment in Aaron Sorkin's, *The Newsroom* when anchorman Will McAvoy is interviewing an Occupy Wall Street spokesperson that makes that makes good lefties like me duck and cover. Here's the clip. ([link](#)).

In brutal manner McAvoy takes apart the movement's lack of clarity, lack of structure, lack of leadership, lack of preparation, lack of clear goals, lack of willingness to talk and lack of any kind of clear exit strategy.

Anonymous, faceless, leaderless and inevitably voiceless protests seem to be all in vogue at the moment. Yesterday the 'Million Mask March' loosely organised by a group called 'Anonymous' took to the streets in large cities across the globe. ([link](#)).

This mostly non-violent protest looks comically familiar to the satirical example presented in *The Newsroom* clip above. No clear aims. No clear issues other than being broadly anti capitalist. No leadership structure – unless you include Russell Brand gatecrashing and stealing much of the publicity. And the biggest omission: no identity – the people were encouraged to be faceless by wearing Guy Fawkes masks. Guy Fawkes, you might remember, was the guy who tried to blow up parliament in a terrorist attack that would have made the 7-11 bombings look like playtime.

The axe I grind is this: I support and agree with much of what a lot of these protesters are trying to say, but they simply give protest a bad name. This kind of movement is to protest as a baby crying in the corner is to asking mum for another cookie. No hope for dialogue, no chance for discussion and no way of evaluating or even distinguishing their aims and value's from the government's. No suggestions, no solutions, no signatures, no identity, just all lot of indistinguishable noise from a corner.

There is little to differentiate this anonymous movement with anonymous, all caps trolling on webpages, which no one in the civilised spectrum of the world doesn't roll their eyes at.

This is the absolute worst thing about these types of protests. They, by design, easily allow serious people to disregard them. Without any clear message or ability to meet with the messengers the government and business owners can simply say there is nothing we can do.

I want to stand with the discontents and malcontents who have been born out of the last two decades despicable abuse of power and money. However I also want a face and a voice. I want forums and meetings where I can raise my objections and seek change. I

want to be seen, heard and counted. I will not wear a mask, I will not be anonymous and I will not be content sitting in crying in the corner hoping someone takes pity on me.

Dear 'anonymous.' Playtime is over; take the issues seriously or please shut up and stop embarrassing the rest of us.