



***“THE TIGERS
OF WRATH
ARE WISER
THAN THE
HORSES OF
INSTRUCTION”***

CONTEMPT



***DOES NOT
MEAN WE ARE
JEALOUS...***

DISCONTENT

T.O.C The Fine Print

What is the point?

Pg. 2

Justice: A Dead Word

Pg. 4

Insanity is Only Appropriate

-A. Lunatic

Pg. 11

Take your mark, get ready, ablate:

3 positions against prison

-August O'Claire

Pg. 18

Chronology of Prisoner Resistance

Pg. 25

Anti-G20 Resistance in Toronto

-Zig-Zag

Pg. 31

Oakland Disgraced. Tensions Re-ignite:

An interview with a Bay Area Resident

Pg. 37

Repression

Pg. 40

Barefoot Bandit

Pg. 57

Redundancy Equates Death

-Marat Reckham

Pg. 59

Discover More on your Own

Pg. 63

Disclaimer:

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This magazine is free to people currently incarcerated by contacting the prisoner support groups mentioned at the end of the "repression" section. This magazine is pretty much free to everyone, except for book stores and people buying this at for-profit literature events.

Dedication:

Special thanks to our proof-readers. Special thanks to those who provided the resources, space, and patience needed for this publication to exist. Special thanks to all those who helped to produce the content in this issue, both in writing and reality. Special thanks to the Big Apple for your Nightlife. Without it we would never be able to go to print.

Sending Solidarity and comfort to all those looking for something else.

Agitating till the grave,

Fire to the Prisons:

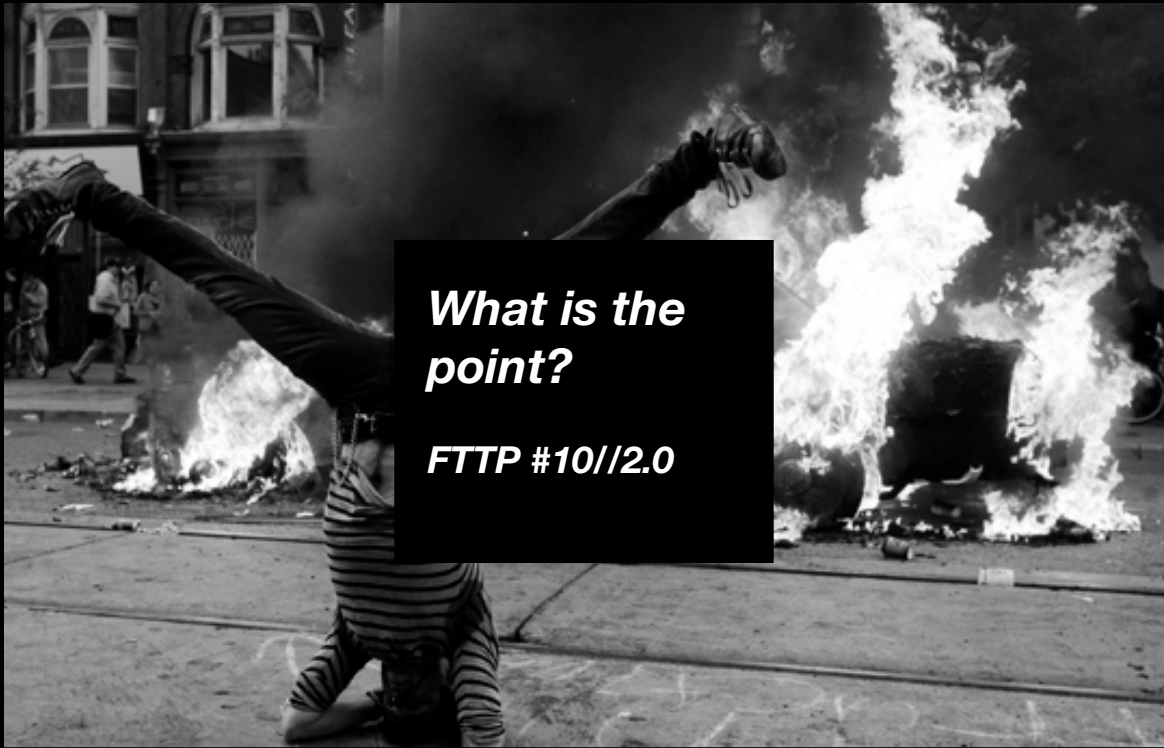
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***What is the
point?***

FTTP #10//2.0

This technically is the tenth issue of Fire to the Prisons. It's a sign of defeat, really, to have consistently published issue after issue. That's because this publication is not supposed to bolster our credentials in "the scene," pass time because our lives are too boring, or launch us into a career in publishing. Our intentions with this magazine are to provide a source of printed matter that will continue to recognize a broader struggle against society as we know it. As an object in and of itself, this magazine poses no threat to the system we oppose. At the most it might give a police inspector a paper cut. But we hope the words on these pages can -- at the very least -- unify and stimulate multiple social tensions in today's world by connecting them on paper to a common condition or enemy.

We look to remind readers that there is a very conscious and active struggle going on every day and across the world against the makeup of the modern era. Conflict with forces that act as the visible body of institutions that determine society today is an everyday occurrence. Our goal is to both prevent these acts from becoming isolated by connecting them to similar instances, and also provide an analysis of these events that examines how society itself provokes them and where there is potential for these actions to grow.

Neighborhoods battling the police, prisoners confronting their guards, civilians robbing banks, indigenous communities disrupting colonization; our goal is to recognize that discontent is in no way an isolated feeling, it is as global as the system that it is directed against.

Our readers are as anonymous as our writers. We have distributors and folks who consistently order each issue as it's announced, but we rarely get any feedback. Many of our readers are anarchists, who in most cases write critiques that appear to stem from associations they project on us with "so-and-so" scene or political identity. This has been an issue for us, and part of why we have been considering discontinuing the publication.

The reason this issue is out is because of the unique emails and letters we got after our last issue announced we were re-considering continuing to print FTTP. In response, we got a chance to hear from unique people who discovered our magazine independent of any scene. We received messages from individuals recently released from prison, teenagers inside mental institutions, struggling artists, bored youth, and many anonymous messages from the states and around the world mentioning the importance of our publication in their lives.

With our threat of discontinuing we also received some constructive criticism. We chose to try and prioritize content that is not as time sensitive. While we will continue our "repression" and "prisoner resistance" news sections, because many of those who may find them interesting or inspiring may not have as easy access to that information or a computer, we will try to focus on incidents of social revolt in a less "news clip" sort of way. With doing this we intend to provide a more in-depth analysis or description of events. This will both allow us more time between publications, and also help us to save some cash on the extra pages. Yet, if you found our "revolt" and "action" news especially exciting please check out our "links" section at the back of this issue. Websites that are consistently updated with that sort of news are specifically cited on the links page.

We always save the introduction for last when it comes to articles we need to get done. Like we said at the beginning of this, writing an introduction for a new issue reminds us of our continued defeat as revolutionaries still living under the conditions we actively struggle against. This magazine will only continue as long as we continue to have to survive the restrictions of the economy, government, and simply the totality of society as we know it. Meaning that if

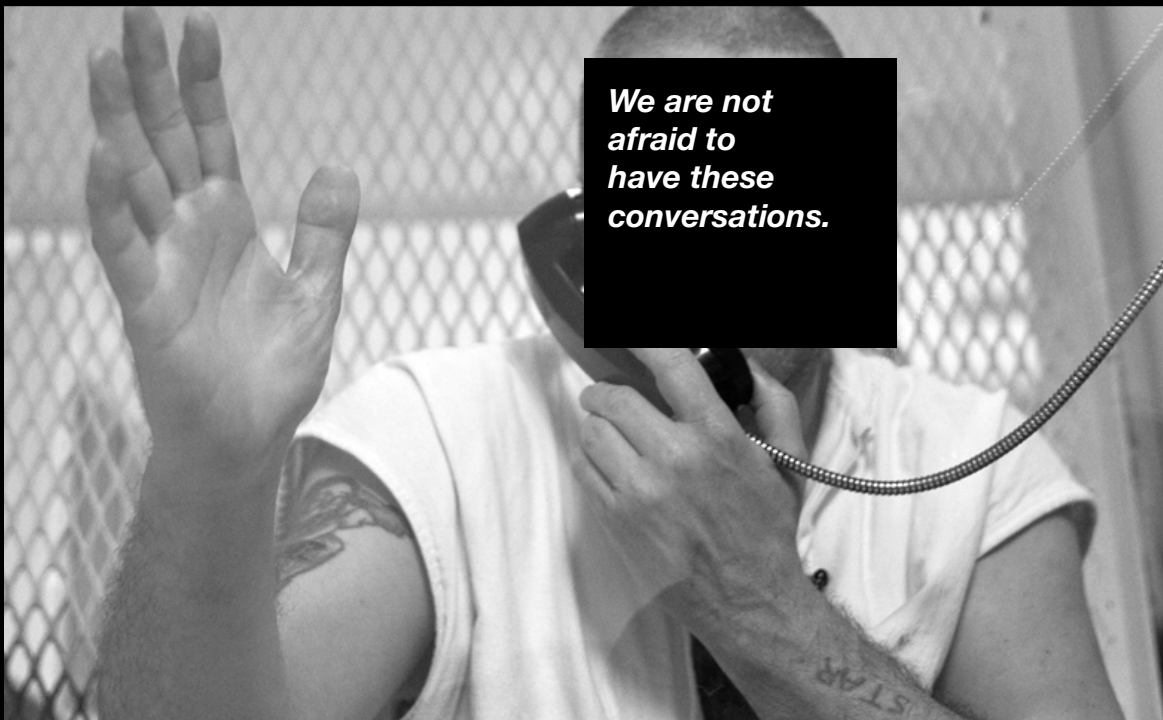
this magazine is coming out, society has remained the same. It is incredibly sad to report on comrades behind bars or communities enduring harsh repression. While also reminding us of our defeat, it is always good to be reminded of our small victories in the everyday struggle against domination.

We will always hope that this issue will be our last, because for this magazine to become obsolete, the conditions we face everyday in the world today must be destroyed.

We want to be an exception in the literary world. We exist not to succeed as a commodity, novelty, or periodical, but as only an appendage of a larger body of conflict and possibility.

We are not frightened of having these conversations.

The desire for drastic change and the desperation to express that, is on the tip of all our tongues, its simply a matter of biting down, overcoming the pain, and seeing what comes out.

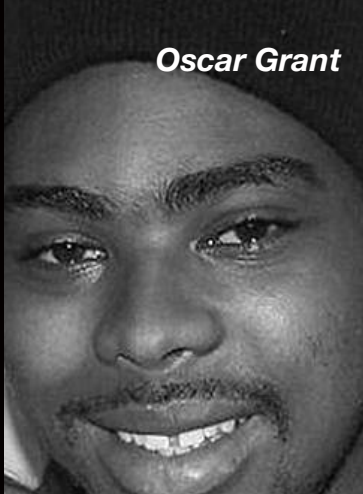




Aiyana Jones



Aiyana Jones' Family



Oscar Grant

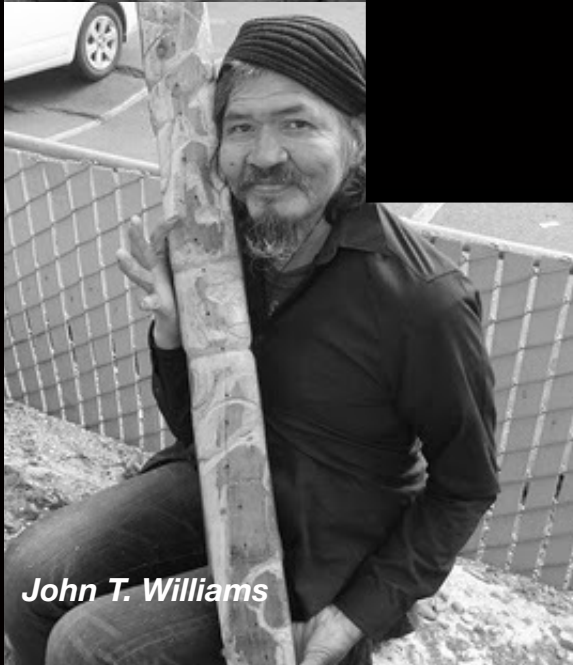
Justice:

A Dead Word

"Our desire for revenge will never be satisfied in the halls of justice, revenge has to be taken in the streets."



Lovelle Mixon



John T. Williams

"Ashley"



W

e will never allow “justice” to ease our pain, our contempt, or our need for retaliation.

This word is the foundation of prison, the ease for our vengeance, and the loss of our power. It is the word of those trying to shift the conditions as opposed to truly overcome them. It is the grin of disempowerment, and so many of us can only stand it for so long.

Last night I was watching YouTube videos showing relatives of murdered family members at trial jumping the barrier wall and getting a swing at their offenders in the courtroom. There is no follow up as to what happens in most of these cases, but we assume that such behavior in the courtroom carries a hefty prison term or fine. These people instinctually realize that justice will never quench their thirst for a real sense of proper revenge. This display of complete disregard for the order of justice is a symptom of a larger feeling of disempowerment. One can only assume that however many years in prison (Or if the lawyer is talented, days in a mental institution) could not surpass the knowledge that you did everything in your own power to take things into your own hands, without concern for “the law.”

It is awful to research, but everyday police repression is best taught in the visual form. While searching for courtroom fights, I was also looking for cases of police and neighborhood conflict. I watched for almost two hours something called “hood fights”, which better portrays everyday life under the reign of justice than any civil rights or anti-police “brutality” website does. In the video parents watch their children get thrown against police cars and beaten over the head, then the parents themselves get arrested for screaming at the officers or trying to save their loved ones from further beating. In the next video police roll up undercover and smashing out windows of cars stopped at red lights, then beat those within distance of them that looked concerned or shocked. In every precinct that the videos were filmed, everyone appeared to be a target, and onlookers were always subject to arrest or beating. Considering the tax-free income the police get, and the neighborhoods they say the footage was from, we assume most arrested never were able to afford a proper lawsuit, and were probably just happy to not get prison time.

1. *Hood Fights* is actually a DVD or VHS series of compiled footage of fights in mostly poor and black neighborhoods in the US. It's actually a bit offensive considering its marketed as popcorn friendly entertainment. It follows the “advertising” style of videos like *Girls Gone Wild* or other commercials that come on late at night. The specific segment I referred to appeared to be a video compilation of neighborhoods dealing with police. It was a mixture of both police beatings and arrests, as well as individuals or groups responding to police attacks.

What is justice though?

“Justice concerns itself with the proper ordering of philosophy and people within a society.”

According to acclaimed Harvard university professor John Rawls, “Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought.”

Both definitions come from sources that in no way question the legitimacy of justice.

We would define justice as an imposed social “morality” that acts as a regulation over all of our relations with each other. It is the rationalization of a mediated society, where roles, consequences, and “common sense” are pre-determined by institutions that systematically perpetuate with or without the consent of the people in that society.

It acts as the representative of our torment or desire for revenge, with or without our say. It determines what our value is, and how we are to earn it. It is the standard for our behavior, and our punishment for ever not reaching it. It is the invisible regulation of a mediated society, and the appointed rewards for some, and demise of others.

In more common everyday dialogue, justice is used most when referring to the “baby-sitting” of the state. There is the police to remind us of it, and prisons and courts to help explain it to us. What is most important to understand about this filthy word is that those of us without political or economic power will never be able to determine how justice is both defined or brought out. Justice is inherently beyond our reach, because it only exists in a society that measures our reach. Justice is expropriated homes and savings for bail. Justice is the quarter million a year salaries for the conversations of marketing executives, and the six dollar an hour standard wage for the illegal immigrant cleaning the clogged toilet before returning to the kitchen to do the dishes. It is the heroism seen in the cowards known as the police, while they beat and murder us into peace. It is what makes an unfair life understood as fair, and simply something to never be trusted.

Some have spent much time compiling accounts of police repression in both the federal, political, and daily form. Intending to act as a voice that has no faith in justice. Its important as a revolutionary voice to act as a resource providing examples of everyday struggle against the state. Considering that justice is the foundation of the state's existence, we are going to provide some recent examples of individuals and communities coping with the wrath of justice, and in some cases, choosing to take its claims into their own hands.

“It’s So Cold in the D.”

On May 15th, 2010, a seven year old girl named Aiyana Jones, was set on fire and shot by the Detroit police department’s “Special Response Tactical” unit. The officer who shot Aiyana was Joseph Weekley.

While shooting for the A&E reality show *The First 48*, Detroit police were conducting a raid at the two-family home where Aiyana was sleeping. The raid was intended to arrest a man named Chauncey Owens for the alleged murder of a 17-year-old boy in Detroit’s east side the night before. Chauncey has yet to have been convicted, while on the other hand it is completely confirmed that Joseph Weekley fired the bullet that killed Aiyana, yet Joseph is home on paid suspension.

Chauncey was found after Aiyana was killed by police in a separate apartment on the second floor. The original story told by police was that before entering the house they threw a flash grenade through the front window, and then after entering the house Mertilla Jones (Aiyana’s grandmother) tried to grab the officer’s gun, in which it accidentally went off and shot 7-year-old Aiyana in the neck.

Shortly after the murder made international news, lawyer Geoffrey Fieger (Who also defended Jack Kevorkian.) began holding press conferences.

The family’s story is different. The Jones family states that police threw a flash grenade through the window (igniting Aiyana’s sleeping bag on fire), and began to open fire through the front window immediately after throwing it and before even entering.

What makes this situation also unique is that it was recorded for a reality television show. The video not only supports the story given by the Jones family, but it also exposes more details. The video shows that immediately after throwing the flash grenade, and before entering the house, police officer Weekley opened fire into the room Aiyana was sleeping in. It also shows that within seconds, before any real dispute could possibly have taken place inside the house, a police officer came out holding Aiyana’s dead body in one hand, and then immediately starts wrapping her up, then throws her in the back of the police car. The grandmother claims that officers immediately grabbed Aiyana before she could even grab her, then walked back into the apartment and arrested her. Days after the murder, a press conference was held by

2. Joseph “Weak” Weekley is a man best known for shooting and killing a 7-year-old girl. He is, of course, a police officer. He was a 14 year old veteran to his cause, and a star of *The First 48*. He is currently facing another lawsuit for a raid in 2007 where he killed two dogs and held a gun to children.

Geoffrey Fieger announcing that he would represent the Jones’ family in two lawsuits that were filed that day against the Detroit police: one against the “unlawful” murder of Aiyana, and one for the “wrongful” arrest of Mertilla Jones.

Since then, the ground zero Mosque and upcoming mid-term elections have flooded the media. Other than occasional updates from local Detroit news, it is very hard to find anything about this case, mostly because it seems that coverage has almost come to a halt.

After about 5 months of silence in the media, it was announced the first week of August that the FBI would also begin conducting an independent investigation into police officer Joseph Weekley shooting 7-year-old Aiyana Jones, but not stop or disregard the state investigation. Neither local nor federal police have communicated a deadline for the investigation, and typically while the investigation continues, Aiyana grabs the attention of the news less and less.

That is where information ends.

What and when the outcome for Aiyana’s case will be brought forth is not determined. Before writing this I even wrote the email contact for the closest thing I saw to a support website for the Jones’ family. It was a Facebook page called “She Has a Name”. The page has 13,000 “fans” who we assume are in support of the Jones family, but very little information is on the page at all. We wrote asking for an update other than what we already found out, and they quickly responded that they have none, and really do not know when they will ever get one. The case is stagnant, possibly because it’s the only thing the police can do to prevent Detroit from exploding.

Faith in justice is the only thing keeping Detroit patient.

If the police were to have gone to the left apartment door instead of the right, and the bullet shot actually killed Chauncey Owens instead of Aiyana and before the “appropriate” legal process was carried through, would police practice ever have come into question? Would justice have been served? If this wasn’t a child, and the circumstances weren’t so unusual, would it have been anything out of the ordinary enough to provoke a real response? If you call the media attention a real one at all anyway.

While Aiyana’s tragically young age makes her specific death more noticeable, this is common police practice. Like the frequently mentioned case of Oscar Grant, we only hear about this murder because the police simply had no way to cover it up.

In the last few months alone we can easily discover similar stories of “justice”.

War Continues in Washington

Washington has been an almost subtle battleground between citizens and police. Fire to the Prisons had in issue 8 an in-depth description of Maurice Clemmons and Christopher Monfort. Maurice Clemmons was victim to local police harassment for almost his whole life, until deciding that enough was enough, and fear must be struck into the hearts of police across Washington state, by shooting 4 cops in a coffee shop. Christopher Monfort felt the same in response to the police beating of a 15 year old girl caught on tape. He shot an off-duty cop, and blew up 3 police cruisers.

One Seattle native told us that becoming a police officer is not commonly supported in Seattle the way it might be in other parts of the country. He also told me that this has a lot to do with the aftermath of police conduct during the 1999 Seattle WTO demonstrations. Many police officers either had their badges removed due to lawsuits, or left the department due to sheer embarrassment. With little time the city had to quickly import police replacements who were comfortable to face a city where many of its residents had a very visible disdain for their position.

Maurice Clemmons and Christopher Monfort are simply two rare accounts of individuals standing up against justice. Both cases were almost incredibly hard to get information on, especially considering Maurice is dead and Christopher is paralyzed and in custody with little media help for his voice to be heard. Both of their conditions were due to police bullets shot before trial. The civilian offensive on police equates to only a mere fraction of police violence. When an individual or group has had enough and chooses to attack the police it is always international headlines, on the other hand the police offensive is everyday, and only on occasion, or in its most tragic form does it ever grab the media's attention. With that said, it is interesting as to how

much the Washington police have been in national news.

On August 30th at 4:15pm police officer Ian Birk saw a Native-American man named John T. Williams crossing the street holding a 3 inch blade and a piece of wood. According to the only witness nearby the officer approached John and from 9 to 10 feet away began screaming at him to drop the knife. By the third request, police officer Ian Birk shot and killed John T. Williams by firing four gun shots into his body. John was a wood carver and partially deaf. He was using the knife he had to carve wood, and he literally couldn't actually hear the officer speaking. The officer claims that John was beginning to lunge at him with the knife. This is a knife that is legal to carry in the city of Seattle, not that it seems to matter.

They also just before this had a controversy about police officer Shady Cobane and company stopping a random Latino man on the sidewalk, throwing him to the ground, and then stomping his head in while also screaming "I'm going to beat the Mexican piss out of you." The video was put on YouTube. The officer offered his deepest apology with a tearless weep. The Latino man is happy to not be in jail. Not that it matters, but we do want to point out that this officer was never charged.

The first week of September left two tasered to death by police in Seattle alone.

The fifteen year old girl caught on tape being beaten by police that provoked the actions of Christopher Monfort was not an isolated incident. Just this last June, another young black girl was caught on tape getting punched in the face and further beaten for questioning an officer ticketing her for jaywalking near her school.

While these officers get paid suspension and wait for the headlines to die down, relatives and residents sit patiently for justice to serve in its court. Who needs to die next, or does it have

to be our kids or relatives that need to get beaten and sent to jail for all of us to wipe that stupid fucking look of shock off our faces, the next time a Maurice or Christopher choose to take things into their own hands?

Philly

Philadelphia, like New York City, has an incredibly notorious police department, that unless dropping bombs on homes³, or shooting people 50 times⁴, generally stays pretty clear of the national headlines. This could have something to do with the fact that in both of these cities, many police officers are not white, and it is hard to put a racial spin on a lot of the police beating, harassment, or murder that goes down. But Askia Sabur got a beating by West Philadelphia police that was caught on video, and simply could not be ignored.

On September 10th, Askia was standing on a corner outside of what we think was a Chinese food restaurant waiting for his food. Police officers told him to clear the corner, but he just finished paying for his food. We can't quite figure out why the officers asked him to move, but when asked to move he told them he was waiting for his food, where the officers then asked him for his ID. When he went for his wallet, the officers started to choke him. Askia, with his cousin at the time, was then thrown to the ground and piled on by multiple officers. Someone was filming the incident from this point. Askia sat on the ground and refused to tolerate the attack, but by refuse we mean he sat there and did nothing, just repeated over and over again, that he did nothing. He did not fight back but simply refused to acknowledge the legitimacy

3. Referring to the 1985 raid on the "MOVE" organization's house in Philly, when police dropped a military-grade C-4 plastic explosive bomb on the house with multiple people including children inside. This is also resulted in 65 houses on the block going up in flames.

4. Refers to Sean Bell, who was an unarmed man shot 50 times in NYC in 2008 the night before his wedding.

of the police claims, and sat there surrounded by on-lookers and got just straight beaten!

It was an almost Ghandi-like beating, where multiple officers held him down, and one specific greasy fat one kept billy clubbing him to the back, head, arms, and face for doing nothing at all. At certain points in the video, officers pull a gun, pepper spray, or billy club onto onlookers for their pleas to stop beating him. Askia was eventually tackled by 9 officers and hand cuffed. He walked away with a broken arm, 5 staples in the back of his head, and a charge for resisting arrest. We don't know what to expect from this case, the officers explain that it was appropriate conduct for insubordination, and that nothing was done wrong. The issue for most protesting the incident was that it was really messed up, and that they saw it happen on video. The police respond that this is their job, and "people don't always walk away with a smile after we arrest them". But in this case there is no racial aspect, so its hard to get the edginess needed for "justice" to calm it down.

Juvenile Detention Counselor

It's not just murder or beatings that captures the headlines. In New York City a man named Tony Simmons, or "Tyson" to some, was recently given probation for raping and sexually assaulting three minors. Tony Simmons was a juvenile justice counselor who worked with youth facing juvenile detention time. The three minors have chosen to remain nameless due to a fear of Tony finding them and hurting them again, but one girl courageously revealed her first name to the "Daily News" paper in NYC and chose to speak out after his recent sentencing.

In 2005 a girl named Ashley was attending juvenile court for allegedly filing a "fake police report". Tony was responsible for escorting her to the courtroom the day of her trial. After ar-

iving early to court, Tony brought Ashley who was in handcuffs at the time to the elevator, allegedly to go up to the courtroom. While she was expecting to go up, Tony pressed the basement button in the elevator and then held it in on the floor while he proceeded to pull her pants down and rape her with what the *Daily News* describes as "practiced and careful precision."

When she was finally brought to the courtroom's floor, Tony released her just after gesturing with a finger over his mouth that she not say anything about it. After being violated, the judge sentenced Ashley to 12 months in juvenile detention.

Ashley's stay in juvenile detention actually ended up exceeding two years for "inappropriate" or "hostile" behavior. We can imagine that being sentenced to 12 months for "filing a fake police report" after a 42 year old man who works as a court appointed counselor just raped you, could bring one to lash out.

Over his decade as a juvenile justice counselor Tony had no problems doing his job, until 2008 when he was indicted on three counts of sexual assault. While even New York's assistant D.A. claims that the three cases were most likely "just the tip of the iceberg" for Tony, only two other girls came out against him. One girl was a 15 year old who said Tony sodomized her in the locker room at a girl's detention holding area. He did this behind a locker that she claims he kept in there to store condoms and cookies. The third case was a 13 year old girl in 2000. She was also raped in the same holding area.

Two years after the indictment Tony pleaded guilty to all 3 accounts of sexual assault on minors. He was given 10 years of probation, and was legally obliged to register as a sex offender. Although this article made it into the headlines of a few media outlets, there is no update as to whether or not anyone is truly challenging the sentence.

Whether or not anyone is, it is quite obvious why someone like Tony would get the job he worked. It is also quite obvious that Tony was probably responsible for multiple other rapes and assaults on girls who were under his "care".

While weed possession in many parts of the country could carry larger consequences than this, why did Tony, a servant of the law only receive probation for such vile acts?

These are everyday tales that are only unique in their ability to catch the headlines. In Los Angeles, a community refused to rely on media hype or the process of "justice," and chose to communicate their frustrations collectively, and directly.

Pico-Union, L.A., California

On September 5th, Los Angeles police shot and killed in broad daylight a father of 3, and Guatemalan day laborer, Manual Jamines. According to police, Manual was shot because he lunged at them with a knife after being stopped as he was crossing the street. Since it was mid-afternoon, hundreds witnessed the shooting. All witnesses claim that Manual had no knife, and in no way posed a threat to the officer. But within 40 seconds of dialogue police shot Manual twice, and he was lost forever. In a neighborhood that is not foreign to police murder or conflict, outrage by witnesses and the neighborhood to this specific shooting by the police clearly marks the fact that the police are lying through their teeth.

This happened in the Pico-Union neighborhood of Los Angeles, which was recognized as one of the most damaged neighborhoods after the Rodney King riots of 1992. This neighborhood is known for its tension with police; in 1999 the entire district was claiming a common lawsuit against police abuse. Roughly 50% of residents in the Pico-Union district of L.A are living there illegally. Assuming police are aware

of this fact, it wouldn't come as a surprise if they found this to be the perfect neighborhood to test their guns and batons.

Police were forced to hold public meetings about the murder due to media attention, they stuck to their story that Manual, a man who probably tried to avoid police confrontation as much as possible considering his complicated immigration status, lunged towards the officer. Whether or not this was the case, you could observe footage of the audience having no interest in the claims and excuses provided by "justice". It was essential for people of the Pico-Union to communicate a contempt for the police in their neighborhood.

Knowing the police would most likely get away with the murder of Manual, hundreds of Pico-Union residents came together to confront the police directly in the streets. Over two nights, hundreds of legal and illegal immigrants roamed the streets together before a very L.A.-style riot police force. Out of the arrested, a few are now being held by ICE and awaiting deportation. All those involved faced further police repression either with batons, tear gas, or rubber bullets.

The Pico-Union neighborhood clearly recognizes that justice will never serve them. LA was not in flames, but hundreds of community members came together and threw bottles at police, walked through the streets creating barriers of burning trash cans and newspaper boxes, attacked outsider cars, degraded police and wealthy onlookers, and voiced their solidarity with a murdered resident of their neighborhood. Enough was clearly enough, and the risk of deportation did not match the yearning for avenging the murder of Manual.

Justice: A Dead Word

Our desire for revenge will never be satisfied in the halls of justice, revenge has to be taken in the streets. The idea of justice is the rationale that allows the police and courts to beat and imprison us. It will never be able to heal our wounds, because it is what originally gave them to us. We see victories in moments where we refuse to accept the beatings, as well as the social order that enforces justice. We see a potential for a sense of empowerment among dominated people in the 1992 L.A riots after Rodney King's beating was caught on camera. Or the 2008 Greek riots after 16 year old Alexis Gregoropoulos was killed by police. Or the Oakland 2009 and on-going tension after Oscar Grant was murdered by officer Johannes Mehserle. Or in Cincinnati 2001 when police officer Steven Roach killed 19 year old Timothy Thomas. In every moment that we come together and discover that justice will only grant us defeat, and only the fiery manifestations of our collective discontent for it will ever give us any taste of true satisfaction.

Is the life of 7-year-old Aiyana Jones only worthy of a lawsuit or suspension? Could our feelings of disgust and shock when we watched Oscar Grant being shot from behind really ever be appeased by justice putting his killer behind bars longer?

Can justice really put a price to the constant torment of surviving the system that determines/enforces it?

Most importantly, and in all of these cases, how can we continue to ignore the fact that in uniform or not, nice or mean, guilty or innocent, justice will only maintain the society we endure everyday. The problem will never be solved only systematically prolonged.

Knowing there is nothing we can do to bring back those who have died before the barrel of justice, what will quench our thirst for "justice" per se will never

have anything to do with what we understand as justice today. If any of the police who killed or raped any of the victims mentioned in this article received even life in prison, would we feel comfortable going to sleep at night knowing the spirits of lost friends and loved ones were properly avenged?

Could those responsible for the everyday torment and abuse of law and order ever really punish themselves to our satisfaction?

By losing faith in "justice", we restore a faith in ourselves.

It's important that we begin to come together and rid our communities of the patience "justice" demands of us. It is not one bad cop, not whether or not a prison is up to code, or whether or not a jury is non-bias, the issue is that an entire social system pre-determines the way we deal with each other, and even it's presence upon us.

Until the police are gone, until the courts lose our respect, and until the prisons are eliminated forever, we will never be truly free and experiencing our lives, on our terms. Until we move away from the logic of justice, we will continue to survive a society of punishment.

Until "justice" is cleared from our plate of goals, the murderers will always win, and we will remain defeated.



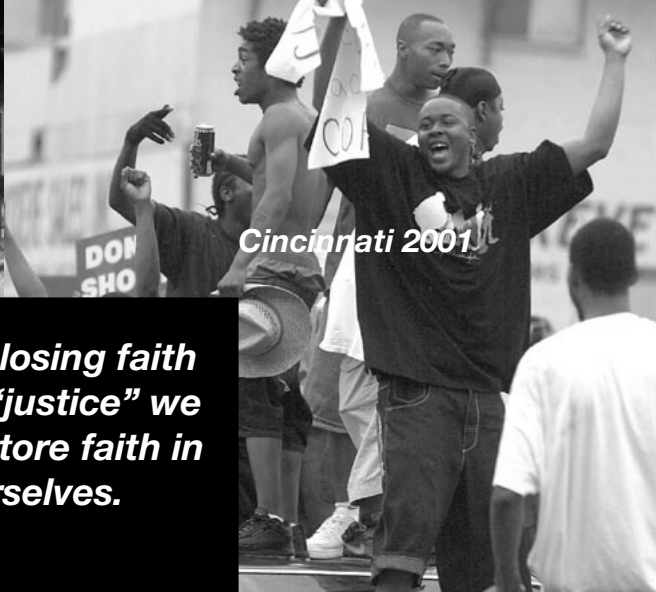
Greece 2008



Oakland 2010



L.A. Riots 1992



Cincinnati 2001

***By losing faith
in "justice" we
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ourselves.***



Cincinnati 2001



Oakland 2009



Insanity Is Only Appropriate

-A. Lunatic

Have you had trouble finding motivation to get out of bed in the morning?

Have you ever felt contempt for authority figures in your life?

Have you ever felt bored or dissatisfied?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are very likely taught to believe that these feelings are symptoms of a “chemical imbalance” or “disorder” that could very easily be medicated or “worked through” with the “appropriate” help.

This understanding of our “discomforts” is taught to us by the same institutions or fields that exist to determine what is and is not sane. It is also the same institutions or fields of thought that exist as part of a larger system that drives us to feel such discomforts in the first place.

This article was written to confront the institutions produced to mediate common thought.

I strongly believe as someone considered part of the “insane” that these are the results of surviving our current society and the individualized environments we endure in the process.

Saying that, I want to search for solutions that don’t come with prescriptions or bills, but carry a conscious desire to transform one’s environment and confront a society that forces us to accept these dissatisfied feelings as normal or inevitable.

It is not just the facilitation of therapy, analysis of a shrink, or prescriptions of psychiatry that prevent us from fully connecting with our feelings of discontent, sadly many of us who don’t have access to conventional “therapy” run to the streets for a cheaper cure. There’s weed for anxiety, coke, meth, or adderall for our motivation, heroin for our pain, or mushrooms and acid for our reality. Drugs or alcohol are certainly the easiest opportunities for that feeling of escape we all long for, but using these substances in this way can only fail our desires in the long run. Just like prescription based drugs, when the effects wear off we are still there, in a

place where we are bored, dissatisfied, and not wanting to get out from under the sheets in the morning. No challenge has been posed by us against the discomforts we have with our environment, we have just even more intensely deepened our sense of isolation (Not to be confused with independence.) from it.

There is also an entire world of “therapy” out there. In prisons and juvenile facilities, in schools and workplaces, both court-ordered, and voluntary.

While most of us interested in gaining control over our everyday lives would actually appreciate people of similar experiences coming together and discussing their shared frustrations, what is different about “therapy” is the logic of compromise, defeat, and self-blame that is encouraged by these groups, specifically from the suggestions of those moderating them.

We are taught shame for our mistakes or discomforts, and either pitied or ridiculed depending on the context. Therapy also encourages us to lose our faith or trust in friends or family, and place all trust in the group, as if trust is only something available in reserved, legally protected, or mediated spaces.

The conclusions drawn in these discussions encourage a perspective that “I” am wrong, or “I” am the issue. In some cases, like Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous, individuals are encouraged to go a step further by losing all faith in oneself, and handing over one’s personal power to “god” or a “higher power” (god 2.0.)

Are the experiences leading us to a point of feeling self-contempt or complete disempowerment really of our own doing?

Does our shame really stem from our own self-hatred or a morality beyond our determination?

How is it that blaming ourselves makes it easier to continue enduring the bore-

dom that awaits us once we have to return to the “reality” of our lives?

Is to find “sanity” in this world to give up the desire to escape it?

Unless imprisoned I have no intention of attending therapy before turning to a friend, and while drinking or drugs can certainly be a fun part of life, I choose to answer my feelings of discomfort by trying to understand what it is that makes me uncomfortable.

What is it that we are all struggling so hard to understand?

What is it that we are so desperately in search of?

Why is it that we reach out for help from those that suggest nothing more than coping and compromising with the wounds of our everyday lives?

Why is it that we are taught to believe that the origins of our discomforts are of our own doing, or easily solved with mind-altering drugs?

Psychiatric or psychological therapy, whether in dialogue or pill form, will only continue to push us to become more and more distracted from understanding the origins of our discomforts.

With refusing to compromise our sense of dissatisfaction with the world around us, I find it essential to stop blaming ourselves. I refuse to accept responsibility for my misery, boredom, and contempt. I proudly “blame others.”

I am in no way suggesting that you blame a specific person, but larger forces beyond your control. By forces, I mean social institutions that strip us of a sense of control over our lives and destiny, and turns us against ourselves when we become uncomfortable with the situation.

Boredom and depression stem from the monotonous society that surrounds us. Our common issues stem from the fact that everyday, we spend hours trying to

survive capitalism. We have no choice on the matter. Of course we don’t want to be homeless, of course we want to be able to help friends and family, and of course we want to eat. But while we may like our co-workers, most of us despise our bosses, and they are the ones getting the profits of our labor. This is one example of something that leads us to not only feel bored or sad when working, but also disempowered and weak.

In my case, I also struggle with a lot of anxiety regarding the police. I am not a straight-laced type person, both in my line of work and just simply how I think. I am always anxious about being arrested or confronted by the police.

This feeling of anxiety goes far enough that I second guess trusting people I meet, given that thousands of police who I have nothing but contempt for surround me every day. This fear prevents me from exploring my creativity, being more ambitious with projects in my life, or standing up to the things I am against. The same feeling of weakness that comes with work is provoked by the police. I hate them.

I hate what is inherent to their job: determining the possibilities of our lives and protecting the stability of the same society that forces me to work. I refuse to even talk to some of the people I know that I don’t like, but I hate the police unconditionally, and am told that if I am stopped by them, I not only have to probably talk to them, but I legally have to show them respect. But does this mean I’m a crazy paranoid person with anger problems, or is it reasonable to hate them and feel what I do as a result of their behavior?

It is not just work or the police that lead me to this discomfort or sense of void. These are just two specific parts of a larger system that enforces the conditions that surround me.

I feel weak, small, and uncomfortable with this world, but I refuse to accept it, and in the process, I’m driven to what

doctor's call "insanity." But these feelings I don't think are specific to me, I am assuming and hoping that considering we are part of the same world, others could possibly relate.

Psychology is not so different from the logic of police. If you violate their expectations of your behavior or thinking you are a "lunatic" to the psychologists, as you are a "criminal" to police.

I would like to call out to anyone who can actually take something from this criticism of what I would call an institution that quite formally dominates thinking in society today. I am trying to reach out to other "lunatics," exhausted with being exhausted.

At any moment though, one could snap. Occasionally we will hear about someone who shot a bunch of police, or took their boss hostage, or walked into the post office and shot a bunch of people. These acts are usually brushed off as sheer insanity, well if its not possible to connect them to some form of terrorism or another. Its never pleasant to hear about some of the more severe breakdowns of people who are simply fed up. At the same time, it is important to understand why all of a sudden someone would just come out and say (or violently show) that they "can't take it anymore!" In most cases these individuals will have no concern for the consequences, and will be shot by the police. Andres Raya(1) is one example of this, and Lovelle Mixon(2) another. Sometimes the anxiety

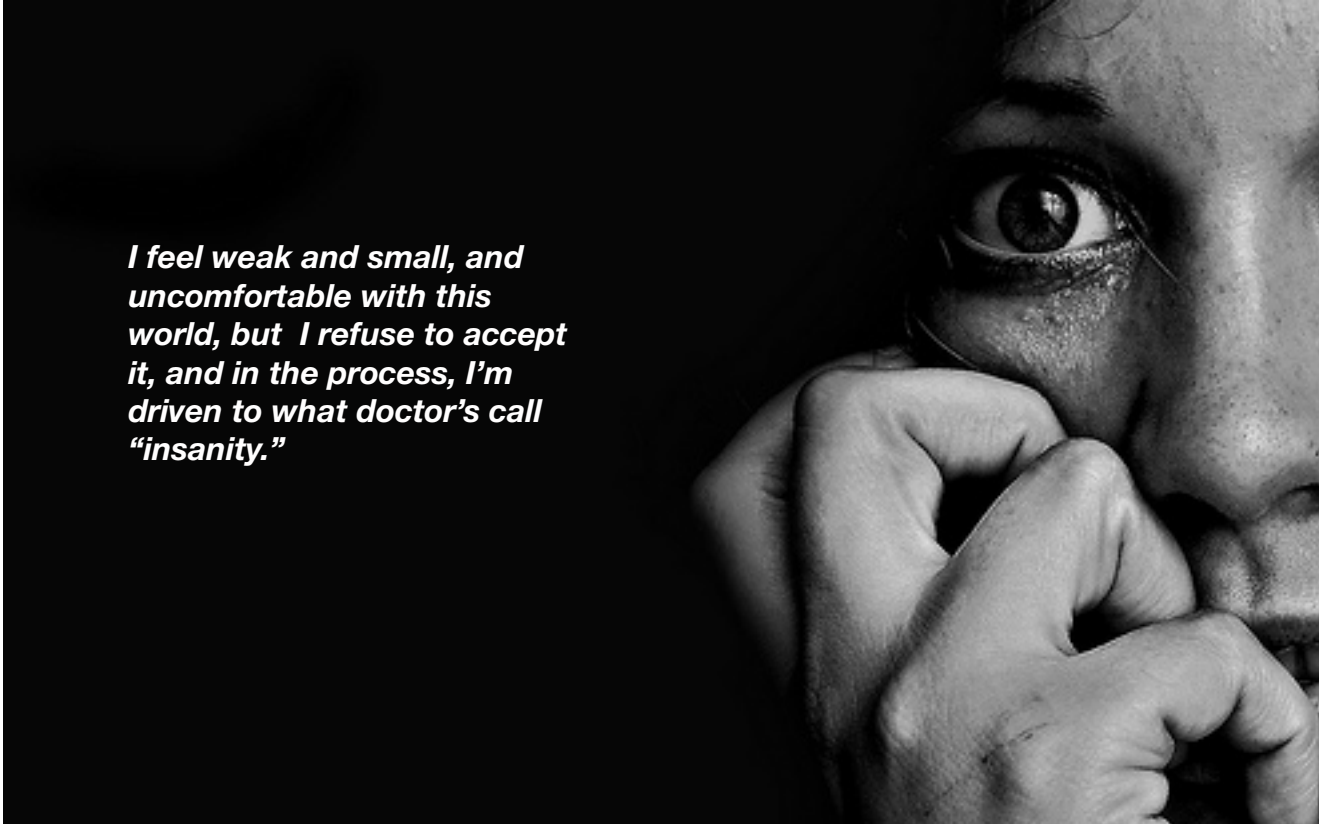
is too much, or the torment is not worth living through any longer. Being patient with our circumstances our whole lives and finally realizing you are living in a society where you have no control over them could carry some pretty drastic feelings of rage.

Before you get to that point, I think one thing we all need to understand is that we are not alone. The *Wall Street Journal's* numbers for psychiatric medication sales could certainly provide evidence to that.

According to polls in 2009, anxiety and depression accounted for 9 of the 10 biggest reasons for prescribing psychiatric drugs. ADHD and Bi-Polar disorder are the only other mental "illnesses" mentioned in the top 25 reasons for psychiatric prescriptions according to health care statistic records. It's interesting that all of these "mental illnesses" are provoked by one's environment. It's also interesting how much both a mediated society and billion dollar industry rely on these prescriptions.

It's important to stop calling ourselves crazy. It's important that we stop apologizing.

Our feelings stem from a set of conditions that are beyond any of our doing. By refusing to dismiss our "insanity", we are choosing to confront the norms and measures that determine sanity to begin with.



I feel weak and small, and uncomfortable with this world, but I refuse to accept it, and in the process, I'm driven to what doctor's call "insanity."

In the last few months alone, we have seen multiple examples in the mainstream news of individuals lashing out against what they see as the origins of their discomfort.

A less severe example of this was by Jetblue employee Steven Slater. After arriving to the JFK airport in NYC from Pittsburgh, Steve Slater got hit in the head with a bag by an impatient passenger on the flight after arriving. Steven asked the passenger to please apologize, but not only did they refuse to, they in response told him to “fuck off.” Slater was appalled, and in quick response, went to the back of Flight 1052 and announced on the loud speaker: “To the fucking asshole who told me to fuck off, it’s been a great 28 years.” After the announcement he opened up a beer on the flight, then walked to the emergency exit, and left the flight down the emergency slide with one beer in his hand. He actually made it all the way back to his home in Queens, where he claims to have slept with his boyfriend upon finishing his catharsis.

Shortly after, his house was raided by Port Authority police, where he and his boyfriend were arrested. He is now being charged with 2nd and 4th-degree criminal mischief, 1st and 2nd-degree reckless endangerment, and criminal trespass in the 3rd degree. According to the Queens D.A., if Slater is convicted he could face up to 7 years in prison. It was interesting to see the media’s response to the events. While the conservative or liberal media dismisses his behavior due to his homosexuality or alleged “insanity,” Steven has also been made into a “working-class hero” of sorts. Possibly in response to the hardship of demonizing Slater because so many people can relate or envy his “criminal act,” Steve is now being offered a reality television show that records accounts of employees quitting their jobs in sensational ways. This very much recognizes the envy most of us have for Steven.

One passenger on the plane put it properly when they said: “It’s something we all fantasize about, but we have kids and a mortgage or are just too chicken - or sane - to go through with it.”

Is it not interesting that the most consistent theme in mainstream news articles is to question Steven’s sanity, while at the same time, his behavior is envied by workers across the world enough to make him the host of his own reality television show?

Are we not all jealous of his awesome meltdown at work? Do we ignore those feelings by dismissing it as insane, or do we maybe only stop ourselves from doing the same thing due to a fear of the bills not getting paid?

From Joe Stack(3) flying planes into IRS buildings, to Christopher Monfort(4) blowing up Seattle police cruisers and killing a detective after witnessing the video of a 15 year old black girl being beaten by two police in a cell, to Robert Morales(5) shooting his parole officer and proudly going to prison after the abuse and anxiety was too much; there is a breaking point for our humanity, and it is different for all of us.

Of course these emotional breakdowns aren’t always worthy of a reality television show. Sometimes folks freak out and it’s simply not pretty. While we don’t always support the way people do this, we should try to understand why someone would make such choices.

Recently a man named James J. Lee occupied the Discovery Channel headquarters in Maryland. By occupy we mean stormed the building armed and took multiple hostages as a statement against the channel, and as an opportunity to have his voice heard. On Wednesday September 1st, 2010 at around 1pm, James stormed the Discovery Channel headquarters strapped with explosives, holding a hand gun, and wearing a headset connected to a speaker of sorts. He immediately took three individuals hostage: a Discovery channel marketing executive and pro-

ducer, and the headquarters’ security guard. While 3 people were taken hostage, other employees hid in a nearby closet to avoid James. The situation did not last long though. Just four hours after James entered the building, the three hostages made a run for it. Once they were out the SWAT team moved in, and in an alleged “exchange” of gun fire, killed James. James was known by employees at the building for his campaign against the company, and his occasional visits to voice his protest against the channel. James was opposed to the channel’s firm advocacy of science over nature. Before this event he began a campaign against the network called “savetheplanetprotest.com.” As of writing this, the website is still up somehow. His website just says “my demands” at the top, and lists 11 demands against not just the Discovery Channel but civilization as we know it in its entirety.

For example, demand #4 writes:

“4. Civilization must be exposed for the filth it is. That, and all its disgusting religious-cultural roots and greed. Broadcast this message until the pollution in the planet is reversed and the human population goes down!

This is your obligation. If you think it isn’t, then get hell off the planet! Breathe Oil! It is the moral obligation of everyone living otherwise what good are they??”

Demand #3 states:

“3. All programs promoting War and the technology behind those must cease. There is no sense in advertising weapons of mass-destruction anymore. Instead, talk about ways to disassemble civilization and concentrate the message in finding SOLUTIONS to solving global military mechanized conflict. Again, solutions instead of just repeating the same old wars with newer weapons. Also, keep out the fraudulent peace movements. They are liars and fakes and had no real intention of ending the wars. ALL OF THEM ARE

FAKE! On one hand, they claim they want the wars to end, on the other, they are demanding the human population increase. World War II had 2 Billion humans and after that war, the people decided that tripling the population would assure peace. WTF??? STUPIDITY! MORE HUMANS EQUALS MORE WAR!"

We can't relate to the very obvious misanthropic tendencies James' politics seem to stem from, and are a bit disgusted and confused by his 5th demand regarding immigration(6), but we want to understand where he could possibly be coming from.

Of course the Discovery Channel is one of thousands of institutions in society that encourage the continuance of human industry over the earth and animals, and furthers the perspective that sees both the earth and non-human species as objects or commodities. While the Discovery Channel is just one thing promoting this morality, it was clearly something Lee witnessed in his daily life as a key perpetrator promoting this outlook.

Whether or not we agree with all of his demands or tactics, we have to point out his intentions and frustrations.

James' clearly had a contempt for humanity, but in response to human society as we know it. This was also motivated by a deep-seeded appreciation he had for animals and the environment, and a contempt for human domination over both.

It isn't hard to relate. Would it surprise anyone if someone walked into FOX news or CNN and did the same thing?

Both witnessing a channel that 24 hours a day degrades the only life that comforts you, and also knowing that millions of other people are watching this, could lead someone to go a little "crazy."

Stories of the "insane" going "crazy" appear to happen every day.

There's also Miguel Balderos, a 52 year old homeless man in Santa Cruz, CA, who is currently in jail facing arson charges for setting a 50,000 dollar fire against the city's attorney office after they passed a bill banning all public camping in the city. Miguel claimed the arson, and has said that his reason for it was the obvious attack on the Santa Cruz homeless population posed by the new bill. Apparently being homeless was not a hardship enough, as the city of Santa Cruz thought it was important to almost formally criminalize homelessness completely. It seems that Miguel just couldn't take it anymore.

Michael John Fenter is now serving ten years for robbing banks in Seattle, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Tacoma, WA.

He was arrested at his last attempted bank robbery in Tacoma a few blocks from the bank. He successfully stole 86,200 dollars before being arrested. He claimed to be a struggling farmer who was expropriating money from banks to give to fellow poor people. Sounds crazy right? But does it not also sound a bit understandable?

Casey Brezik of Raytown, Missouri was another one of the "crazies." He is being charged for "attempted murder with a deadly weapon" against the dean of his community college. He actually thought he attacked the governor who was supposed to speak at his school that day, and was disappointed when during interrogation police told him it was not the governor. Following the attack, the police claimed Casey was on "drugs" (marijuana), and multiple folks at the school referred to him as crazy. Casey has a prior charge for spitting in the face of a police officer at a G-20 demonstration, and for drug possession in 2007. He is called a "paranoid schizophrenic" usually before it's mentioned that he has an "Anarchy"

tattoo on his arm. Casey was in and out of mental institutions a few years back according to certain sources.

While killing one politician will definitely not destroy the state in its entirety, and we can't help but feel a bit awkward that he didn't take the time to check and see who he was stabbing, but one could understand why he might do this. If you are disgusted enough with the state of things to spit in the face of an officer at one of the most patrolled events in the world, would one not expect the individual to escalate the statement against someone with even more power? It's important to not dismiss Casey, but to understand why he would do something like this. Is he paranoid, or exhausted with the fear that is inherent to authority? Was his behavior an alter-personality, or was it a manifestation of rage over those with political power over his life?

I boldly state that an act that defies normalcy can not be dismissed due to claims of it being "insane".

What is similar in all of these incidents of "insanity" is a consistent inability to hold back emotion once someone has had enough with what is driving their frustration. What is also similar here is the response by the mainstream to completely dismiss the individuals committing these acts due to "insanity."

We recommend that we begin to look at our discomforts whether it be depression, anxiety, boredom, or any of the other feelings that come with the reality of our everyday lives. We recommend trying to look at the origins of our feelings, and understand on a larger level why so much of our humanity shares these feelings, and constantly struggles to overcome them using delegated methods that help us to form absolutely no real bond over them. It's important that we learn from the breakdowns of others who are unique in how they express their sense of rage or dissatisfaction.

We as a lost humanity suffer many of the same wounds in our minds and hearts. These accounts of “insanity” are not intended to encourage necessarily the same behavior, but to help understand the world around us, to understand the parts we like and don’t like, and understand how to begin confronting what keeps us “down” without becoming another suicide statistic or police kill.

It’s time to stop feeling through the mediums provided to us by society, whether that be a paid person who listens, or a prescription to wellbutrin (common anti-depressant). On the other hand it is time to start feeling all of our feelings, and not blame ourselves for having them.

Our sensitivities to the limitations we experience everyday can only remain petty for so long. At any mo-

ment normalcy could be shattered with the deviancy of something new. Sometimes this is beautiful, sometimes this is ugly. What is essential is that we start to question the methods delegated to us to cope with our emotions, avoid the distractions, and begin to come together to understand how it is we plan to push over the “imbalance”.

END NOTES:

1) Andres Raya was a 19 year old Marine made famous after killing one officer and wounding another on January 9th, 2005 in Ceres, CA. Andres Raya was a trained marine of Mexican descent who was sent to fight Iraqis in Fallujah. He returned to the States in September of 2004, where he communicated to family and other soldiers at Camp Pendle-

ton that he was tired of killing innocent civilians.

On January 9th Andres went to a local convenient store in his hometown and shot a gun in the air, almost demanding that the clerk call the police. As soon as police arrived he strategically opened fired on the both of them like the trained marine he was. One of the police who arrived was actually a police officer Andres knew and was tormented by his whole life. He actually managed to escape that same night. Shortly after, a police stakeout found where Andres was hiding, and following a 3 hour shootout (literally) between Andres and dozens of street and SWAT police officers, Andres was killed after being shot eighteen times. Andres was seen as distraught when coming back from the war by family and friends.



Shortly before the shootout, Andres also broke into a local school and tore up some American flags and wrote “fuck Bush” with the stripes.

News of what happened holds trauma and emotional imbalance responsible for Andres’ lash out at local symbols of authority, but some would say that he may very well have seen similarities between the patrolling and abuse of Iraqi civilians and police in his own town.

2)Lovelle Mixon was a 26 year old man from Oakland, CA who was killed after a shootout that left him and 4 police officers dead. A warrant was out for Lovelle, but the police who pulled him over for a basic traffic violation did not know who they were about to fuck with. In response, Lovelle proceeded to fire, and killed four police officers before being shot to death by multiple others. This shooting came shortly after a video tape showed a man named Oscar Grant getting shot in the back and killed by Oakland police. While authorities saw this as a tragedy, many locals saw it as a harsh reality of tension between police and Oakland residents.

Media worked with the police to help demonize Lovelle, calling him insane and a criminal, but local groups and organizations struggled to voice themselves against such claims, communicating that under the Oakland police, such an act is completely understandable.

3)Joe Stack was a software consultant in Austin, TX. On February 18th, 2008 he burnt his \$230,000 dollar home down, and flew a small jet he owned into an IRS building in Austin. In 1998, Joe declared bankruptcy after the IRS audited Joe for not filing a tax return, leading to a \$126,000 fine, as well as his wife coincidentally leaving him a year later. In 2004, Joe started his own software company that was later suspended for not properly filing a state tax recently added to his company by new IRS measures. The day Joe died he posted a suicide note that included a manifesto stating his reasons for the attack.

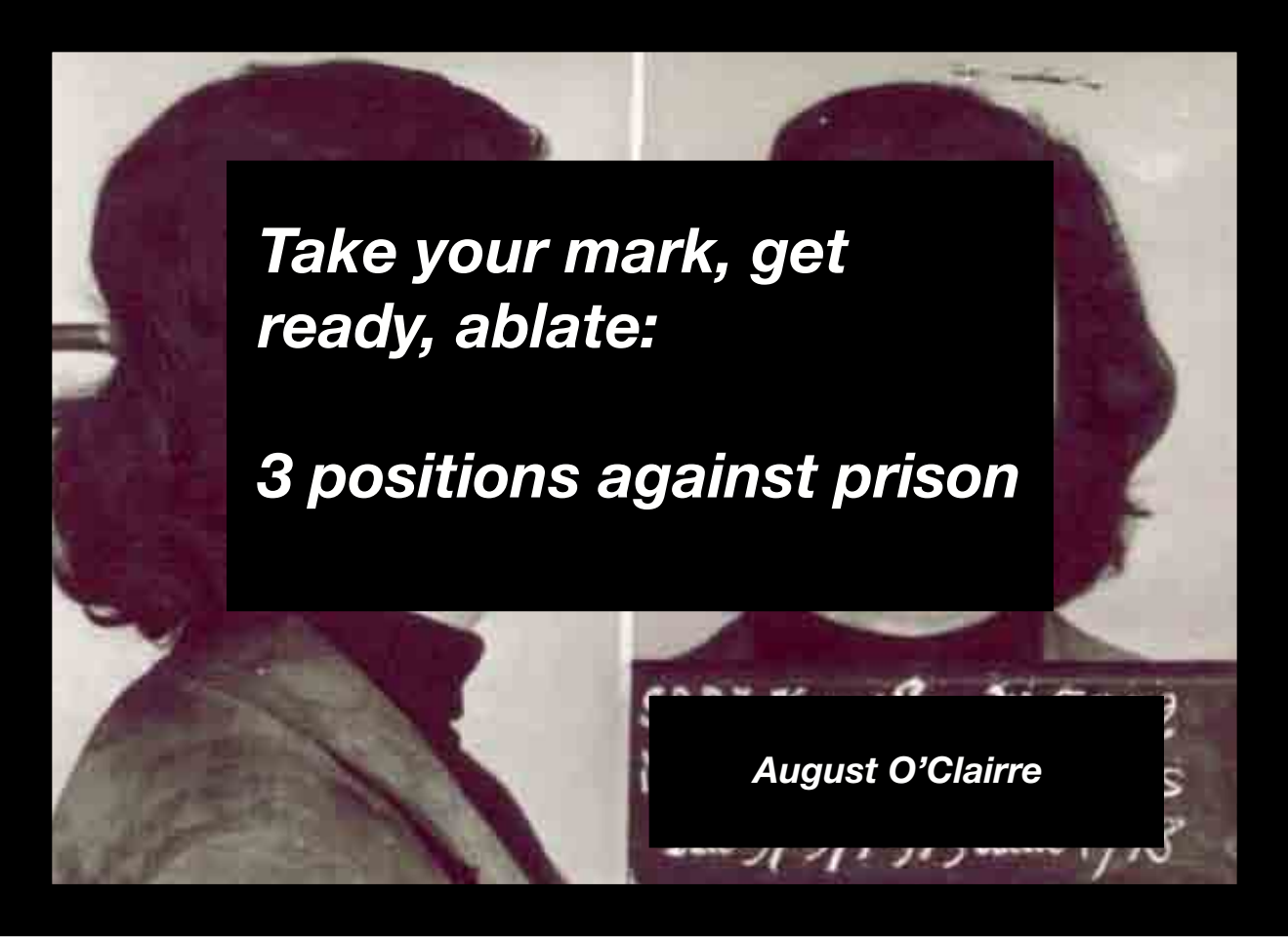
While you would typically expect the media to demonize someone for something that resembles “terrorism” so much, it was interesting to see the lack of ability even mainstream media had to do so. CNN and FOX news had to hold group debates over Joe’s sanity. Considering the harsh economic times, and Joe’s obvious reasoning (capitalism) communicated by his manifesto, many responded to his desperate attack as something understandable, or motivated by an everyday struggle that many others are beginning to have intensified during these more “harsh economic times”. Whether or not we agree with Joe, burning your house before flying a plane into an IRS building so they couldn’t even get your assets easily shows that his contempt for business as usual under capitalism was very obviously targeted and stemming from real life experiences, as opposed to a voice in his head.

4)Christopher Monfort is mentioned in our “Justice” article this issue, and “When the Tables are Turned” in issue eight.

5)Robert Morales shot but did not kill his Brooklyn parole officer after claiming that he put him under constant stress and anxiety. What was different about Robert is that he refused to denounce what he did. He told media that it was worth it, and he’s sad that his parole officer is not dead. The full story can be read in issue 9 of Fire to the Prisons.

6) Lee’s fifth demand stated that national borders must be permanently shut to prevent North America from becoming overpopulated. This specific demand we not only see as offensive, but also in conflict with the rest of James’ logic. Nations, as well as the governments that regulate them are part of the same logic behind civilization as we know it. Mediation of bordered lands on such a mass level could only be possible with the equipment, resources, or society that produce the industries that plunder nature.

**“blame
others.”**



***Take your mark, get
ready, ablate:***

3 positions against prison

August O'Clairre

1.

***There are no political prisoners,
only prisoners of war.***

"I am not a crook." -- Richard M. Nixon

Between the realm of criminality and that of the political there is a wide chasm. Politicians make the law, criminals break it. In this context, the idea of the political prisoner emerges as a contradiction in terms. In fact, the contradiction is so fundamental that it forms the basis for many appeals for the liberation of political prisoners. The argument is made that political prisoners are a special class of prisoner who are not criminals at all, but people who engaged in legal political action.

This is one understanding of a political class of prisoners--they have not infringed upon the law, but rather the law has been wielded against them in order to prevent their political activity. The reason political prisoners exist is because

revolutionaries are a threat to the law as it exists, and the law imprisons them out of its own self-interest. This understanding is most applicable to prisoners who are clearly innocent--Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu Jamal; in the United States, the list is not long.

But while the image of innocence is appealing to those who love the law, and although the air of innocence is routinely deployed in campaigns to defend comrades who have committed crimes, this notion of innocence makes no stab at the law which decides innocence and guilt. The law not only acts in its own defense, it also ensures that revolutionaries commit crime. So revolutionaries outline a theory of illegal morality--in order to change the law, one must break the law. Criminality, then, is not an inherent desire of the revolutionary, but a condition placed upon her by the state. Political prisoners are not only composed of the innocent, but also of people who broke the law for the "right" reasons. They are prisoners of war. Defined in this way, the list of prisoners of war remains small--one hundred prisoners in the United States, give or take. One half of one hundredth of one percent of the incarcerated population.

The categorization of political prisoners as revolutionaries who have committed moral crimes does not appeal to those

who love the law, but it resonates with individuals who take sides in a war to change the law. The demand for the release of a prisoner of war cannot be based on innocence, and so it is based on amnesty. Amnesty is the process of releasing of prisoners who have been taken hostage during a war between states, after the war has ended. It is remarkable how easily the practice of amnesty can be translated to prisoners of a war within a state, particularly when the prisoners considered themselves a different nation or sought through revolution to establish a new government. Although the revolutionary war is a civil war, it is fought between two states--one established, and the other in attempted uprising.

Political conflict is always fought between states that are either existent or revolutionary. A conflict in which the insurgents are not a government-in-rising themselves--if we can imagine such a conflict--would not be called political conflict, but social war. Social war is the expanded form of class war; class no longer marks the limits of social struggle, if it ever did.

Amnesty is an inherently defeatist position to take, one that is contingent upon surrender. In order for prisoners of war to be released, the war must be over, the prisoners no longer combatants, and they must be released into a climate of social peace, a peace their comrades will maintain.

The approaches of innocence and amnesty shouldn't draw a knee-jerk criticism, but rather should be placed in the context of the politics from which they are derived--a politics that appeals to those who love the law, and a politics of war between different forms of government. Without passing judgment on the former approaches, let us say that they fit their positions, and then consider our own position. Specifically, we should look again at the distinction between political conflict and social war.

"Al Sharpton... You're... a little more political, and that just means you're a little more unhuman, than us humans. Ha!" -- 'Lil Wayne

'Lil Wayne said it best--to be political is to be a little unhuman. That is nothing to be particularly ashamed of, for it is a pervasive condition in society. Capitalism makes us all unhuman, to be a man is to be a little unhuman, to be a woman is to be a little unhuman, to be white, to be a worker, to be a homosexual. The social order is constructed so that we each have our place, our roles, identities. These are political formations. It is a political formation that the anarchist exists as an identity and, therefore, as a tiny segment of society.

Politics is the discourse of power. Perspectives and tactics vary widely, but it is the same discourse that contains them. The political individual, then, is a person with a plan for society. Plans and programmes may threaten the existing power form, but they are not a serious threat to power itself. In the event of social upheaval, the politicians can be counted upon for a platform, leadership, and ultimately the restoration or maintenance of state and capital. When the existing politicians are unpopular, different ones are on hand, and if the social upheaval is radical enough, there will be some radical politicians who become well-positioned for a grasp at power as the vanguard or representative of the people. From the perspective of the social order--which is to say, not the specific forms of power that come in and out of dominance, but of power itself--the revolutionary politician is a last line of defense, a fail-safe in upheavals that would otherwise be most devastating.

Discourse. A bomb is placed at a building of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, but its blast does not speak for itself, because its engineers also crafted a message and sent it to the media outlets, denouncing the evils of the agency and making demands. As an action, one might say, nothing could be more radical than a bombing; yet the action

remains within the context of a negotiation with power. Indeed, the political dialogue between parties that makes up the social order could hardly exist without some fringe groups planting bombs, so close are negotiation and violence to its heart. The fringe group does not have access to the political spectacle enough to proliferate its messages that way, and so it makes a spectacle of itself. It is unable to stand within the halls where formal negotiation takes place and routine violence is deployed, so it deploys spectacular violence as informal negotiation. Its demands may be wildly improbable and far too radical for the platforms of government, and yet it has "made its voice heard." The tactics we employ, from discussion to bombing, are irrelevant compared to a question of what they aim towards--the restructuring of power or its dissolution?

On the one hand, there is the question of power and how it ought to be structured and maintained, and on the other there is the question of whether it ought to be structured and maintained at all. Political individuals engage in the former question--the discourse of power and political struggle. Everyone is involved in the latter question--the discourse of Biopower and social war.

Biopower is the intersection of power with our bodies, resulting in their subjugation, management, and control. Its discourse, then, is not of the kind heard in the halls of Congress, but that between ourselves and police, politicians, activists, managers, lawyers, judges. Also in the spaces between our bodies, our bodies and machines, our bodies and the school, hospital, prison and workplace.

"All prisoners are political." - Various

There exists a third definition of political prisoners. As the movement for prison abolition has grown on the Left, there has been a tendency to radically expand the bounds of who are designated as political prisoners. And a radical new phrasing has been inscribed in the

pages of the Leftist Bible: "All prisoners are political." It is a kind gesture, but only because it is made by people for whom the label 'political' is a compliment. Perhaps we should have first asked the prisoners if they wanted to be political. What, and stop saying 'bitch'? What word could be more degrading than 'political' to apply to people without their consent?

This tendency seems to overlook that the original reason for describing some prisoners as political was to illuminate our bonds of affinity--to identify prisoners of a war that we are fighting on the same side of. There are Nazis behind those walls. Let them free, certainly--the better to crack their skulls--but surely we can express our desires without expressing solidarity with our enemies.

"Any movement that does not support their political internees ... is a sham movement"

*-Ojore N. Lutalo,
anarchist and former prisoner*

And now we come to the crux of it. The recognition that prison is bad for our friends, the disgust and anger we feel at the incarceration of people we care about, is the grounding for any desire to do away with prisons entirely. Underlying the various classifications

of "political" prisoners is an urge that is human and natural--the urge to support our imprisoned comrades, as well as the recognition that they are often treated more harshly by the state because of their position in war. We have no shit to sling at solidarity, only at the hordes who have wrung that word dry of every drop of meaning it once had, and at the idea that this practice is inherently radical.

In fact, solidarity has nothing to do with what side one is on, and everything to do with the understanding that one is on a side--that is, at war. For anyone who comes to life as in a state of war, there is nothing more natural than to support their comrades in prison. While some anarchists are regrettably devoid of a practice of solidarity with their imprisoned comrades, that serves as a reasonable indication of their position toward war as well as friendship. Either they witness no war, or they do not see themselves in it, or they do not see prisoners as their comrades. So it goes.

There are many prisoners of war, and their nations have their backs as a matter of course. From the POW/MIA flags one sees flying at veterans' posts across this nation, to the revolutionary solidarity with prisoners of the Irish Republican Army, to the Cuban Five freedom campaign, to the prison

support networks of the Nazis and the mafia, everyone supports their family, their nation, their army.

Some of us, however, are fighting a different kind of war. One in which we are not fighting for a nation, an ideology, or political power, but in a struggle to destroy all of those. A war that is qualitatively distinct. The only war that could not only free our own prisoners of war, but destroy the prisons.

In the war against all that, we do not perceive criminality as the infringement of just law, nor as a necessary and just means to revolution. Crime is anti-political desire, our engagement in rediscovering our bodies and living energy. Insurrection will never be the political activity of revolutionaries, for it is the criminal activity of becoming human.

2.

***There is no prison,
only imprisonment.***



"Disneyland is there to conceal the fact that it is the 'real' country, all of 'real America', which is Disneyland (just as prisons are there to conceal the fact that it is the social in its entirety, in its banal omnipresence, which is carceral)."

-Jean Baudrillard

"Is it surprising that prisons resemble factories, schools, barracks, hospitals, which all resemble prisons?"

-Foucault, Discipline and Punish

Prison is not a discrete place; its force and logic are distributed across the metropolis. Put another way, there is a place that is prison, and then there is a tendency, a way of managing life, that is prison. The place and the tendency are not two, but one. Macrocosm, microcosm. To speak of prisons as if they were separate from the rest of society is to equivocate. What we call prisons are a node in the prison-metropolis that are indicative of how the metropolis functions as a whole, and without which the rest could not function. Prison is a totality--something that one cannot escape from, but only shift positions within.

One's position in society corresponds to vastly different degrees of freedom. There is the difference between being in prison or being free. Differences in probation and parole status, differences in citizenship and documentation, social class, gender, race. Meanwhile inside the prison there are power relationships between inmates, guards and other authorities, there are hierarchies of every sort, and there is the "prison within the prison"--solitary confinement, the hole.

No matter where one is located in free society, with some rare exceptions made for the powerful, one exists under the threat of prison. Prison is a Judgment Day which, like the trumpet of the archangel, could be sounded at any time, but feels nearest during acts of sin. We are controlled through the existence of prisons because we are not in them. With the threat of incarceration comes a sense of the precarity of one's freedom, which can invoke the desire to carpe diem. And so the escaped convict lives wildly in freedom while her risk of imprisonment is highest; and so the prisoner with a life sentence feels he has nothing left to lose. But the majority occupy a space that is neither the heaven of being on the lam nor the hell of being condemned, but a pale grey limbo in which the desire for somebody to do something is constantly felt and constantly deferred. This is the total incarceration of the population.

The mechanisms of prison creep across the metropolis. Through architecture, psychology, and technological force, prison has perfected the control of movement, the management of time, the neutralization of threats, the universalization of surveillance, the separation of public and private space, the breaking up of life into a series of functions deemed essential--sleep, consumption of food, physical ex-

ercise, work, religious practice. These have become familiar to 'free' individuals. We do not need to rely on experts and research, for we know prison all too well.

After a recent prison riot, the experts published a study declaring the prison food was the cause. We know that it is not food, but hunger that causes prison riots.

There are other names for the pervasive condition of incarceration. Capitalism: a system of social relationships through which life is reproduced into deadness, or non-life. On the physical level it produces commodities from living beings and the earth; temporally, it turns life into labor ("Capital is dead labor" - Karl Marx); on the level of relationship it creates the spectacle from the 'unity-of-life' ("The spectacle in its generality is a concrete inversion of life; and, as such, the autonomous movement of non-life." - Guy Debord). Politics: the discourse of power that makes us less than human.

Politics, prison, and capital: agents in the production of deadness.

3.

***Prison cannot be abolished,
only destroyed.***

"Burn, baby, burn"

-Rioters in Warkworth Canada shouting as their former prison went up in flames

Without resorting to prophecy, it is arguable that the state could abolish prisons in a way that would not only continue its existence but restore its health.

Let it not be said that what follows is a critique of abolition as reformist; the thrust is something altogether different. Here is what can be said of the old dichotomy between reform and revolution. In place of the claim that reform prevents revolution, it would be more accurate to propose that there is normality, and then there are cracks that appear across its surface. In each insurrection we know of, the so-called revolutionaries did as much to contain, police, squash, or seek to lead the insurrection as any reformist. That is not to say that individuals who desire insurrection cannot open spaces of insurrection, but that in the process, we must confront 'revolutionaries' along with 'reformists'.

It is said, "shit happens"; well, reform happens. Let us be clear: if the state offers the abolition of prisons, or the release of a few thousand prisoners, no one is going to lock himself back up in his cell. To do so would be stupid. We'll take what we can get. Shorter sentences, longer chains, food that almost resembles food. Lovely. Only a fool would reject reforms.

But we would reject prisons. We do not intend to spend our lives asking for things from the ones who took everything from us. It is not only against the interest of our jailers, it is not even in their power to give us what we want, because we want our lives back. We will get what we can take. Only a fool would accept reformism.

The social order changes things as it sees fit. Free a few thousand prisoners to reduce the overcrowding that can lead to riots. Build a new jail. The budget is tight, though, and it is expensive to maintain prisons. There will be a focus on rehabilitation and restoration more than punishment; meanwhile, prisoners will be transferred to privately-owned facilities, because the government can pay a corporation less per head than they do to run their own prisons, while the prison owners still turn a profit. Certain substances will be decriminalized. The sentencing for ghetto drugs will remain harsher than for their white suburban forms. These are games to them. They are playing with our lives, moving us around like pieces on a chess board. They carefully consider every move, not because they care, but because they want to win the game.

One and a half centuries ago, slavery was abolished by the United States government. This followed an enormous social struggle over abolition-- wars were fought between pro-slavery elements and abolitionist elements. There were slave revolts and armed uprisings. The government intervened. And the Thirteenth Amendment ever-

so-neatly includes a loophole allowing for the enslavement of prisoners ("except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted"). Moreover, the economic system of chattel slavery was replaced with indentured servitude and industrial wage labor--which the Northern capitalists were struggling to proliferate. So today, we have slavery, although slavery has been abolished. The structures of society that required slaves have remained intact. And in one hundred years, prisons may be abolished, but we will still have prisons as long as capitalism remains intact.

So if we learn a lesson from this, we should not struggle for another Emancipation Proclamation, for abolition granted by the state. Many abolitionists would deny that that is what their struggle aims for; others would openly admit it is--they say, "I am not an anarchist, but an abolitionist." The repetition of old gestures is executed with precision.

"Even if prisons were transformed from human storerooms into luxury hotels, even if the prisoners of all prisons are satisfied with 'reduced sentences,' even if the everyday beatings of prisoners are replaced by sly agreements and assimilated by correctional policies in accordance with the 'human rights' model, even if the 'white cells' turn 'pink,' and heroin gives way to methadone we will remain forever enemies of any structure that denies us our freedom."
-- anonymous

The argument has been made that prison cannot be abolished without the abolition of the entire system of law, production, control, and so forth. If we define prison in its totality, the argument stands not only as true but as a truism, since prison includes all of those. But the abolition movement defines the prison as if it was a blot on the perfect society, a cancerous tumor that could be cut away. We seem to come together on the common urge to do

away with prisons, but in actuality the foundation is being laid for a betrayal. If to abolitionists prison is only a place, then prisons can indeed be abolished separately from the rest, like slavery, at least in name.

If the abolition movement succeeds we may see a world without prisons, in which we are still locked up. Imprisonment will have changed form, changed name; like slavery, we will say that it does not exist anymore, but control must be established nevertheless. How could this be managed? Social control would be deployed through advancements in surveillance, policing and architecture--essentially, the mechanisms of the prison diffused through all sectors of the metropolis--while the prison population would be drastically reduced by decriminalizing certain crimes and instituting alternative sentencing. People who had spent the last ten or twenty years behind bars would be released into the streets, only to find that the world outside appears and feels more like prison than it used to. Eerily, George Orwell's 1984 describes a society without prisons--that is to say, a society existing as a single large prison.

And yet, even the subjugated population has its outliers. The main character of Orwell's narrative is arrested, and instead of imprisonment he faces a process of politicization. So it must be with the 'abolition' of prison. As the general population comes under greater control and decriminalization, overseen by nicer police and friendlier government bodies that facilitate a restorative justice process between parties, there will still be a sector of humanity who make war on society and refuse to participate in systems of social control. When populations of sex workers, people of color, and drug users are decriminalized, with assault and property crimes managed through restorative justice, the true criminals would come out in starker contrast--the outlaws, the rebels, the pirates. They must be dealt with. So prison can be abolished

in such a way that the troublemakers are still locked away in an institution that isn't called prison, or undergo 'treatment' and are reintegrated into society, while the rest of us live in a different kind of prison.

The "prison abolition movement" that is viewed as a radical social movement today, is set to become the establishment of tomorrow, to the extent that the Left is able mobilize its forces more effectively than the Right and if such changes are in the interest of maintaining or increasing production and social control. The project is already under way, from the house arrest and ankle GPS monitor to the Breathalyzer in the automobile, to the decriminalization of marijuana in some states and that drug's establishment in legitimate markets, to the reductions in prison populations under the stress of budget shortfalls and prison riots. The abolitionist argument, "look how the prison population has grown in the past thirty or forty years" has already become obsolete as states begin to cut back their prison populations to balance their budgets. It is one thing to resist the growth of prisons; it is another to desire their destruction even while they are shrinking.

“Let us seek the feeling of a prisoner taking a sledgehammer to her cell.”

Abolition is framed, like all social movements, by quantitative goals--capacity building, prison reduction campaigns, and the abolition of prison as achievable in so many years. Campaign goals include decreased sentences, early release programs, decriminalization, alternative justice models. Steps in the right direction. Small changes that reduce total prison populations. The logic is that we can numerically reduce prisons out of existence, or on the flip side, that we can numerically build a movement that is large and efficient enough to abolish them.

The same quantity-driven movement would claim that the destruction of a prison by fire is not effective. The prisoners will be transferred, the dormitories rebuilt, there will still be prisons. Instead of creating concrete solidarity through outside revolt, activists would willingly use the prisoners' riots as a means to an end. They say, see, this riot shows that the prisons are overcrowded and we demand some inmates be released early. It is unfortunate that such a thing had to happen, they reason, but it is worth getting our message into the media, because that will get us closer to our goals, which we know are in the prisoners' and society's best interests.

They are right that there will still be prisons. But for what reasons do prisons persist? Is it because prisoners set fire to them, or because insurrection is not sufficiently generalized?

The prisons are being destroyed, right now. Prisoners around the world are taking every available opportunity to make holes and set fires, to sabotage cameras and take guards hostage. Of course there is also stillness, inertia, falling-into-line, but beneath the sound of feet falling in rhythm are the odd sounds of scratching of a knife, the turning of pages, and the tinkering of wire against an electrical socket; following that, the distinct sound of an electrical spark is heard, and the scent of something burning wafts through the air...

It is not enough--and what's more, it is not a joyful approach--to gradually empty the prisons of the prisoners through new social programs and campaigns, letting their shells stand hollow. The silhouettes of empty prisons would stand as reminders of a grave mistake, but we would never be free. Let us seek the feeling of a prisoner taking a sledgehammer to her cell.

There is a story that comes from the occupation of the abandoned Alcatraz prison island by the Indians of All Tribes between 1969 and 1971. We do not know where this story came from or if it 'really' happened, only that it has taken root in our minds. According to the legend, one of the people involved in the occupation had been imprisoned at Alcatraz in his earlier years. When he arrived on the island, he searched through the prison for some time and eventually came to the cell in which he'd been locked up. Taking up a sledgehammer, the man destroyed the walls of the cell, block by cement block. It was hard work, and he was many years in age, and by the time he was done he was exhausted. He put down the sledgehammer and sank to the ground, with the ruins of the old cage around him.



**Chino, CA
State Prison
2009**



**Chino, CA
State Prison
2009**

A black and white photograph showing a chessboard on a table. Several hands and wrists are visible around the board. One hand is wearing a thin bracelet, and two wrists are wearing metal identification bands with holes. The chess pieces are white and black, and the board is dark with a grid pattern. The text "Chronology of North American Prisoner Resistance" is overlaid in white, bold, italicized font on the right side of the chessboard.

***Chronology
of North
American
Prisoner
Resistance***

Naturally, the proliferation of the prison has been met with significant resistance from those most affected by it.

This may be best understood as a simple conflict of interests: the interests of prisoners against the interests of the prison itself, which does everything necessary to maintain their confinement.

Riots, escapes, inmate fights, staff assaults, refusal of orders, and disturbances of all kinds are some ways in which the tension of this conflict is manifested. Each time the prison cannot proceed with routine operations it loses control of itself; each time the prison loses control, its inhabitants are able to act outside of its constraints, in accordance with their own interests.

All actions which impede prison's aim of social control can be considered tangible resistance.

With only media reports as our sources, it is impossible to document every single case. While reading this list it is important to keep in mind that the inmate is always living in resistance to prison, regardless of whether or not a newspaper article is published about it.

The actions reported here are only to serve as examples of those who - even up against the grandeur of the prison and its near-insurmountable walls - manage to act out despite the dismal reality of the situation.

Note:

Every issue of "FTTP" reports on prisoner resistance and struggle.

The reports always stem back to the last issue. In this case, our last issue came out in May.

Sadly due to space, we have to prioritize reports on resistance in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

"All actions which impede prison's aim of social control can be considered tangible resistance."

15 April – Akron, Ohio –

An inmate at Summit County's Community Based Correctional Facility tried unsuccessfully to escape via an air duct. As paperwork was being prepared, staff members went to retrieve the inmate and escort him to the deputy. The inmate, however, refused to cooperate and climbed into the drop ceiling, ignoring commands to come out. The inmate remained crawling around in the air ducts until he was located and apprehended by the Akron Fire Department.

16 April – LaPorte, Indiana –

An Indiana State Prison inmate walked away from a prison road crew at the Summit Farm Operation.

18 April – East Meadow, New York –

Three Nassau County Jail guards were injured in a scuffle. Injuries included a sprained ankle, hyper extended knee and cuts and bruises. One officer was also treated for respiratory problems.

19 April – Saint Louis, Missouri -

Just after being taken to the St. Louis Justice Center, a soon to be inmate slipped out of their cuffs and took off through the north door after it was opened by departing employees.

20 April – Cranston, Rhode Island –

A 60 year old corrections officer was punched in the face and knocked unconscious by an inmate at the Adult Correctional Institution.

24 April – Burlington, North Carolina –

A Dan River Prison Work Farm inmate scaled the exterior fence and ran off.

25 April – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,

Canada – A Saskatoon Correctional Centre inmate ran away from corrections workers while they were taking out the facility's garbage.

26 April – Columbia, South Carolina –

An inmate on work assignment from the Campbell Pre-Release Center walked off.

28 April – Castaic, California –

Two Pitchess Detention Center inmates escaped while working at a kitchen loading dock.

30 April – Hogden, Oklahoma –

An inmate walked away from the Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center.

2 May – Mitchellville, Iowa –

An inmate at the Correctional Institute for Women kicked and punched two correctional officers and spat on a third who tried to restrain her.

3 May – Headingley, Manitoba, Canada –

All nine inmates in the segregated Block 10 at Headingley Correctional Centre rioted for several hours and smashed all the furniture ultimately causing \$26,000 in damages.

5 May – Los Angeles, California –

Four Metropolitan Detention Center guards were injured as they tried to intervene in an inmate disturbance. Two of them were hospitalized.

7 May – Lawton, Oklahoma –

An attack at the Lawton Correctional Facility sent a prison guard to the hospital. An inmate at the facility, run by the GEO Group, packed a blanket or pillowcase with rocks and hit the officer over the head with it.

11 May – Lake Wales, Florida –

An inmate receiving medical treatment at the Lake Wales Hospital told the detention deputy on duty he had to use the bathroom. As he left the room he hit the deputy over the head and overpowered him. His hospital gown was torn off in the process and he escaped wearing only his socks and ankle shackles.

12 May – Mason, Tennessee –

Approximately 35 West Tennessee Detention Facility inmates refused to enter their cells and began destroying furniture. The facility is run by the Nashville-based Corrections Corporation of America, which operates 65 facilities in 20 states.

13 May – Truth or Consequences,

New Mexico – An inmate managed to escape from the Sierra County Detention Center by slamming a door on a detention officer while being transported between buildings and running off.

16 May – Victorville, California –

Several fights broke out between numerous inmates at the United States Penitentiary's outdoor recreation area.

17 May – Rogers, Arkansas –

A Benton County Juvenile Jail inmate almost immediately began choking the corrections officer after he was released from his seat belt and then started banging the officer's head into the security cage of the vehicle they were riding in. The juvenile, still in handcuffs and ankle restraints, then ran off into a field only to be caught by a good citizen.

18 May – Scottsboro, Alabama –

An inmate who was given a two day leave from the Scottsboro City Jail to take care of personal business failed to return.

19 May – Cumming, Georgia –

A Forsyth Jail inmate climbed up through a hole in the roof between some wire and got on top of the roof. Jumping from there, they made their escape on foot.

21 May – Wichita, Kansas –

A Sedgwick County Jail inmate set fire to the transport van they were being transferred in and tried to escape after being removed from the burning vehicle. The van sustained an estimated \$25,000 in damages.

22 May – Morristown, Tennessee –

Three inmates assaulted a Hamblen County Jail officer in an escape attempt. They then fought three more who came to the aid of the first before being subdued.

24 May – Livingston, Texas –

A Polk County Jail inmate escaped from their work crew.

25 May – Versailles, Kentucky –

For the second time in a month, an inmate escaped from the Woodford County Jail.

26 May – Merced, California –

Two John Latorraca Correctional Facility inmates attacked a guard over food portions.

28 May – Coquille, Oregon –

An inmate working with a crew from the Shutter Creek Correctional at the Coquille Masonic Cemetery walked away.

29 May – Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico –

A prison warden arriving to work was kidnapped by armed gunmen. The body was found later that day, dismembered and scattered about the city in four locations.

30 May – Albuquerque, New Mexico –

A 16 year old inmate at the Youth Diagnostic and Development Center punched a guard in the face. The staff claims the facility is too dangerous and they are afraid to go to work.

3 June – Charleston, West Virginia –

An inmate assaulted correctional officers by kicking at them when they tried to stop him from spitting at them.

6 June – Lexington, Kentucky –

Five Fayette County Detention Center inmates refused to enter their cells after a basketball game. Covering their faces with shirts and armed with phones, batteries and a shower door, they taunted officials in riot gear and fought them as they tried to restore order.

7 June – Walla Walla, Washington –

A Washington State Penitentiary corrections officer was stabbed in the neck with a sharpened toothbrush.

8 June – Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico –

Inmates rioted at the Cereso Prison.

9 June – Headingley, Mantioba, Canada –

Approximately 25 Headingley Correctional Centre inmates refused to enter their cells and barricaded themselves in the common room for more than 10 hours.

13 June – Junction, Texas –

An inmate stole a Kimble County Jail truck and drove off.

14 June – Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico –

A prison riot left 3 officers wounded.

15 June – Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada –

Approximately 17 Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility inmates rioted when corrections officers tried to put the facility on lockdown. The masked inmates refused to leave the day room in the west unit and covered security cameras and broke sprinklers, windows and recreation equipment for two hours until guards were able to restore order.

16 June – Fairfield, California –

Two inmates escaped the Fout Springs Youth Facility.

17 June – Portsmouth, Virginia –

An inmate being transferred from court was able to escape from the transport van by breaking out the rivets on the inmate cage, unlocking the door and jumping out.

18 June – Lovelady, Texas –

A Eastham State Prison guard sustained serious facial injuries when an inmate attacked him with a homemade knife. The knife was 2.5 inches long and was fashioned from three razor blades attached to a pen casing.

19 June – Springfield, Missouri –

Two Greene County Jail officers were injured in a scuffle with an uncooperative inmate. Besides pain from punches to the faces and heads of the officers, one of them suffered a broken ankle.

20 June – Laurel, Maryland –

Many of the inmates at the New Beginnings Youth Correctional Facility refused to enter their cells and fought off the corrections officers who tried to regain control. Several staff members were injured including the shift supervisor, who suffered a broken jaw. The inmates also managed to steal the electronic master key. When response units from the Metropolitan Police Department and other local agencies responded to the incident, they found some of the youths wandering through the facility at will while others climbed to the roofs of two "living units."

24 June – Meridian, Mississippi –

An inmate escaped from the Simpson County Community Work Center.

25 June – Cassville, Missouri –

An inmate managed to escape the Barry County Jail by scaling the perimeter fence. He climbed on the shoulder's of another inmate above security cameras and used a camera bracket to get up on the chain link fence. From there, he pried at the chain link, which is affixed by heavy duty clamps, until they created a small hole through which he crawled out.

26 June – Modesto, California –

An inmate escaped from the Stanislaus County Honor Farm during a fire. The two deputies watched the inmate scale the fence, but could not pursue as they had 86 other inmates to evacuate.

27 June – Warner Robins, Georgia –

A Houston County Jail inmate threw a cleaning agent that contained bleach into the eyes of two correctional officers.

30 June – Troy, Alabama –

An inmate lit a roll of toilet paper on fire, filling the Troy City Jail with smoke: forcing an evacuation and causing smoke damage.

3 July – Youngstown, Ohio –

An Ohio State Penitentiary inmate's hunger strike began over demands for medical care.

4 July – Rock Forest, Quebec, Canada –

Three inmates housed at the Val-du-Lac building of the Estrie Youth Centre refused to return to their cells after curfew. Armed with wooden bats, they began hitting things and yelling for other inmates to come out and join them.

8 July – Fort Madison, Iowa –

An Iowa State Penitentiary corrections officer suffered facial abrasions after an inmate assault.

10 July – Corcoran, California –

Inmates at Facility-A of the Corcoran State Prison California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility refused to eat their meals or perform their kitchen, clerical and janitorial duties as part of a hunger strike and work stoppage in response to a lockdown imposed on the unit.

11 July – Concord, New Hampshire –

Approximately 30 inmates at the State Prison for Men went on a hunger strike over the temperature of their cells after the prison confiscated their fans just before a heatwave.

13 July – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania –

A Youth Study Center inmate escaped from the radiology center where they were taken for x-rays.

15 July – Kincheloe, Michigan –

Three Kinross Correctional Facility inmates overpowered a truck driver at a food service delivery loading dock and tried to escape by driving through the double chain link fence. The truck made it about 100 yards past the fence when one inmate took off running and was fatally shot by a guard.

18 July – Augusta, Georgia –

A Charles B. Webster Dentention Center inmate cut a hole in the fence near the recreation yard and escaped.

19 July – Pikeville, Tennessee –

For the second time in two weeks, the same inmate had escaped from the Bledsoe County Jail.

20 July – Saint Johns, Newfoundland,

Canada – An inmate used a television set as a weapon and assaulted four guards at Her Majesty's Penitentiary.

21 July – Montreal, Quebec, Canada –

A fight between inmates escalated at the Quebec Detention Centre when authorities tried to intervene. More than 14 inmates rioted and set fire to mattresses and clothes.

28 July – Stony Mountain, Manitoba,

Canada – 20 Stony Mountain Penitentiary inmates refused to be locked into their cells and instead barricaded themselves inside the unit and destroyed prison property. A spokesman was quoted as saying, "negotiations were attempted, but the inmates refused to communicate."

30 July – Franklin, Wisconsin –

A Milwaukee County Correctional Facility corrections officer was attacked by an inmate.

1 August – Eureka, California –

Two correctional officers at the Humboldt County Juvenile Hall were hospitalized after being assaulted by an inmate. The attack occurred as the two officers entered the inmates cell. Once the cell door was open, the inmate gouged the eyes of one officer and knocked the other to the ground, kicking and stomping him in the face numerous times.

2 August – Jacksonville, Florida –

In an escape attempt from the Pre-Trial Detention Facility, four inmates jumped a corrections officer and took his taser. The inmates took control of the room and tried to let other inmates out by pushing buttons on the control panel. Unfortunately, more correctional officers arrived on the scene and regained control.

4 August – Doylestown, Pennsylvania –

An inmate ran out of the Men's Community Center while waiting to take a urine test.

6 August – Montgomery, Alabama –

A city jail inmate caused more than \$9,000 in damages at the Montgomery Municipal Court building while awaiting a court appearance. The inmate damaged a bathroom sink and the adjoining pipes, causing water damage in the Montgomery Police Department's supply and evidence rooms.

8 August – Atlanta, Georgia –

A Fulton County Jail inmate stabbed a corrections officer in the back with a homemade knife. When the officer tried to subdue the inmate, another inmate jumped in and tried to stop him.

12 August – Fort Leavenworth, Kansas –

Four inmates assaulted a corrections officer at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks and took his keys. They locked the officer in the shower area and used the keys to open the cells of 10 additional prisoners where they enjoyed the 24 cell tier for three hours before staff was able to regain control.

16 August – Lancaster, Ohio –

Fairfield County Jail inmates rioted over movement restrictions within the facility. The inmates set mattresses on fire and “threw things.”

19 August – Davenport, Iowa –

A Scott County Jail corrections officer was beat over the head with a chair.

21 August – Spokane, Washington –

20 to 30 Spokane County Jail inmates flooded their cells in a coordinated effort.

22 August – Sterling, Colorado –

An inmate who has escaped Colorado law enforcement four times in the past, made the first successful escape in the history of the Sterling Correctional Facility, which is the largest prison facility in Colorado.

23 August – Castaic, California –

For two hours nearly 200 inmates from six barracks threw rocks at deputies and armed themselves with shanks.

1 September – Monterey, California –

166 inmates at the Monterey County jail went on hunger strike after the jail administration decreased their allotment of soap from four bars a week to one.

6 September – Santa Clarita, California –

An inmate tried to escape Los Angeles County Jail by climbing into the ceiling of jail interview room while waiting for burglary victims to provide an identification. Unfortunately, authorities discovered a “chalky powder on the floor” from where the inmates had removed and replaced the ceiling tiles and they were found.

9 September – Kingman, Arizona –

Inmates in Mohave County Jail's C Pod caused severe water damage by breaking off sprinkler heads.

10 September - Reynosa, Tamaulipas,

Mexico – 85 inmates used ladders to scale the state prison's 20 foot tall walls and then disappeared.

17 September – Michigan City, Indiana –

A Indiana State Prison inmate assaulted a corrections officer and took another hostage. Unfortunately, the situation was resolved peacefully.

18 September – Jacksonville, Florida –

A Duval County Jail inmate grabbed a security guard's gun and beat him with it at the hospital where they were receiving medical care.

25 September – Hamilton, Montana –

A Ravalli County Detention Center inmate beat a corrections officer with a 14 inch long wooden cribbage board.

28 September – Newport, Oregon –

Six of the twelve inmates in a cell block escaped by burning out a third story plexiglass window.

1 October – Santa Barbara, California –

A Santa Barbara County Jail inmate punched a corrections officer in the face, knocking him to the ground, and then stomped on him.





Report on Anti-G20 Resistance in Toronto

-By Zig-Zag

Introduction

From June 25-27, 2010, Canada hosted both the G8 and G20 Summits. The G8 Summit was held on June 25 in Huntsville, Ontario, a small rural community. The G20 Summit was held in downtown Toronto from June 26-27. The security operation, involving some 19,000 security personnel (10,000 cops, 4,000 military, and 5,000 security guards), was billed as the largest in Canadian history (costing approximately \$1 billion). Just a day prior to the G8 Summit, an earthquake struck nearby while a ‘freak’ tornado tore through another region in southern Ontario. The G20 Summit itself opened and closed with torrential storms.

After nearly a week of ‘peaceful’ and heavily policed protests, Saturday, June 26, saw widespread property destruction and the arson of four Toronto police cars in downtown streets, including two in the financial district. In response to this humiliation, police went on a rampage later that evening and throughout the next day, violently attacking passive protesters, journalists, and bystanders. By the evening of Monday June 28, some 900 people had been arrested.

The final total of arrests would be nearly 1,100—the largest mass arrests in Canadian history.

Some detractors of resistance, including conspiracy theorists and reformsits, claim the militant attacks were “allowed” to happen, or were the work of agent provocateurs. The reality is that a few hundred militants were able to outmaneuver an army of riot cops and carry out extensive property destruction.

The damage inflicted, even with thousands of riot cops in the streets, and the arson of four police cars in particular, shows the vulnerability of the “all-powerful” state and its repressive apparatus. That some dared to challenge this illusion and literally smash it to pieces appears impossible to those already defeated in their hearts and minds.

The austerity measures agreed upon by the G20, with its focus on reducing deficits by 2013, amidst worsening socio-economic conditions, ensures that not only will millions of people experience even greater poverty and oppression, but that the state will increasingly resort to violent repression to counter the inevitable social conflict that will arise.

Organizing

Most of the grassroots organizing was carried out by the Toronto Community Mobilization Network (TCMN), comprised largely of groups in the city including No One Is Illegal (NOII), Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP), and many others. SOAR was also a member of TCMN but was made up of cities and towns across Southern Ontario (including Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, London, Hamilton, etc.). Another organizing group which was not a member of the TCMN was the Anti-Capitalist Convergence 2010 from Montreal (CLAC in its French acronym), which helped organized hundreds to travel to Toronto from Quebec.

Days of Action, June 25-27

The DOAs were preceded by daily rallies focused on certain themes (community justice, healthcare, environment, Indigenous), beginning Monday June 21. Beginning with two hundred at the first one, the rallies grew each day. The Indigenous rally on June 25 was the largest, with over 1,000.

With the exception of the Indigenous day, each rally saw large police deployments and attempts at intimidation, harassment, and arrests. The size of the Indigenous rally, along with organizers close collaboration with police prior to and during the protest, as well as the public profile of Indigenous struggles, led to a less confrontational police approach.

Friday, June 25

The slogan for this DOA was “Justice for Our Communities,” billed as a community action with a rally/march, block party and tent city. It began at Allan Garden Park in downtown Toronto at 12 noon. A police cordon of bike cops and uniformed officers was established around the park. At this time hundreds of protesters were arriving by the hour on buses from towns and cities in Ontario and Quebec.

Initially, police stopped each person arriving and searched them. Bags were checked and any banners or flag poles, as well as protective gear (i.e., goggles), was being seized. In at least two cases, groups began challenging the searches as they attempted to enter the park. One group’s refusal (SOS from Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph) attracted a large mob of reporters, while in another members of No One Is Illegal (NOII) broke through the police lines instead of being searched. Shortly after these incidents, police stopped searching people.

This was the biggest rally to date, with several thousand people, perhaps 3,000-4,000 or more. There was a wide variety of groups and movements, including unions, students, seniors, communists, anarchists, Indigenous people, Haiti solidarity, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP, one of the rally’s organizing groups), NOII, TCMN, etc. While there were numerous people wearing masks of some kind (bandanas, etc.) there was a small Black Bloc of approximately 50 persons.

This was not only the largest but also the best organized of the protests to date. Good food was served at the rally point in the park. Organizers had a big loud sound system, and a speaker explained the significance of the park, the plan for the day, etc.

When we moved into the street, the size of the march took some time to form up. Because they wanted to promote these issues, women and disabled persons formed the front of the march. Unlike the previous day’s peaceful parades, the June 25 protest had a far more radical vibe. There was also a lot more police, who once again acted aggressively towards protesters (unlike the previous day).

By the time we reached the downtown core, police had put on their riot helmets. Just past Yonge and College streets, police made an arrest. They bunched together and deployed their batons, punching and striking some

protesters. The bike cops grouped up and raised their front tires up to use in a defensive position. Some bike cops left their bikes on the side of the street as they rushed in to aid their comrades; these were knocked over and jumped on, while others had their tires slashed. After days of pigs power-tripping on us, it was good to see some fear among their ranks and to feel our collective power.

We marched around for a while longer in a more or less symbolic effort to reach an undisclosed park or facility near the security perimeter. We eventually were blocked by lines of riot cops and horses (where at one point a police truck had its tires slashed), and returned to the park where we originally started. There a large party was held and scores of tents pitched as a temporary ‘tent village’ (it was ended in the morning).

Saturday, June 26

The big labour/NGO parade was set to begin at 1PM at Queen’s Park, located near College and University Ave. It was entitled “People First—We Deserve Better.” There are reports of from 20,000-40,000 persons participating.

The route of the march, worked out in coordination with police, was to proceed south down University Ave. to Queen St., then west to Spadina Ave., north to College, then east to Queen’s Park (a big circle). It would approach no more than six blocks from the security fence and then turn back.

A ‘break-away’ contingent had been organized by the Southern Ontario Anarchist Resistance (SOAR) entitled “Get Off the Fence,” billed as a “militant and confrontational” action to march to the security fence.

At Queen and Spadina, the Get Off the Fence contingent stopped while the main parade continued on. At this time there were 1,200 or so in the breakaway group. After a short period of inactivity, the militant bloc reversed direc-

tion and began heading east on Queen. One of the first targets was a police car with a cop trapped inside it. Other cops ran in to rescue the officer, then withdrew. This vehicle was then completely smashed up, as was another. One of them was also set on fire (and another would be later in the afternoon). Following this, property destruction began to occur all along Queen St. At Bay St., the rally turned south, towards the security fence.

At Bay and King St. (now one block from the fence) a massive window complex of a Bank of Montreal was attacked, starting first with a hammer thrown through the air that stuck into the pane, like a hatchet thrown into a wall (but splintering the glass). A black-clad fighter ran up and pulled it out, ready to use it again.

At the intersection, two police cars were abandoned by retreating pigs. One immediately had its windows smashed out. This attack seemed to slow the march, as most stopped to observe the destruction. There was now a gap between the forward section that had passed through the cars in the intersection, and a much larger group still on the other side.

Then another police car roared towards the intersection of Bay and King, with four cops jumping out and running towards the mob. They quickly fled, however. The second abandoned car then had its windows smashed out, while the first one was now engulfed in flames. Shortly after, the second cop car was torched as well.

We began running east on King and then turned north at the next intersection, on Yonge Street, the main consumer strip for which Toronto is renowned. Now many more windows were smashed—every bank (including Toronto Dominion, CIBC, Bank of Montreal, etc.), an Adidas store, Bell Canada, a jewellery store, a leather shop, a porn theatre, Pizza Pizza, Starbucks, a McDonalds, surveillance cameras. Inside some stores, staff and customers ran to find cover as

glass shards sprayed in. I heard someone yelling “There’s workers in there,” while others were telling staff to get away from windows that were going to be smashed.

People used sticks, stones and bricks found on the street, chairs, construction signage, anything that could be used to smash windows. When a window was broken with an object, others would run up and retrieve it to use again on another window. Some people used golf balls, but these were mostly ineffective and bounced wildly back into the bloc, with some calling for others to stop using them.

As the bloc proceeded north on Yonge, people became bolder and began stepping into the smashed storefronts, removing furniture and looting another Bell Canada outlet of cell phones. An American Apparel shop was attacked and its mannequins taken out, dismembered and used as projectiles. At College and Yonge another Starbucks, Second Cup and CIBC bank were smashed. As we passed the Toronto Police Headquarters, rocks and bricks were thrown at the riot cops deployed out in front of it (the only cops we saw since leaving Bay and King Streets). At least one window was smashed, but the mob didn’t linger too long here.

As we marched west on College Street and neared Queen’s Park (where the big parade had originally started) a police rental mini-van was found at the intersection and smashed up, while across the street a platoon of riot cops advanced, their gunners moving up to counter anyone who approached them. They shot several ‘muzzle blasts’ that sprayed a large cloud of smoke (talc with tear gas) and a small ‘wafer’-like projectile.

At this point the Black Bloc dispersed, forming a circle inside which members removed their black clothing and protective gear, including shin pads, knee and elbow pads, etc. Some protesters began mingling in the park as more riot cops arrived. At this time there were

only a few dozen stragglers in various groups in the park, leftovers from the People First parade, as well as numerous media.

Shortly after the cops encircled the people left at Queen’s Park and assaulted them with fists, kicks, batons, and pepper spray, before forcing them to disperse. The park had been the officially designated ‘free speech zone.’

Since all the transit was closed, I was unable to go back to the apartment I was staying at and wanted to avoid walking through the downtown core. As I approached Spadina Ave. and Queen St., I saw a plume of black smoke billowing up into the sky and a large crowd gathered. The first police car was still burning.

By this time, a large crowd of mostly citizen bystanders had gathered at Spadina Ave. and Queen St. to watch the first burning cop car. Just as I arrived, the OPP riot squad was marching in to secure the ‘scene’. They formed lines on either side of the two damaged vehicles while firefighters extinguished the one on fire. After a firefighter vehicle was escorted out through the crowd by the riot cops, they formed a line and began advancing, forcing people back onto Spadina. This aggravated the people and created a crowd control situation where before there wasn’t one. Some bottles were thrown at the cops, who advanced to clear the intersection and then began pushing the crowd further down Queen St.

After an hour of this, the OPP retreated and left the area, marching out as they had come in, in columns of two. The crowd surged back across Spadina and into the block where the damaged cars were. Then the second police car was set on fire to cheers from the crowd (most of whom weren’t protesters). After fifteen minutes of the cop car burning, the OPP returned. Then more cops, including horse-mounted pigs and buses of RCMP and Newfoundland Constabulary arrived, all dressed in full riot gear (a truly national effort).

The police repeated their earlier actions, pushing the crowds back and then charging. A horse charge was used to chase down an 'agitator' and escort him back for arrest. The horse charge terrified the citizens caught up in it, and most ran wildly at any advance made by the riot cops (even though they would only charge 20 feet or so, then stop to reform their line).

At one point, a person suggested the crowd sing 'Oh Canada' (the national anthem), as if the spirit of patriotism would endear them to the line of riot cops facing them. Another walked to the front and sat on the street, with his back to the cops, and persuaded others to join him. As soon as they finished singing the anthem, the riot cops charge, trampling several.

Sunday, June 27

The day began with a raid at the University of Toronto, where some seventy people from Quebec were staying. Police claimed to have found discarded black clothing, gear, and weapons in the grounds around the building (including bricks and rocks). Some 50 people were arrested.

At around 10AM a jail solidarity rally gathered at a park near the temporary prison on Eastern Avenue. By this time several hundred people had been arrested. Police were out in force for this rally, and only after negotiations were the protesters allowed to walk to the jail.

After the protest arrived at the temporary jail, riot cops were deployed and snatch squads began grabbing people from among the crowd, throwing them into their rented min-vans. Violent assaults were carried out in many of these arrests, and an ARWEN was fired into the crowd several times (muzzle blasts with tear gas).

At 3:30PM, police stopped a bus with Quebec license plates. They detained fifty people and arrested ten. A bomb squad was also called in during the search of the bus. Throughout the day, police also continued to board transit vehicles in the downtown area searching for anyone wearing black or who appeared to be a protester.

In the late afternoon, police surrounded the convergence space located off of Queen St. (but quite a distance from the downtown area). Scores of mostly bike cops kept a crowd back, although it was unclear what their intentions were. After an hour and a half or so they departed, having arrested several people during that time. Many feared they would raid the space, and perhaps this was their plan. But by then another crowd control situation was developing further east on Queen St.

In the downtown area, again near Queen and Spadina, and

the area where the two cop cars had been arsoned on Saturday, riot cops confronted another crowd at around 6PM (a rally that had begun around 5PM). By 7PM they 'kettled' a crowd of 200 or so by blocking the front with vehicles, then moving in on the sides and rear with platoons of riot cops. A torrential rain then began, just as the G20 Summit ended (and as it had began, prompting some conspiracy theorists to assert that the government was 'seeding' clouds to cause them to rain!).

No one was permitted to leave the kettle, and cops began searching and arresting anyone wearing black clothing or with a black back pack, people they recognized from previous day's protests, etc. Snatch squads were used to grab people. Although there were some who had attended protests, there were also many bystander citizens, residents, and journalists in the crowd.

The heavy downpour lasted for the duration of the kettle and drenched everyone. People were wet and cold and would be held for over three hours, most being arrested and loaded onto buses. Among those who experienced this were reporters for the National Post and CTV News. Police would later claim they had seen evidence of Black Bloc tactics in the crowd, including some wearing masks (although none were dressed in all-black clothing).

By the end of the night, some 900 people had been arrested during Saturday and Sunday, the largest mass arrests in Canadian history. The total would eventually be some 1,100 arrests. Police had acquired an old movie studio to use as a temporary prison facility, located in east Toronto, where the prisoners were taken and processed.

Beginning Sunday afternoon, prisoners were released, some without shoes and others without their belongings (including cameras). All described having been held in cold, cramped, wire cages, some overcrowded, with toilets having no doors. Some cells were contaminated with pepper spray (and vomit). Many women reported threats of rape and sexual harassment, while others were forced to strip-search in front of male pigs. Prisoners were threatened with further violence, and some who resisted arrest were reportedly kept zip-tied for up to ten hours.

The Black Bloc Actions

There is no question the Black Bloc and militant attacks 'stole the thunder' from both the liberal reformists as well as the G20 Summit itself. As an act of 'armed propaganda' it was highly successful, with widespread media coverage and public attention focused on militant resistance. Even if many citizens aren't aware of what the G20 is or its policies, they know there is determined resistance against it. They also now have an example of successful militant attacks in the face

of a massive security operation, in the downtown financial district of the largest city in Canada.

Despite the usual condemnations regarding ‘mindless violence’, the overwhelming majority of attacks were against state or corporate targets. Many journalists noted that property destruction was limited almost exclusively to banks and corporations. Despite Toronto police chief Blair’s assertions of ‘mindless’ destruction, it was obvious that the attacks were targeted and avoided violence against persons (even against police for the most part):

“On Queen Street West, the scene of burning police cars Saturday, merchants surveyed the damage yesterday and noted there was method to the madness of rioters. They targeted the icons of consumerism and financing.”

“The list of battered stores in the strip between University and Spadina includes Starbucks, Foot Locker, Nike and Gap. Every bank branch along the strip also had windows smashed.”

“Independent shop owners were spared—at least by the rioters. These merchants instead complained of a sharp drop in business due to the G20 security lockdown.”

(“Cat and mouse game,” Metro (Toronto), June 28, 2010)

“We were spared... I do have a feeling that all these places were targeted. I think because we’re an independent business, they left us alone.”

(Glen Cameron, manager of Sunrise Records, quoted in “It was a mess, there was glass everywhere,” Katherine Laidlaw, National Post, June 28, 2010)

“For the most part, their targets are specific and symbolic: As the crowd tore across Queen St., they hammered police cruisers, attacked banks and other corporate companies. Yet they left a record store, a local tavern and an independent hardware shop untouched.”

(“Behind the Black Bloc,” by Jesse McLean, Toronto Star, June 27, 2010)

Despite the overall demonization of the Black Bloc, there is also a significant appreciation of their audacity and effectiveness among the general population:

“‘They’re very organized—it’s almost like a cat-and-mouse game,’ one observer said. They are picking the few weaknesses they can find in the cops and targeting them and then quickly dispersing so they don’t get caught.”

(“Organized anarchy,” Toronto Sun, June 27, 2010)

“After bringing in thousands of reinforcements, police still managed to be outwitted and outrun by a determined group of anarchists bent on destruction.”

(“Police burned by protesters,” by Michelle Shephard, Toronto Star, Sunday June 27, 2010)

The mystique of the Black Bloc, itself a powerful propaganda image, was strengthened by media accounts of the ‘mysterious,’ ‘sinister’ and ‘elusive’ militants, with headlines such as “Violent protesters who never were,” “Cat and mouse game,” “In black and running wild,” all of which described the tactics of the Black Bloc and its intent. Most of these reports contained a surprisingly good understanding of the tactics and intention of the Black Bloc, noting its origin in West Germany during the 1980s and its subsequent emergence in North America at the Seattle anti-WTO mobilization in 1999.

One of the more interesting media reports of the Black Bloc was published in Vancouver’s Georgia Straight:

“Neither thugs nor criminals lurk behind the masks of black bloc protesters, a renowned police psychologist suggests.”

Rather, what Mike Webster sees are ‘very thoughtful people’...

“The vast majority of people in that crowd are not bad people,” Webster told the Georgia Straight in a phone interview... ‘They’ve got the same values that most of the rest of us have. If they didn’t, they’d be in jail, locked up in jail for murder.’

“A BC-based crisis-management expert who has consulted with the RCMP, the FBI, and many other police forces inside and outside of Canada, Webster went as far as arguing that black bloc activists aren’t much different from ‘well-socialized young individuals’ who go off to fight a war believing it’s an honourable thing to do.”

(“Anarchist actions have complicated motives,” Carlito Pablo, Georgia Straight, July 1-8, 2010)

Damages

The total amount of damages inflicted during the Toronto G20 Summit has yet to be determined. It is surely over a million dollars. According to Tim Byrne, manager of Stadia Industries Ltd., his company alone had replaced about \$750,000 in broken windows by Sunday night (June 27). Each police vehicle was reported to cost \$30,000, and with four utterly destroyed by arson would total some \$120,000. Along with this numerous other police vehicles had windows smashed and tires slashed. There was also extensive graffiti on buildings, including “Fuck the Rich,” “Bomb the Banks,” “Fuck the Police,” etc.

Legal Fallout

The majority of those arrested were released by June 28, with only 320 or so being charged. Some of these charges include the arson of the cop cars, assault police, carrying weapons, mischief, etc. Those that remained in jail were primarily the 18 or so ‘ringleaders’ charged with multiple counts of

‘conspiracy to commit mischief over \$5,000.’ In the Canadian Criminal Code, mischief is a vague and all-inclusive charge for any damage to property. Despite its trivial sounding title, mischief over \$5,000 carries a maximum 10 year sentence (if it is an indictable offense, if it is a summary charge the maximum sentence is 2 years in jail). Conspiracy charges for indictable offenses (such as mischief) have the same sentences.

Most of those charged with conspiracy were members of SOAR. Alex Hundert and Leah Henderson, among the last to remain in jail of the conspiracy charges, were released on July 19. Eric Rankin, also charged with conspiracy, was not released until September and spent three months in prison after being repeatedly denied bail. The bail conditions of many defendants include provisions that many of them live with their parents, not to have contact with other defendants, not to participate in protests, not to use cell phones or internet, etc. On Sept. 18, Alex Hundert was re-arrested by police, who accused him of violating his bail conditions after speaking at a public forum earlier that night.

A couple of weeks after the protests, Toronto police began publishing ‘wanted’ posters with photos of people participating in the protests. Many were identified in this manner and/or turned themselves in. Additional arrests occurred through August and into September, primarily in Ontario but also in Quebec. One of those later identified through photographic evidence was Kelly Pflug-Black of Guelph, charged with five counts of causing mischief over \$5,000. As one of the few charged for actual Black Bloc actions, police have elevated her charges to ‘hate

crimes’ in an effort to punish her. The most recent arrest occurred September 29 when a member of the Chilean Women’s Coordinating Committee (Mapuche women from Chile) was charged with conspiracy.

On August 23, 2010, some 306 defendants appeared in a mass court appearance in Toronto. 104 had their charges dropped, while some 33 others plea bargained for diversion (in which there is no criminal record and a fine is paid). The remainder, approximately 235 (including the 18 or so facing more serious conspiracy charges) still await court dates and trials.

Further Information on Ways to Help:

Toronto Community Mobilization Network

www.g20.torontomobilize.org/support

Toronto Movement Defence Committee:

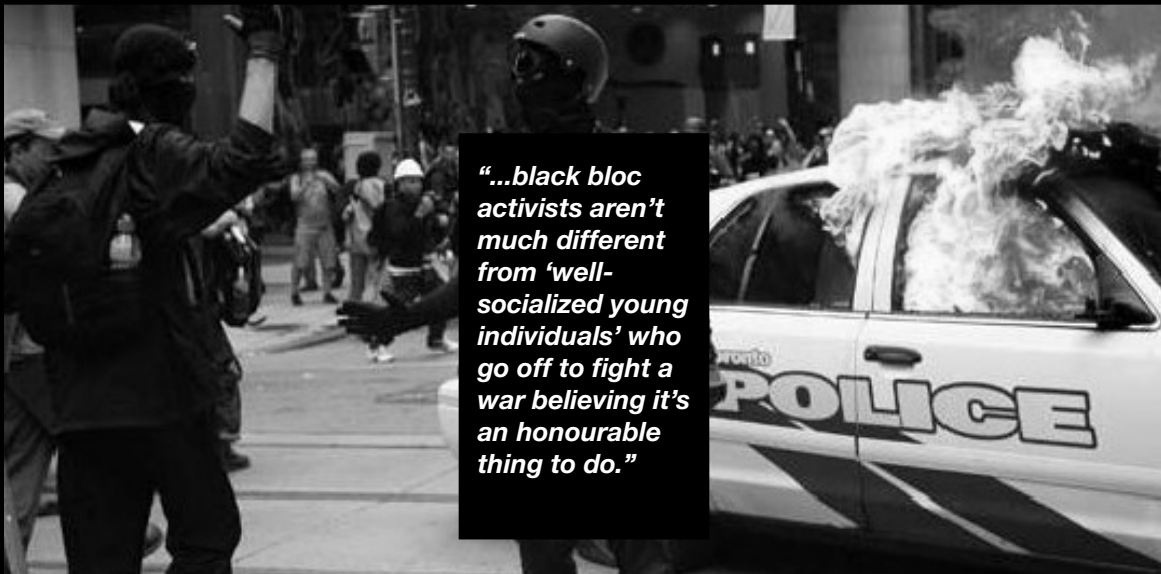
<http://movementdefence.org>

FTTP NOTE:

This article originally appeared in a pamphlet called “Fire and Flames.” It was edited by the author for this magazine.

Additional writing by the author can be read at:

www.warriorpublications.com





**Oakland Disgraced.
Tensions Re-Ignite:**

**An interview regarding
recent events in the Bay.**

Interview Key:

FTTP: Fire to the Prisons

BAR: Bay Area Resident

FTTP: The murder of Oscar Grant by Bart (Bay Area Rapid Transit) police officer Johannes Mehserle in Oakland, CA, is something we have reported on multiple times in this publication, could you provide a brief description of the background of these events for new readers?

BAR: On January 1st, 2009. Oscar Grant, a young black man from nearby Hayward, California, was detained by transit police officer Johannes Mehserle. As Grant was laying on his back, prone and unarmed, Mehserle shot him once in the back, killing him. The murder set off weeks of occasional rioting and demonstrations in the SF Bay Area. On January 8th, 2009 over 120 people were arrested in downtown Oakland after participating in hours of rioting. All of these charges were eventually dropped. With the “Oakland Rebellion” having forced the government’s hands, Johannes Mehserle was eventually arrested and charged with the murder of Oscar Grant.

FTTP: Since our last issue, Johannes’ trial that was moved to a “less bias” L.A county court, was concluded, leaving Johannes with an almost “711 robbery” equivalent conviction for shooting a young black man in his back while he was on his stomach on the ground. Could you describe some of the responses by frustrated Bay Area communities that followed these events?

BAR: People were pissed, and disgusted, and large numbers of Bay Area residents understood this verdict as the blatant racism that it was. Large segments of the Bay Area populations felt that there needed to be some kind of response if he wasn’t convicted of murder – given how incontrovertible the murder was. But, as the question below indicates, the City of Oakland, in conjunction with the police departments and sectors of the non-profit industrial complex which the police essentially deputized, ran an extraordinarily effective campaign in the weeks leading up to the verdict – attempting to split the anti-police violence movement along race lines: “White” or “professional” anarchists from “outside the community” would riot in the event of a verdict of manslaughter

or lower. Tip lines were established to report on “anarchist activities” and the local media featured daily stories about military-style staging operations at the Port of Oakland, National Guard units on standby, etc. This was reminiscent of Iraq/Afghanistan war “psychological operations”, and I think it was fairly effective in keeping people home. I don’t think that the lessons from this have been fully integrated.

But, of course, nothing could truly stop the popular outrage once the involuntary manslaughter verdict was announced. A crowd of close to a 1000 people gathered downtown, and despite speaker after speaker parroting the nonprofits’ line about outside agitators, and the importance of a “peaceful” response, as night fell and the police began to move upon the crowd, spontaneous looting and smashing and graffiti began very quickly, first with the looting of Footlocker –fitteds and running shoes and t-shirts flying through the air – and graffiti like “involuntary property destruction” appearing on the walls. Police were unable to do anything at first, due to the numbers, even though they had the crowd effectively kettled. As people broke out of the kettle, rioting moved northward up Broadway and Telegraph where, as some media outlets reported, close to 100 business were targeted. Despite the media’s typical focus on the very few “small businesses” – a sushi bar (gentrification outpost) and a pawnshop (predatory instrument) – walking through the district the next day, one could see that the targeted were, for the most part, corporate stores, banks and commercial real-estate. One report says that as the crowd moved up the street smashing and burning, voices would cry out, “not that one, that’s a mom and pop.”. Displays were dragged out of store windows and burned in the streets; burning dumpsters were used as barricades; Whole Foods was nearly looted.

Police departments from all over the Greater Bay Area were called in to quell the rioting, and the numbers were

overwhelmingly on the side of police. Reports indicate that different police and sheriff’s departments would slowly secure intersection after intersection where there were reports of rioting – they would pull up in the cars and line-up on two corners. But the crowd moved faster than this response. (On one building the words “cops are slow” appeared in red paint). What eventually ended it, apparently, was the combination of surveillance teams and snatch squads which would first identify and then grab individuals who were wearing distinctive clothing. Reports indicate that this was very effective in scattering the rioters, and things were largely over before midnight, even as long lines of hundreds of police cars from neighboring counties were still driving into the city center.

Almost immediately, even before things had really developed, local newspapers and TV outlets began running stories with headlines blaming the rioting on “white anarchists,” below which there would be a picture of largely black and brown youth. The cognitive dissonance was unbelievable, and this script continued playing the next day, and the day after that, with the District Attorney even talking about suing “outside agitators” for damages and issuing “restraining orders” to keep them out of Oakland – as if the fact that the people lived in Berkeley or San Francisco (all served by BART) made one bit of difference. But of course, once the scores of people arrested began appearing for their arraignments the Justice system revealed that, despite blaming the whole thing on “white anarchists”, they would continue with the racist, differential treatment of black and brown people, repeatedly denying bail for people on probation or parole (usually non-white) who had been swept up during the riots. Many people are still facing charges, and some remain in jail. Photographs were used – in often ridiculous ways – to arrest people after the fact, further emphasizing the importance of practical solidarity in the form of helping people to conceal their

identities, stopping photographers, etc.

Dozens of people were arrested on the 8th, although most have had their charges dropped as of late. To our great misfortune, several people were convicted of parole violations and sentenced in single-year terms in county jail. It is expected that they will serve 6-8 months of their actual term. One older man, Art Jackson, was wrongfully arrested later that night under the pretense of possession of stolen property that he supposedly looted earlier that day from Foot Locker. After spending 45 days in county jail, he was bonded out of jail by the magnificent and hard-working anarchists of the Oakland 100 Support Committee.

Many people are still facing charges, ranging from misdemeanor charges of “Remaining at the Scene of a Riot” to more serious felony arson charges. Any monetary donations are appreciated and should be directed through the Oakland 100 Support Committee, who are working directly with the defendants and their lawyers.

For information on donating as well as up to date legal information please check their website at

www.supporttheoakland100.wordpress.com

Or you could also join the Oakland100 Facebook page.

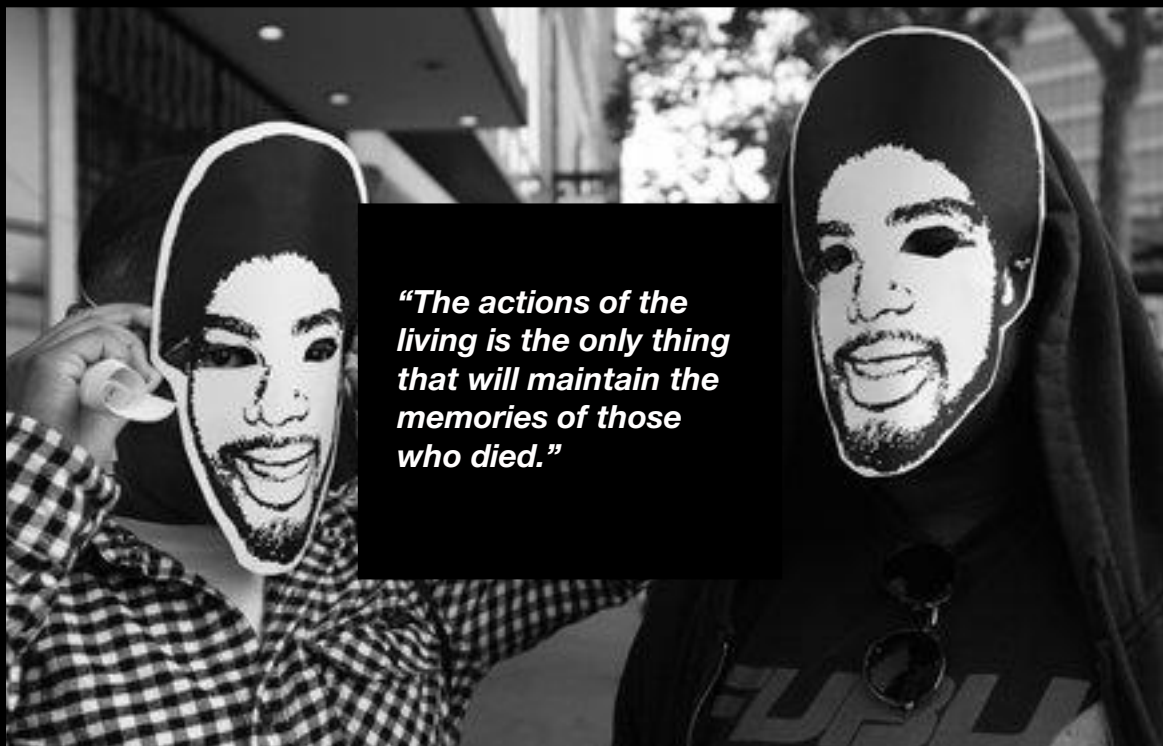
FTTP: *Police murder, especially of young black men is obviously not an isolated incident. With that said, do you feel that if the shooting was not caught on camera, Oscar Grant’s murder would have gone unnoticed?*

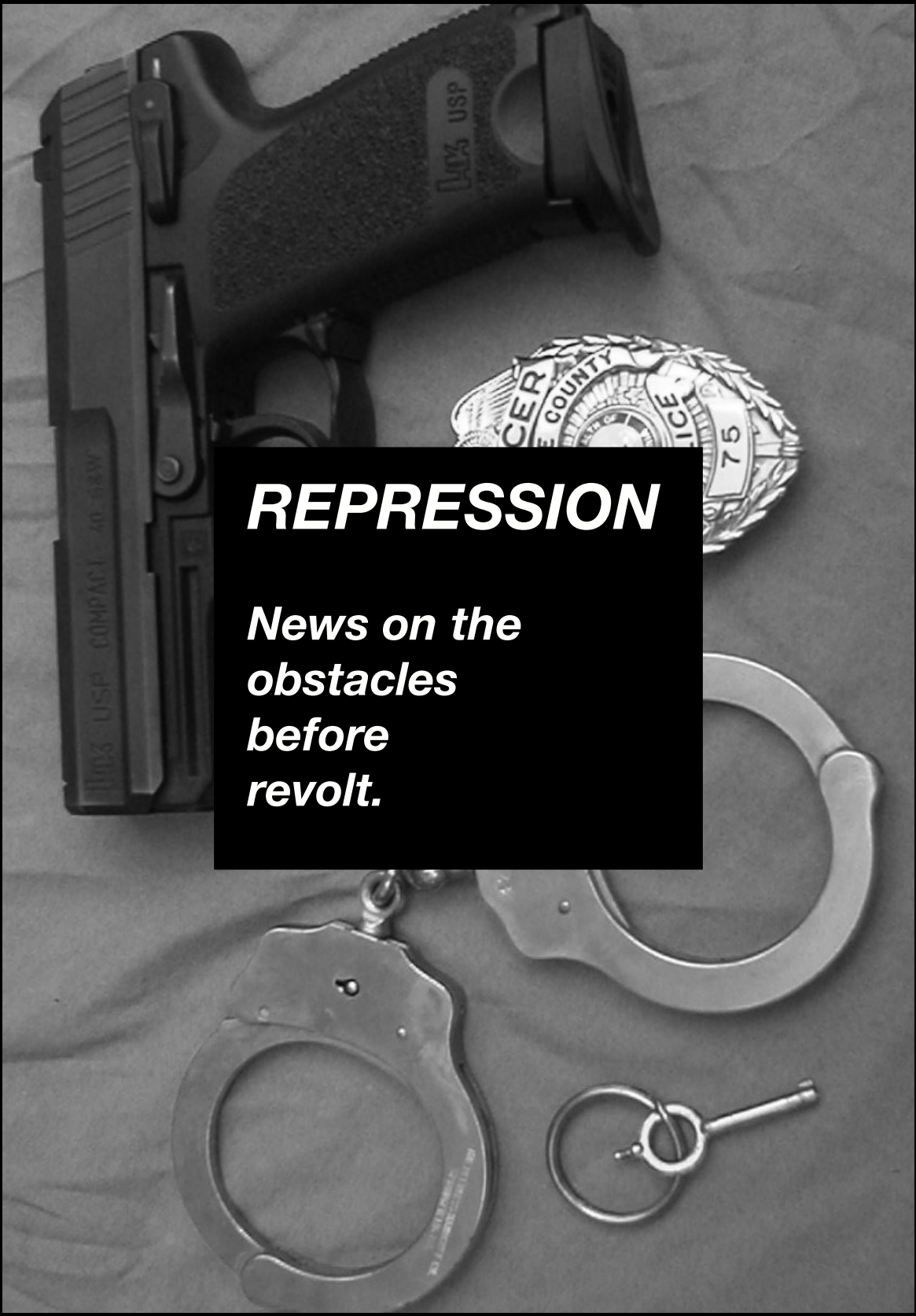
BAR: Unfortunately, yes. It is the role of the police to control, intimidate, suppress, and murder, and especially young people of color. This should come as no news to any aware person. The police, even in a supposedly “progressive” area like the San Francisco Bay Area, kill and injure young black and brown people on a regular basis. Even since

the Oakland Rebellion occurred and the Justice for Oscar Grant movement swelled, the police have continued to murder people in Oakland with near impunity. 10 days after the rioting in response to the Mehserle verdict, on July 17, 2010, Oakland and BART police officers shot and killed Fred Collins right outside the very same BART station in which Oscar Grant was murdered. Cop-watching, both formally as a group or informally as a dispersed practice is a key way to track police violence and should be widely encouraged, practiced, and disseminated.

FTTP: *When reading reports from leftist organizations or mainstream media sources about the rioting and unrest that came both after Oscar's original murder, and Johannes' recent conviction, it appears that there is a trend of blaming "outside agitators". We continue to see activists and police using the same rhetoric to almost deliberately disempower the community response to Oscar's death and weaken tensions between people and police in the area. What do you think the intentions behind these allegations are? Also how do you feel about the similarities in rhetoric and approach shared by Leftists NGOs and police spokespeople?*

BAR: The intentions behind the rhetoric of "outside agitators" was clearly to divide the movement. Local Non-Profits such as Youth Uprising (who received a \$1.5 million dollar grant from the City of Oakland) directly colluded with The City of Oakland, the Mayors Office, and the Oakland Police Department to try and deflate the movement for Oscar Grant by dividing it along race and geographic lines, implying that "white anarchists from Berkeley and San Francisco" were behind the rioting. This paternalistic line of argument is an exact copy of the type of rhetoric directed against the civil rights movements by southern law enforcement when they stated that white, outside agitators were brainwashing their "good southern Negroes". Fortunately, this propaganda was not able to completely quash the movement and steal people's anger, though its damaging effects do continue to be felt in Oakland, being a possible reason why a more sustained urban rebellion never took hold after Mehserle's paltry conviction. Radicals in other areas should take note of this fact and mercilessly critique any activity of the Non-Profit Industrial Complex.





REPRESSION

***News on the
obstacles
before
revolt.***

Solidarity

Supporting each other.

Learning from each other.

Standing strong together.

This section is reserved for updates and news clips regarding state repression of individuals or communities in active revolt against society as we know it.

Due to space issues we have chosen to prioritize mostly cases that have happened or are on-going in North America.

Although we have a few international articles, we apologize for missing others that we would have liked to include here.

Struggle is a constant occurrence. It's indispensable that we stay informed of what others are going through as a result of their opposition to our common conditions. This is what allows our communities in revolt to set a precedent for one another: that when times are tough, and the state is on the offensive, no one will ever have to endure it alone.

Prisoner Letters Being Closely Monitored by the FBI

After having filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, Eric McDavid's support group has come across a troubling -- if not surprising -- revelation: The FBI has been keeping track of who has been writing Eric. The support group has sorted through hundreds of pages documenting Eric's correspondence with people around the world, and has found that not only have those people been placed on lists, but the FBI has sent out alerts to the nearest field offices to those who have been writing Eric.

The alerts included language warning the FBI in other cities of a "possible environmental/animal rights extremist" or "a possible anarchist extremist" in their community. Later reports also included a statement which read, in part: "this information has been determined to be of such a nature that some follow-up as to the possibility of criminal activity is warranted..." Eric's support group wants to make clear however, that "We are not sharing this information to raise alarm or spread fear. We have every intention of continuing to write political prisoners, and we urge others to do the same. That said, we hope to expose the FBI's politically motivated investigations and, unlike the FBI, we believe people have a right to know when they have been spied on."

If you wish to see the documents for yourself, visit: supporteric.org

FTTP Note:

When writing prisoners, when getting a phone (Metro PCS, Boost, or no contract phones?), or when using your fucking facebook (Maybe famous Spanish celebrities as your name), Unless you have to, there should be no reason for ever identifying yourself with your real name, Although now it has been proven that the state acts the way we worry about, when writing a comrade in prison it should be assumed that the state is going to use that as an opportunity to gain more information on the movement the individual is being imprisoned for.

Eric McDavid's Appeal Denied

From Sacramento Prisoner Support:

Dear friends,

It is with heavy hearts that we write to tell you that Tuesday, September 21st, the 9th circuit court denied Eric's appeal of his conviction and sentencing. Given all that has happened these past 4+ years, this news isn't shocking so much as it is maddening and upsetting. The state has, from the beginning, used dirty tricks and lies to hold Eric captive. As many have said, they wished to make an example of him...

And in that, at least, they have been successful. But not in the way that they might have wished. Because for us, Eric has been a constant example of strength, courage and integrity. Of staying the course, even when the deck is totally stacked against him. And of not losing one's Self in the midst of potentially crushing adversity. This is a very difficult time for Eric and his loved ones. Please send Eric a note of support to let him know he is not forgotten. For more info on how to write Eric, you can visit his website at: www.supporteric.org

Yours,

Sacramento Prisoner Support

PS: Eric's lawyer is pursuing a petition for a rehearing. This is not quite the end of the road as far as appeals are concerned. We will keep you updated on any progress.

FTTP Note:

Eric is in jail for 20 years for a crime that never took place. His case marks the dawn of a new era of federal policing and premeditated "conspiracy" based arrests. Eric's situation is quite noticeably one of the most harsh and frightening that we have had to report on. Although he has been starved, framed, betrayed, and imprisoned, Eric has remained a committed member of a larger movement, and his courage is something to be admired.

Please find out more at:

www.supporteric.org



An update on the Asheville 11

From Anonymous author:

This article was not written by any member of the Asheville 11, and does not necessarily reflect their views. It is the position of the authors of this article that the 11 have not committed any crimes.

We have found that conflict, whether its immediate repercussions are for good or ill, is always clarifying. No previous lesson has taught us this so well as the events of May 1st, 2010 in downtown Asheville, NC. As the sun glinted off the broken glass that littered the streets of this mountain tourist town on the morning of May 2nd, while the eleven individuals rounded up haphazardly in the streets after the torrent of vandalism took place sat in jail waiting for their first court appearance, lines of solidarity and betrayal were already being drawn and darkened across anarchist networks in the US. And so it happened that this hard lesson was etched in our hearts as former friends and comrades responded with a resounding apathy: “No, we do not support you, because

we do not support this kind of activity.” Conversely, we found support in unexpected places – friends and comrades came out of the woodwork to offer help and solidarity, material and otherwise. We found, delightfully, that we had misjudged some of the people we now know to be our comrades.

Our dreams are always haunted by the spectre of state repression, but facing it in waking life was a shock to our systems. To feel the terror of the outside world bearing down in the pit of your stomach, to see enemies real or imagined in a passing car, a security camera, a helicopter overhead, even in the odd behavior of a friend... it was and continues to be a deeply unpleasant experience. However, it valuably clarified for us the role of repression in the revolutionary project, and, as importantly, who is and isn't capable of dealing with it in a manner befitting a comrade. During the weeks following May Day, we saw many of Asheville's radicals, anti-authoritarians, anarchists, and fellow travelers reveal their cowardice—when forced to stare down the gun barrel that is the power of the state, they fled, denounced us, did whatever they could to save their skins.

We do not believe that methods shouldn't be questioned, or that in the heat of struggle mistakes are not made. On the contrary, we believe that one's practices should always be refined and elaborated, questioned, and if necessary discarded. However, we understand that the price of revolutionary practice is inevitably state repression. Learning how to deal with it is an essential part of that practice... but being disappointed by the reactions of our friends shouldn't be.

The dominant feeling around all of this, however, is not sadness as much as it is shame. We feel shame at our weakness—that we can't protect our comrades, or were deluded as to what was at stake. We are ashamed of the weakness of our milieu, and of its cowardice. We are ashamed of not being able to mobilize the resources necessary to be a force and stand up for ourselves. When we tell international comrades about our situation, they can barely believe us—it's simply inconceivable that one would not support those accused of vandalism. It is a fucking shame to see anarchists cry over broken glass.

In this bitter taste of shame we have found a new resolve: we shall not be so weak again.

The situation

After weeks of constant news coverage and internet diatribes from outraged citizens, the scandal gradually died down and most of the participants in Asheville's downtown tourist economy resumed normalcy—a quiet, inoffensive hum of exchanging money for sweat and tears, and things less tangible than those. While service workers busy themselves trying to please yuppies in restaurants and cafes, tourists from Florida comment about how “unique” Asheville is, with all of its artists and local shops. They speculate about buying a second home. Meanwhile the defendants wait, holding their breath, anxious to find out what the future holds for them.

The 11 are each being charged with ten misdemeanors and three felonies and are facing a potential total of five years of jail time. They are accused of \$20,000 worth of property damage, and their combined bail totaled \$715,000. Their case has been highly politicized. Tried by the media in the court of public opinion, the 11 were repeatedly referred to in the news as anarchists and vandals before they were even bailed out of jail, based only on specious internet searches and the desire to find someone guilty for so many tourists' discomfort.

Supporting these arrestees is as delicate and difficult as holding water in your hand. There is no coherent body represented by the title we've been using, “the Asheville 11” – their only common thread is being embroiled in the same ludicrous legal situation. As such, there is also no explicit group running their support campaign. Anything that has been done on their behalf – raising money, tabling events, sending postcards to the District Attorney – has been from the initiative of individuals. The defendants can only do what defendants can do—wait for their trials, hold fast, hope for the future, love their friends. Our role as comrades, friends—as anarchists—is to imagine what else can be done and act accordingly.

Today we wait anxiously for the next movements of the justice system's bureaucratic machinery. It is hard to say for certain at this point what we can expect. All we can say is this: the cruelty of the state has not yet destroyed us.

We have decided not to die.

FTTP Note:

The Picture at the top of this article on the prior page was a flyer found online at amoryresistencia.blogspot.com

Watch What You Say

Connecticut police say they arrested a man at a management company after he mentioned the shooting rampage across the state that killed nine people and said he understood the killer's mind set. Fifty-eight-year-old Francis Laskowski of Derby was charged with breach of peace Wednesday after making the comments while working at Fusco Management Co. in New Haven.

Nine people died in the shooting Tuesday at Hartford Distributors in Manchester, including gunman Omar Thornton. Thornton told police in a 911 call that he wanted to avenge racial discrimination, allegations that company officials denied.

Laskowski told The Associated Press on Friday that his comments were blown out of proportion. He says his arrest was “ridiculous” and he didn't make any threats. Laskowski posted bail and is due in New Haven Superior Court on Tuesday.

Another NYPD Cop Gets Away With Being A Cop

A former New York police officer accused of covering up after he shoved a Critical Mass protester from his bike – an incident that was caught on video and viewed by millions of people on YouTube – has walked free from court. Earlier this year, Patrick Pogan was cleared of assault and harassment after he claimed he acted in self defence. However, he was convicted of falsifying police records. On his return to New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan for sentencing yesterday, he faced up to four years in prison. But Justice Maxwell Wiley handed him a conditional discharge and released him without punishment. Representatives of the counter-revolutionary or issue based group Critical Mass (a “movement” that tries to radicalize the idea of a more prominent and sanctioned urban bike culture) movement assured the public that in spite of this, they would continue to cooperate with the police as usual.

Note:

We included this article simply because the video was so intense. We recommend watching it to understand why we would report on just another cop “getting away with murder”. While the group Critical Mass is well known by revolutionaries around the world as a group that usurps revolutionary energies and transform them into single issued based “political” angst, it is interesting to see how even if you are practicing “free speech” or “exercising your rights”, the state is always entitled to revoke them from you.

View the video of the bicyclist attacked on YouTube at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUkiyBVytRQ



Support David Japenga

A Statement from Friends of David:

David Japenga is a 23 year old Anarchist living in Pittsburgh who was convicted on August 25th, 2010 of Felony Criminal Mischief and 4 Misdemeanors for attacking banks and capitalist institutions during the 2009 G-20 in Pittsburgh, PA. His \$15,000 bond was revoked upon conviction and he was remanded into the custody of the Allegheny County Jail until his November 26th, 2010 Court date where the judge will "then" impose sentencing. Ever since the time of his initial arrest approximately one year ago he has been locked down on house arrest.

The state hates when people get out of line and we love it. And since his conviction, there have been a number of actions in support of our friend and comrade that we would like to take a minute and put up a shout out to those who came and made it successful.

Immediately after his sentencing around 40 people visited the jail with flares, rocks, drums, a ghetto blaster and screams in support of him and all those taken captive by the state.

A week later when the judge denied without hearing his motion for reconsideration of judgement another demo occurred at the jail with around 35 people. This time shooting fireworks at the jail, throwing rocks, banging on drums and guard rails, while inmates flickered their lights in support.

The Anarchist Black Cross Pittsburgh organized three letter writings days in support of David.

A Communique was read over "What's Really Good Radio" and the show was dedicated to him.

The 2010 G20 Legal Reportback covering the recent arrests in Toronto was also dedicated to David.

Graffiti expressing solidarity was painted on the Polytechnic School in Athens, Greece.

Continued support for David is needed.

Letters, books, puzzles can be mailed to him:

*David Japenga 153760
950 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219*

More information:

*Facebook.com/SupportDavidJapenga
abcpittsburgh@riseup.net*

For the destruction of jails and in solidarity with all those who attack the system,

-Some pissed off friends of David.



*“A chilly sunday morning
burns into brightness
the sun’s relentless radiance
restrained
by a breeze
surely touched by the sea*

*I lie on dry
not-knowing-if-it-is-yet-time-to-die
grass
looking up through
anti-helicopter wires
punctuated by garish orange globes
against the chalked crystal sky*

*a glider appears
above restricted air space
without raising alarm
a silver breath
looping beyond confinement*

*a being
unseeable
hangs down
face to Earth
I wave
an illegal spatial contact*

immured defiance”

-Marilyn Buck// October 1991

Marilyn Buck, Committed Revolutionary, Passes Away

From the NYC Anarchist Black Cross:

We in the New York City chapter of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation are deeply saddened to write that August 3, 2010 marked an incredible loss for our communities with the death of Marilyn Buck, who for decades has stood as an inspiration to radicals and revolutionaries for her militant struggle against the imperialism and racism of the US government. Known for her role in the liberation of Assata Shakur, Marilyn had been involved in liberation struggles for many years (some of which is mentioned below), an involvement that continued through her 25 years of imprisonment.

In the spirit of the way in which Marilyn lived her life, never giving up her dedication to the struggles of oppressed peoples, it is important that we increase our efforts to free Marilyn’s comrades who remain behind bars for participating in the same struggles. It must be remembered that her death came at the hands of the state, and we cannot sit by idly while the government continues to kill our comrades.

While nothing will be able to fill the space left by Marilyn, our only hope is that the continued work of our movements will do justice to her memory.

In Solidarity,
The Anarchist Black Cross Federation, NYC Chapter

More about Marilyn:

In the '60s Marilyn participated in protests against racism and the Vietnam war. In 1967 she became part of Students for a Democratic Society. Marilyn became part of a radical filmmaking and propaganda collective, showing the films as an organizing aid at community meetings, high school groups, workers' committees and in the streets. She also participated in international solidarity groups supporting the Vietnamese, Palestinians and the Iranian struggle against the Shah. She worked in solidarity with Native Americans, Mexicano and Black liberation struggles.

As a direct result of all of this activity, she became a target of COINTELPRO. In 1973, she was arrested and convicted of buying two boxes of bullets. Accused of being a member of the BLA [Black Liberation Army], she was sentenced to 10 years, the longest sentence ever given for such an offense at the time. In 1977 she was granted a furlough and never returned, joining the revolutionary clandestine movement. In 1985 she was captured and faced four separate court trials. She was charged with conspiracy to support and free PP/POWs [political prisoners and prisoners of war] and to support the New Afrikan Independence struggle through expropriations. In 1988 she was indicted for conspiracy to protest and alter government policies through use of violence against government and military buildings and received an additional 10 years for conspiracy to bomb the Capitol.

*"I keep taking shapes
congenial or not
depends
on circumstance"*

-Marilyn Buck//Oct. 2002

"Autographia"

*Post-war 1947
born on the white
side of the tracks
Texas segregation
civil rights preacher's child
fled Texas with honor's diploma
for UC Berkeley and free speech
though I did not know then
that's why I left*

*Vietnam war 1965
what war
are you fighting for
make love not war
college books tossed into a trunk in
some room
I've never seen since
fires of internationalism called me
a girl
to enlist
in the anti-war*

*war against Amerikka
my own women's liberation on the line
war in Amerikka
war against the warmakers
white-skinned haters
capitalist consumers of human
lives
following the tradition
Nat Turner John Brown
Wobblies subversives
resistance in the belly of the beast*

*clandestine war 1973
captured by the killers
spirit killers nationkillers
a political prisoner
enemy of the state
terrorist and traitor
white woman dangerous
to white Amerika
condemned to years
and years of absence
a lifetime*

*warmakers
wait for its prisoners to die
or go crazy
or simply wither away into insignifi-
cance*

*I rest, a grain of sand
significant on the beach head that
meets the sea
to face the storm
I wage resistance
to stay alive
I learn to search out freedom in the
breath
my cells send out dendrites
to absorb the world and its offerings
I offer back
poems
and occasional grains of sand
mixed into clay and fired
into sturdiness*

-Marilyn Buck//Autumn 1999



Update on Daniel McGowan

From Daniel:

‘After three years in prison and hundreds (thousands, even) of letters mailed out, I have gotten to the point where there is little to write about. Prison life is remarkably static—so unchanging in its daily routine—that news resonates here in a pronounced way. The early part of April brought some major announcements that will profoundly affect my life here in the Bureau of Prison’s Communication Management Unit (CMU). Finally, my friends will be saved from the endless litany of letters about what TV shows I watch, Prison drama, my workouts and books I have read that week!...

On March 30th, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) filed suit on my behalf against the BoP regarding this unit (Aref v. Holder, D.C. Circuit)....Just one week after the lawsuit was filed, the

Bureau of Prisons released proposed rules for the CMU, opening a 60-day comment period for the public (BoP Docket # 1148-P, Communication Management Units). The unfortunate part of this proposal is that they represent a huge reduction in communication for prisoners. The new rules would set the following standards:

- 1) Only one phone call per month (to immediate family).
- 2) Only one hour, non-contact, visit per month (with immediate family).
- 3) Only one, 3 page letter, to and from a single recipient per week. ‘

These regulations, if passed, would greatly diminish Daniel’s quality of life, and so it is important that these issues be made very public, and not hidden behind typical bureaucratic red tape. This battle is just a small part of the larger struggle against prisons, so it’s important for everyone to find ways to be involved.

Stay updated at:
<http://www.supportdaniel.org>

Charges Against Belgrade Anarchists Dropped

In August of 2009, the Greek embassy in Belgrade was fire-bombed, in solidarity with Greek anarchists who at the time were bringing the Greek state to near-collapse. In the wake of the attack, 6 prominent anarchists were arrested, in spite of the lack of evidence tying them to the firebombing.

In a welcomed good turn of events, the Belgrade High Court acquitted them, because the prosecution’s charge could not be proven. "The basis for acquittal is the legal, not political. It is not proven that the accused committed the crime," said the judge Dragomir Gerasimovic.

Some of those arrested had this to say:

"The trial has confirmed what we already knew, that this country kidnapped us for political reasons and kept us in jail for 6 months. For total of six of us we have been in prison more than 1,000 days," said Tadej Kurepa.

"They showed us now 'we can keep you 6 months without any evidence', which is seen in court, the only thing they were not allowed to do because it is so clear that there are no grounds. They didn't dare at the end to condemn us, but they did what they wanted - they kept us 6 months in jail with no contact with friends. What they didn't achieve is to break our organization," said Trivunac.

Pie-thrower Facing Serious Charges

Ahlan Mohsen, a 22-year-old student at Michigan State University, is facing years in prison after throwing a pie in the face of Senator Carl Levin, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, at a press conference he was giving.

As another protestor finished reading a statement implicating the senator in war crimes, Mohsen threw an apple pie at the senator. She reportedly told the Big Rapids Pioneer newspaper that she wanted to “send a message that liberals and Democrats are just as implicated in the violence of war as the Republicans.”

Shortly after the incident, Mohsen was arrested by police and taken to Mecosta County Jail, where she awaits arraignment on felony charges of assault and stalking. Kantar was arrested Aug. 18 for his involvement in the incident and is also facing felony charges of stalking, but was released Aug. 20 on a \$10,000 bond. Mohsen remains in custody.



Daniel McGowan



Three arrested in connection with Royal Bank of Canada Arson Attack

In response to the Vancouver olympics and the continuing destruction of the 'tar sands' portion of Alberta, a group of militants firebombed a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, which had been bankrolling both projects. The blast, which occurred at 3:30 a.m. on May 18 in the RBC branch in the Glebe neighbourhood of Ottawa, was first reported as a suspicious fire. But a day later, a video of the bank-front erupting into flames appeared on a local website, posted by an activist group calling itself FFFC-Ottawa. The video of the firebombing, filmed from across the street, appeared with a statement of protest against RBC, which the group said was a strong sponsor of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics that had taken place on "stolen indigenous land." The bank suffered about \$500,000 in damage, he said, far more than originally reported. The branch is still closed.

In response, cops arrested 3 ottowa men, and charged them with the following: Roger Clement, of Ottawa, charged with arson causing damage, possession of incendiary material, using explosives with intent to cause property damage, and mischief; Mathew Morgan-Brown, of Ottawa, charged with arson, arson causing damage, possession of incendiary material, using explosives with intent to cause property damage, and mischief; Claude Haridge, of Ottawa, charged with arson, careless storage and handling of ammunition, and mischief.

The case is still developing, and questions about support can be directed to:

ottawamovementdefense@gmail.com

Past news reports and most likely future updates as well can be read on the following web site:

www.ottawa.indymedia.org



Ice: Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

Repression in Russia and Belarus

In recent weeks, the Russian and Belarussian states have been ramping up efforts to round up anarchists and other radicals, in connection to a number of acts of resistance. Those acts of resistance include a huge campaign, led by anarchists and antifascists, against the destruction of forests in Khimki, Russia; an attack against a government controlled union building; an attack against a Russian embassy in solidarity with those arrested in the Khimki campaign; and an attack against a bank. The last three of those actions took place in Belarus.

For the past 3 years, many Russians have been involved in a movement to stop the construction of a highway that would destroy much of the forest in Khimki, an area near Moscow. On July 28, 2010, more than two hundred young antifascists and anarchists carried out a spontaneous demonstration outside the town administration building in Khimki, a suburb of Moscow. They demonstrated in defence of the Khimki Forest, which was at that time in the process of being cut down for the needs of big business. The demonstration, during which several windows were broken, received a great deal of public attention. The police responded with a wave of repressions.

The day after the demonstration, two well-known social activists, Alexei Gaskarov and Maxim Solopov, were arrested. They are now threatened with up to seven years in prison for disorderly conduct, although there is no evidence of their complicity in illegal activities.

The repression in Belarus has come as a result of a molotov cocktail attack on the Russian embassy in Minsk, done in solidarity with the Khimki arrestees, as well as other militant actions. So far, 11 people have been arrested, many of them anarchists, and the police in Belarus have the ability to hold them for a number of months without pressing charges.

Information on how to support the Khimki arrestees can be found at www.khimkibattle.org.

For information on supporting those affected by the Belarussian repression, email:
minsksolidarity@riseup.net

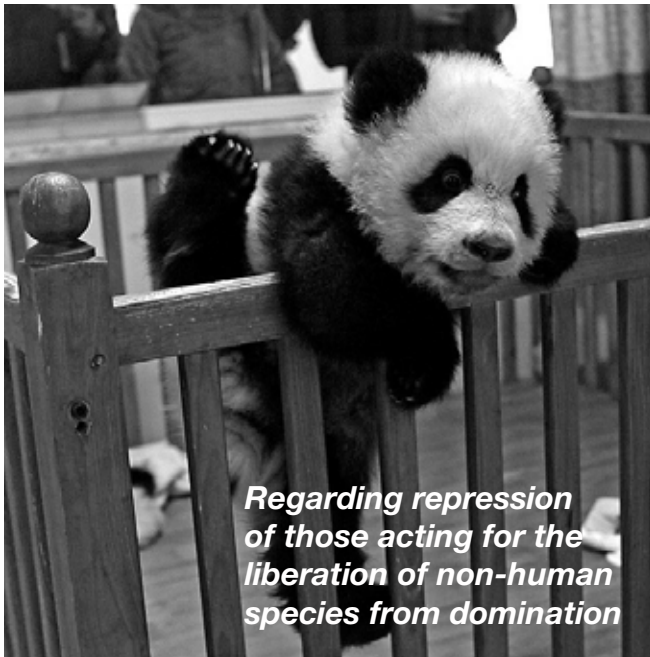
ICE in Practice

Working quickly and quietly, the US government has been waging a constant war against undocumented people under the auspices of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, or ICE. Running into homes usually under cover of darkness, ICE will grab as many so-called 'illegal immigrants' as possible, and leave their neighbors wondering what happened. What happens to those rounded up? Usually they are taken to detention centers, like the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Texas, a detention center where it has recently come to light that at least one of the guards had been sexually abusing the detainees in the women-only facility.

Three women that were interviewed told detectives that they were inappropriately touched outside of their clothing. Two of the three victims said they were unlawfully restrained. The two

charges of unlawful restraint occurred when Mr. Dunn took the victims to the above location against their will. One victim told officers she thought she would be either "killed or violated."

These charges are not unique to this one guard or detention center. The ACLU has listed a number of other sexual abuse cases in other locations in the gulag-like detention system. It should be clear, however, that we are not in favor of reforming these institutions. The only way to prevent further abuses from occurring is through the complete destruction of the detention system and all other prisons.



***Regarding repression
of those acting for the
liberation of non-human
species from domination***

Alex Hall Moved

Alex Hall, who was convicted of liberating mink from one farm and attempting to liberate more mink from a second farm, has now been moved from a local jail to a federal prison.

**This is his new address;
make sure to write him to show support.**

Alex Hall

15908-081

FCI Englewood

Federal Correctional Institution

9595 West Quincy Avenue

Littleton, CO 80123 USA

He has been told he will be released to a halfway house in December. Meanwhile, the BOP has decided his co-defendant, William Viehl, will be released in September.

FBI visit

The FBI reportedly visited a former east coast activist towards the end of August 2010, inquiring about an animal rights activist in Utah. The questioning appears to be related to the recent raid of an activist house in Salt Lake City.

Another FBI Visit

An activist in Minneapolis was approached by two FBI agents at a gas station August 16th. The report does not specify what the agents were investigating, or what information was sought. The person refused to speak to them, and drove away.

Update on Rod Coronado

Rod Coronado is well known throughout anarchist circles for his uncompromising militancy in defense of the natural world. Rod helped to sink half the Icelandic whaling fleet, has freed thousands of mink, attacked research facilities that torture animals, has helped to sabotage mountain lion hunts, and continues to be an advocate for revolutionary change. As a result of his unwavering commitment, Rod has been sentenced to prison a number of times, most recently for demonstrating how to construct a ‘destructive device’ at a talk he gave. Since 2005, he has been on ‘supervised release’, which is similar to federal parole, for his actions is disrupting mountain lion hunts.

On August 3, 2010, Rod Coronado was sentenced to four months in federal prison for allegedly violating the terms of his probation, i.e., for “associating” with Earth First! cofounder and former Greenpeace U.S.A. Director Mike Roselle, by accepting his “friendship” on Facebook, and for accessing an unauthorized computer outside his home. Unfortunately, upon his release, a new 3 year term of supervised release will begin.

Regarding Scott and Carrie

On Monday, September 13, 2010, Scott DeMuth pled guilty to one count of misdemeanor conspiracy to commit animal enterprise terrorism under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act for his role in the April 29, 2006 ALF raid on Lakeside Ferrets, Inc., in Howard Lake, Minnesota. The plea was to a lesser included charge of the second superseding indictment (available here: <http://davenportgrandjury.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/10-0413second-superseding-indictment.pdf>) for an action causing less than \$10,000 in damage, and carries a maximum of six months in prison and a period of supervised release. As a condition of Scott’s plea, the government has agreed to ask for a sentence of the full six months in prison, but not to ask for the imposition of any fine. This is NOT a cooperating plea agreement; Scott has not been asked to testify against anyone else, nor would he do so. Though the action in question was committed in a different federal district and, according to Judge Jarvey, lacked any connection to the Southern District of Iowa, Scott also agreed to waive his right to contest the venue in which it was prosecuted. Scott’s sentencing has been scheduled for December 15, 2010, with a surrender date likely to be set for early 2011. In the meantime, the government raised no objection to his continued release, and agreed to the removal of his electronic monitoring, stating that he “poses no flight risk.”

The plea agreement is available at:

www.davenportgrandjury.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/09-13plea-agreement.pdf



Though Scott has accepted responsibility for the Lakeside Ferrets raid, we fundamentally disagree with the government's position that such acts of liberation warrant punishment, and we do not believe that the resolution of this case is a simple matter of guilt versus innocence. Despite the nominal right to a jury trial in US courts, the legal system functions in a manner that deprives defendants of just options. As happened with Scott, people are routinely threatened with overblown charges and disproportionate sentencing should they exercise their right to a trial in order to coerce guilty pleas. Prosecutors often take things a step further, ensnaring the friends and family of the accused. In this case, Assistant US Attorney Cliff Cronk subpoenaed Carrie Feldman and Sonja Silvernail to testify at Scott's trial. Both Carrie and Sonja decided that they would refuse to testify, meaning that they would almost certainly have been held in contempt of court and could have been incarcerated for months or even years (there is no maximum sentence for criminal contempt). Thus, the risks associated with Scott going to trial included

not only his own possible conviction and imprisonment, but also that of two friends and comrades.

We also think it is important to remind everyone of the way this case began, as it reveals much more about the system than does the resolution. In August of 2008, a multi-agency investigation into anti-RNC protest activity in the Twin Cities culminated in raids, arrests and conspiracy charges against eight anarchist organizers. As Special Agent Maureen Mazzola testified to on the stand in Scott's pre-trial hearing, the FBI used the pretext of this raid as a fishing expedition, searching Scott's room for anything linking him to "criminal activities" that fell well outside of the scope of the search warrant being executed. In this process, Mazzola came across a journal that she mistakenly believed linked him to the 2004 ALF raid at the University of Iowa. FBI agents later reviewed this and other seized materials, including his computer, and we believe that at some point in the year after the RNC, they began communicating with US Attorney's offices throughout the Midwest in hopes that the items taken would

lead to some sort of prosecution.

Apparently, the only office that bit was Cronk's, and he began a zealous effort to inject new life into the case around the 2004 UI raid. In the fall of 2009, he subpoenaed Carrie and Scott to a federal grand jury, offering them immunity in exchange for their testimony. They refused to cooperate and were jailed in Iowa on civil contempt, where Carrie stayed for four months before being released with no real explanation. On the other hand, after only a few days in jail Scott was indicted for conspiracy to commit "animal enterprise terrorism" and accused of having some involvement in the 2004 UI raid. Likely due to the fact that Scott was not guilty of this, the original indictment (and, later, the first superseding indictment) failed to establish what Scott was actually alleged to have done to conspire. Cronk deftly avoided dealing with the problem by issuing superseding indictments each time Scott's attorneys filed motions to dismiss, rendering the arguments moot. But at some point in all of this, Cronk became aware of evidence linking Scott to the 2006 Lakeside Ferrets

raid, and in the second superseding indictment, he tacked this action on to the alleged conspiracy, hoping that Scott's involvement in it could be used to finally convict someone for the UI raid. In the end, Cronk has had to settle for a guilty plea to a lesser offense, one that occurred outside of his district and which had no connection to the case he wanted to build. The raid on the University of Iowa remains unsolved, and it is clearer than ever that the case Cronk originally brought against Scott was abusive, vindictive and lacking in any factual basis.

In an era where "fighting terrorism" is the justification of choice for all manner of racist, xenophobic and COINTELPRO-type assaults on marginalized communities, the reality we face as radicals is that we are all terrorists in the eyes of the state. Evidence linking Scott to the Lakeside Ferrets raid had apparently existed for several years, but the fact that this wasn't important enough for the government to pursue until four years later demonstrates how little his misdemeanor activity in and of itself really mattered at all. The more significant truth in this case is that the state criminalizes political dissent and targets individuals and communities because of their political beliefs and associations, with a single-minded dedication to locking people up and little concern for the truth. And in their dedication to destroying any movement that threatens their hegemony, law enforcement and prosecutors collaborate in throwing mountains of shit at the wall just to see what sticks. The mere fact of Scott's vocal support for radical actions and ideas made him a target of the FBI several years ago, and he was swept up in a case that he had nothing to do with simply because he lived in a house with other anarchists, who themselves have been singled out by the state for their politics.

While we're of course glad that Scott is no longer facing the possibility of three years in prison, those of us who have supported him throughout this process find little cause for celebration at this moment. Nonetheless, we support Scott in his decision, we urge others to do the same, and we are proud to stand in solidarity with him and all those who take radical action in defense of animals and against systems of exploitation.

Although the courtroom portion of Scott's ordeal is almost over, his struggle is not. He still faces large legal expenses, for which we need to raise another \$5000 as quickly as possible. And there will be additional support needed for his commissary when he's taken into custody in January.

We ask all (who are able) to help us meet this need. Donations can be made online at:

www.davenportgrandjury.wordpress.com

Checks or money orders can be made out to Coldsnap Legal Collective with "EWOK!" in the memo line and sent to:

*EWOK! c/o Coldsnap,
P.O. Box 50514, Minneapolis, MN 55405.*

Lastly, we would like to say thank you to everyone who has shown support for Scott, Carrie, and Sonja over the months since the initial subpoenas. We hope that the work done on this case so far has contributed positively to our movement's ability to deal with state repression, and that as we face situations such as this in the future, we continue to come together and build stronger communities of resistance.

In solidarity,
*the Scott & Carrie
Support Committee (SCSC)*

Jordan Holliday

A Utah animal rights activist who resisted a federal grand jury is now facing even more prison time than those he was brought to testify against.

Jordan Halliday, who was the founder of a local animal rights group, The Animal Defense League of Salt Lake City, was brought before the federal grand jury under suspicions he might know information regarding recent underground animal liberation activity. He refused to talk and was placed in federal custody for nearly 4 months under civil contempt of court, to try and compel him to testify.

Alex Hall and William Viehl were both indicted, convicted and sentenced to 24 months and 21 months respectively for their roles in releasing mink from a South Jordan, Utah mink farm.

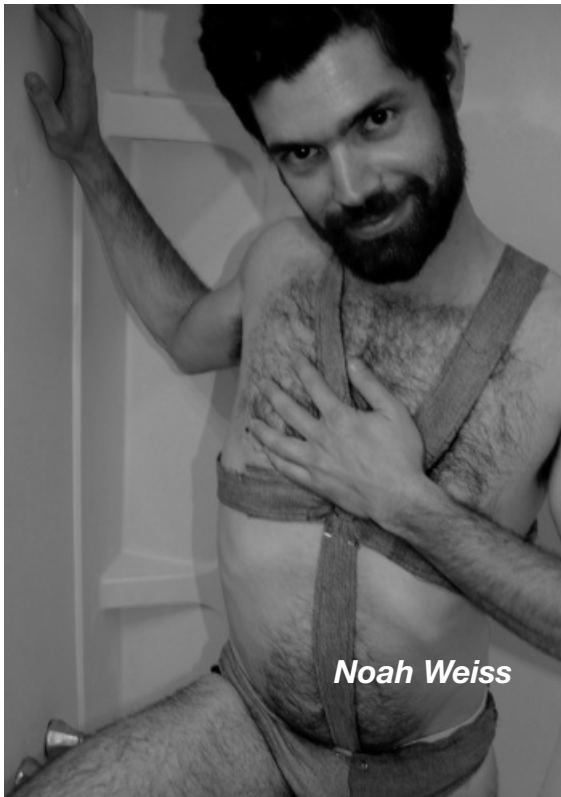
Upon being released Halliday was charged with federal criminal contempt of court.

Halliday is the first dissident in decades (with only 2 other radicals prior in the 1970's) to be charged with criminal contempt after already serving time for civil contempt for the same act of recalcitrance, and faces a maximum penalty of 2 years for this latest charge.

The government has openly stated that Halliday is not a suspect in the Animal Liberation case, yet he is still facing even more time than those who were convicted.

His sentencing is set for November 3rd, 2010.

For more information go to:
supportjordan.com



Noah Weiss

Charges dropped in Denmark

In late 2009, 100,000 people converged on Copenhagen, Denmark to protest the COP15 summit. COP15 was meant to bring industrialists and politicians from around the world together to create policies that would allow production to go unchecked while shifting the burden of climate change to those 'less developed' countries. In a way similar to the WTO and other multinational summits, COP15 sought to make decisions that will end up negatively impacting everyone but the rich, without any kind of transparency or accountability. The protestors sought to shut down this charade.

In the street battles that ensued, the police arrested over 2000 people, but dropped the charges against almost all of them. Noah Weiss (an American) and Natasha Verco, however, were charged with 'organizing illegal activities' and took the charges to trial. Unsurprisingly, these charges were found to be without merit, and both Weiss and Verco were found not guilty. Two more people, Tannie and Stine, will be going to court in October for the same charges, and will hopefully be acquitted as well.

For more information, contact the people at:
climatecollective.org

29 Arrested in Olympia

Back in April, a group of people in Olympia took to the streets in reaction to yet another murder at the hands of the police. The group was militant, and proceeded to throw bottles and rocks at buildings, break windows, spray-paint the slogan 'kill cops' in a number of places and drag trash containers into the streets. The group eventually came into direct confrontation with the cops, and 29 people were arrested.

Two of those arrested have faced more serious repression. Margaret Belknap, 23 was convicted of 'third-degree felony assault on a police officer', and sentenced to a month in jail, but could be out in as little as 15 days with good time. During the trial, jurors heard evidence that Belknap kicked Olympia Police Officer Chuck Gassett in the groin and knee as she was being arrested. Belknap testified that she did not intentionally kick or strike any officers. She said she might have had inadvertent physical contact with an officer. Gassett testified at trial that Belknap "was making direct eye contact with me when she was kicking."

Paul French was also convicted of felony assault on an officer, and was given a sentence of 3 months. He is having difficulty raising money for his commissary, and so donations are greatly appreciated. To send funds, just mail him a postal money order.

He can be written at:
Paul Joseph French C/O
Thurston County Corrections
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Support Alfredo and Christos

The date for the trial of Alfredo M. Bonanno and Christos Stratigopoulos, arrested on October 1st, 2009 in Greece on charges of robbery, has been set for November 22, 2010.

The current account for contributions to support the two comrades in detention is as follows:

Mail:

*A. Medeot, CP 3431, 34128
Trieste, Italy.*

E.mail:

edizionianarchismo@gmail.com.

Postal account:

*No. 23852353, payable to
A. Medeot - c.p. 3431 - Trieste,
Italy, stating "subscription for
arrests in Greece".*

**Paypal money to them for
their legal difficulties via:**

*angry_sisyphus@yahoo.com
(Specify in subject that it is for
them)*

To write to the comrades:

*Alfredo Maria Bonanno
Filakes Solomou 3-5
18110 - Korydallos
Athens (Greece)*

*Christos Stratigopoulos
Filakes Solomou 3-5
18110 - Korydallos
Athens (Greece)*

Or visit:

afiertrikala.blogspot.com

Note:

*This case has been mentioned
multiple times in FTTP since it
originally began. Please take
the time to either visit their sup-
port website, or cite prior issues
to understand the history behind
this case.*



Raids and Repression in Recent Chile

Over the past few years a series of bombings has rocked the Chilean city of Santiago. It became clear that the attacks were the works of an insurrectionary segment of the anarchist movement in Chile. Over 100 attacks in the past few years have targeted banks, multi national corporations, embassies, police stations, and government offices in Santiago and throughout the Chilean state. These attacks combined with an equally tenacious above ground movement including squatted social centers, occupations, and mass rioting during popular demonstrations have in the past years given the Chilean anarchist movement notoriety both within Chile and internationally.

The struggle of the indigenous Mapuche people has also added to the escalation of conflict within the Chilean state. Recently a group of imprisoned Mapuche political prisoners took part in a hunger strike that lasted 90 days. In this context of increasing social conflict in Chile the right wing politician and millionaire Sebastian Piñera was elected president, promising to bring a law and order agenda to Chile. Though his repression of social movements follows in the tradition of the outgoing Socialist administration, repression in Chile has peaked, and the hammer of the state has fallen on the anarchists of Chile.

Early in the morning of Saturday, August 14, agents of the Chilean state took part in a coordinated multi city operation, raiding the self-organized social centre Jonny Cariqueo and the squatted social center and library Sacco and Vanzetti in Santiago, permanently vacating the latter. Several private residences were also raided, and 14 comrades taken into custody, with charges of illicit association and placing bombs.

These raids are the work of the new State's Attorney Alejandro Pena, who has summoned the specter of an international anarchy terrorist conspiracy. The media has seized on the sensationalized raids, and court appearances of the arrested comrades and continue to parrot the government line about anarchist terror cells, and "anarchist centers of power" aka infoshops and social centers. Chilean authorities have allegedly been working with the German Intelligence Service in an attempt to find an Italian anarchist Chilean police believe is responsible for sending money to Chilean anarchists to buy bomb making materials. The persecution of the Chilean anarchist movement has become an international affair.

This new wave of repression has reached astonishing levels. Supporters of the accused conspirators were arrested for the mere act of distributing fliers outside of a metro station, the court where the anarchist prisoners were brought for their first appearance was surrounded by police. A security perimeter including water cannons, and armored cars. While 6 of the comrades arrested on August 14th have been released on bail due to lack of evidence, the state's attempt to frame the remaining 8 continue. Those in jail continue to release communiques speaking of their determination to make it through this ordeal and their solidarity with the Mapuche hunger strikers. There have been reports that some of the prisoners have been beaten by guards who have declared "In this prison the cops are in control!", in response to these aggressions an arson attack was carried out on a Police precinct. The communique read:

This was an act of vengeance

Last week we received news that our comrades incarcerated for the 'Bombing Case' were arbitrarily transferred to Penal 1 in Santiago, about their hunger strike and how they got punished for it for a month, about the battering that our

friend, comrade and brother 'Grandpa' Camilo received, that's why we decided to arm ourselves with home made materials to begin our revenge.

"In this jail, the cops rule" that's what the prison guard who beat up our comrade said...today we respond: "In jail and in the streets, anyone can rule, is just about having conviction and will power".

Mr. Guard, fucking despicable jailers: YOU CAN'T TOUCH ANARCHIST POLITICAL PRISONERS. Learn this very well, we will not accept another aggression, not towards our comrades kidnapped by the state nor the people who visit them in jail.

And to you, State Attorney Alejandro Peña, stop fucking around, you know very well that anarchists DON'T HAVE LEADERS, so having, AN ILLICIT ASSOCIATION IS IMPOSSIBLE. Therefore Chilean Law Enforcement...you have been warned.

**END THE ANTI TERRORIST LAW
FREEDOM TO THE ACCUSED OF
THE "BOMBING CASE"**

As the International media is drawn to the spectacle of 33 miners being rescued from the depths of a cave in the Chilean desert and the nation celebrates in an orgy of patriotism, it is important for us to act in international solidarity with our comrades held hostage by the Chilean state. Sabotage, attacks and solidarity demonstrations have already taken place throughout the world. Our solidarity will be as international as their attempts to repress us.

They can try but they can never extinguish our fire.

Free the A14 prisoners!

Visit these web sites for english translations of updates on this case:

www.thissourjob.wordpress.com

or

www.sysiphus-angrynewsfromaroundtheworld.blogspot.com



Free Hert!

On September 7th, 2010 Ian DeBeer was sentenced to 1-3 years in a state penitentiary for the crime of writing graffiti. He plead guilty to 73 counts of "Criminal Mischief" and 1 count of "Possession of an Instrument of Crime with intent to employ it criminally". For which, after his prison term, he will serve 2-5 years probation and be required to pay \$46,000 in restitution.

In the words of HERT's support crew: "Pittsburgh has been home to some of the worlds most talented writers. They have made our streets burst with energy and subtly re-arrange the landscape into an urban canvass. They scale bridges, buildings, and police cars to

"get up," shattering the notion of what was once thought impossible They are an inspiration to those who yearn for a different world. In this glory they have also been vilified and banished as notorious outlaws by politicians and cops. Repression has taken a number of forms and comes from many outlets, including the state, media, and so called "community" organizations. Seemingly they have banded together to be a continual element of cruelty in the writers life. As with all rebellion, repression is inevitable. "

Write to HERT at :

*Ian DeBeer JS3127
SCI Camp Hill
P.O. Box 200
Camp Hill, PA 17001*

RNC8 Update (Most Likely Our Final One)

After two years of harassment, intimidation, and financial sabotage to the 8 individuals arrested for allegedly conspiring to riot at the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN, the case has more or less come to an end. At first we heard that they were facing 8-10 years in jail for conspiracy charges based on an event that the 8 were arrested for before actually happening. There is a very long and in-depth press release from the eight's support group describing the outcome of the case and highlighting the experiences and struggles they have had to endure since the beginning. But unfortunately due to a lack of space, we can really only describe the legal outcome of the event.

None of the eight are cooperating, and only one of the eight are serving any jail time. The legal outcome is as follows.

Erik Oseland was sentenced to 91 days in a prison “workhouse” and a \$100 fine for pleading guilty to “conspiracy to throw news paper boxes in the street”.

You can write Eric at:

*Erik Oseland
Ramsey County Correctional
Facility
297 Century Ave S.
Maplewood, MN 55119*

To find out more on Eric you can write or visit:

*exitpanopticon@yahoo.com
supporterik.wordpress.com*

The other seven’s charges were as follows:

Max Spektor and Rob Czernik pled guilty to gross misdemeanor Conspiracy to Riot. Both were sentenced to 100 hours of community service over ten months, a \$200 fine, and 1 year probation.

Garrett Fitzgerald and Nathanael Secor pled guilty to gross misdemeanor Conspiracy to Damage Property. They were also sentenced to the same community hours and fine, but given two years probation.

Luce Guillen-Givins, Monica Bicking, and Eryn Trimmer had all the charges dropped a few weeks earlier than the others.

Please learn more about the history and outcome of this case by visiting their support website:

www.rnc8.org

Briana Waters Released on Bail

From Earth First! News:

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the conviction of Briana Waters on September 14th, 2010, based on their findings that her conviction was improper because important rulings by the trial court deprived her of a fair trial.

After serving 2 and a half years, she was released from prison today, October 14, 2010, pending a re-trial.

She is ecstatic about being reunited with her daughter, Kalliope.

To stay up to date on Briana’s case visit:

www.supportbriana.org

Stay up to date:

Break the Chains

www.breakthechains.info

Denver Anarchist Black Cross

denverabc.wordpress.com

Anti-Prison Groups:

These projects provide free literature and support for people currently incarcerated or facing jail time. The postal information is provided so that prisoners without access to the internet will be able to get in contact and request support. We apologize for only including projects based in the United States; we only have so much space. Those who distribute this magazine for free into prisons are specified with a “+” sign next to the name.

Shoelaceton ABC +

*Prison distributor for this magazine.
P.O BOX 8085, Paramus, NJ, 07652,*

Central Georgia ABC +

P.O Box 610, Roberta, GA 31078

New York City ABC +

P.O Box 110034, Brooklyn, NY, 11211

Houston ABC

*P.O Box 667614, Houston, TX
77266-7614*

Modesto Anarcho +

PO Box 3027, Modesto, CA, 95353

Unchained Books +

*PO Box 784, Fort Collins, CO 80522
unchainedbooks@riseup.net
unchainedbooks.wordpress.com*

Boston ABC +

*PO Box 230182, Boston, MA 02123
BostonABC@riseup.net*

Pittsburgh ABC +

PO Box 9272, Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Legal Information

+ Security Tips

Security, Privacy, and Anonymity

www.security.resist.ca

Civil Liberties Defense Center

www.cldc.org

Midnight Special Law

Collective

www.midnightspecial.net

Prisoner Address Lists

Denver ABC Prisoner Database

*http://denverabc.wordpress.com/
political-prisoners-database*

Spirit of Freedom

http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk/addresses.html



The Barefoot Bandit: Colton Harris Moore

Colton Harris-Moore is a young alleged genius and thief from Washington State who has already become a folk hero. He escaped from jail, evaded sheriffs, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the FBI, for two years and two months. He is only 19 and suspected to have stolen numerous airplanes, cars, and boats essentially playing as one reporter put it “Grand theft auto: the reality version” until being caught on July 11th in the Bahamas. The same reporter stated “Hell yeah this looks like the birth of an outlaw legend.”

Born into a working class family and raised in a mobile home on Camano Island he ran into trouble with the law at an early age. He was caught after breaking into his middle school with friends and was given the nickname Klepto Colt by his schoolmates. Soon he skipped out on a court date and lived on the lam in the woods of Camano Island. Artfully using survival skills (which he is considered to be a natural in) and breaking into empty vacation homes. These homes he used as a way to obtain supplies, credit cards, and the occasional shower. Colt was eventually apprehended and spent a year in a maximum-security juvenile prison only to escape upon being transferred to a lower security lock up. Since then he lived on the run in the northwest.

Police allege Harris-Moore is responsible for more than 100 burglaries in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Indiana, Canada, and the Bahamas. He ordered, with stolen credit cards, night

vision goggles, bear mace, and important flight manuals as well as other supplies, which he then returned to pick up in empty houses. Having no experience flying, Colt allegedly stole a \$500,000 Cessna and flew 300 miles crash landing on an Indian reservation walking away unharmed. His mother later stated “I hope to hell he stole those planes. I’d be so proud. But next time I want him to wear a parachute.”

Even among the cops that were chasing him he is legendary for his ability to escape and evade. On July 17, 2008 he lost the police on Camano Island by leaping from a stolen Mercedes and running into the woods. In one run in with the cops Harris-Moore kicked off his shoes to better evade police chasing him through the forest. Earning the nickname some of his fans call him “the barefoot burglar.” Supposedly he also broke into a sheriff’s vehicle and stole an assault rifle. Cops on numerous occasions say Colt “vaporized” “vanished” and “ran like lightning.” On September 13, 2009, Orcas deputies identified Colton and in hot pursuit claimed “We could hear him laughing.” Colt ran through a churchyard and eventually circled around to a dock where he stole a boat and rode off into the sunrise. Escaping to Point Roberts, on the mainland. On another occasion of pursuit police mobilized two counties’ worth of SWAT in armored personnel carriers, canine units, a sheriff’s helicopter, and a Department of Homeland Security Blackhawk helicopter, only to have Colton once again disappear into the woods. Still another incident led to the police finding one of Harris-Moore’s camps in the woods including his dog. This prompted Colt to leave a letter for his mother, stating “Cops wanna play huh!? Well

its no lil game....It's war! & tell them that.” Sadly Colton was caught in the Bahamas in true outlaw fashion after a boat chase where the police had to shoot out the engine.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the ballad of Colton Harris-Moore is the popular support he has garnered. One fan even made lucid statements about his support on network TV, proclaiming “He could either learn how to fly from the internet and go on a crime spree or go get a job at McDonalds. I think he made a good decision.” There are support websites, t-shirts, stickers, and tens of thousands of members in his facebook fan club. One support t-shirt says “fly Colton fly” below a stencil of his face, another proclaims “momma tried, momma tried” and yet another has an image of billy club wielding cop chasing a running Colton with the word “owned” stamped on top of the cop. The residents of the Washington islands that are his stomping ground seem divided. Some cheered him on stating roughly that during hard economic times why not support a working class kid who steals from the islands’ vacation homes of Seattle’s millionaires. Another proclaimed “I’m glad he’s sticking it to the cops.” Other locals wanted to help the powers that be by forming a search party to catch him. Although he has always had the full support of his mother who, when he was still on the run, even wanted to buy him a bullet proof vest saying “I don’t care if he wants it or not. I’m getting him one and he’s going to wear it. Sometimes a mother has to put her foot down.”

Although the acts of individual rebels like Harris-Moore obviously aren’t enough to spark the social uprising many of us want, they are nonetheless inspirational. No matter the lack of revolutionary aims, in fact little is known about Colton’s idea’s, the widespread support for such brazen acts against

the current order should help quiet the critique of those who say that in the U.S. the time is not ripe for class conflict and confrontation with the state. Besides, his actions themselves and the extensive approval so many people have of them should in the very least embolden our own projects.

Support Colt

Feel free to write to Colt because as his mother Pam Kohler has said “Now, there’s not a break-in or a theft in the entire Northwest that the media or law enforcement doesn’t rush to pin on Colt...”

Colt will have to fight for his freedom against the full force of the legal system.”

Write Colt at:

*Colton Harris-Moore
#83421-004
FDC SeaTac
PO Box 13900
Seattle, WA 98198*

Also visit Colt’s Fan Page at:

coltonharrismooresfanclub.com

To learn more about Colt and others like him you can visit:

amiableoutlaws.wordpress.com



**“Well it’s no lil game....
It’s war!”**



***Redundancy
Equates
Death***

-Marat Rackham

For revolutionary struggles, redundancy equates death. To avoid such an outcome, participants in struggle must pay the utmost attention to communicability and personal rituals. For a brief reflection, participants in the 2008 St. Paul riot stated that they were using the event “as a springboard... to manifest such conflict outside of the context of mass mobilizations.” Participants declared that the goal was to “purposefully disrupt the chain of messaging that is embodied in the protest-media-audience script... Their message was a code hidden within their form, pressed against the media itself... having neither deeds to be represented, only representations themselves to be corrupted.”

In short, this declaration marked a compelling juncture against revolutionary redundancy in the United States. Preceding discussions were commensurating and there were attempts at addressing revolutionary form and means of communicability. The student occupations, Pandamonium, the expansion of covert affinity-based actions, etc., could all be viewed in this vein. Furthermore, the dissemination of contemporary and neglected discourse has generated greater conversation. However, these actions and discussions have not managed to expand beyond the milieu, and unfortunately,

to a certain degree we have witnessed the continuation of, what can only be described as a perpetual image; an identity; a representation in itself.

These suggestions are hardly new in any sense, but I think it may be a good time for reflection. A recent article declared that, “Our theory is as impotent as our action.” I want to question, amongst other things, the accuracy of this statement. In doing so, I will argue that the current impasse is not really due to impotence, at least not specifically, but is rather rooted in a lack of communicability, and what may be called our rituals of refusal. Without addressing these notions I think we may keep chasing our tails in the dark, and hopefully a greater discussion will ensue.

Maybe it would help if I began with a story.

Earlier this year, at the NYC anarchist book fair people were passing out flyers for a “Take Back the Night March.” There was, noticeably, a bit less excitement about this action in comparison to the Catastrophe action the previous year; however, I decided I might as well go check it out regardless. That night I met up with a friend I hadn’t seen in quite some time, and I ended up arriving a bit late to the action. While practically running out of the subway station I heard

the familiar sound of glass shattering, and immediately got that euphoric feeling that had been absent for quite some time.

I looked up the street and saw the familiar black clad milieu marching in the distance. But there was something a little different this time. The normal jubilant ambiance was noticeably absent. Instead of donning the mask, that has become all too familiar as well, I decided, for the first time in my life, to actually sit back and observe. As the black mass neared closer the first thing I noticed was a somewhat flaccid “Take Back the Night” chant. The chant was then obscured by the familiar sound of glass shattering; but at second glance I noticed that it was a cheap car that had just been attacked. Throughout the action, I noticed that onlookers couldn’t make heads or tails of what they were witnessing. A young group of guys walking by, laughing, exclaimed to me, “These white people are crazy,” with obvious confusion about what they were witnessing.

The march, then turned a corner, and focused attention on attacking, exclusively, parked cars. There were a few heroes following the march, threatening violence, and a lot of baffled upper-middle class people who, obviously, had no idea what they were seeing either. Within minutes, sirens could be heard approaching, and the “ninjas” as they were described on local blogs, disappeared into the night.

I write this, not as a condemnation of the participants or even as a critique in the typical sense. What I find interesting in this affair was the communicability of the action, and what I believe is the larger issues at hand. I should also note that it may not be fair to single out this particular action, because one could assume that there have been dozens of other actions that have had a lot of similar effects and outcomes.

As previously noted, participants in the 2008 St. Paul action stated that they wanted to use that action as a spring-

board to manifest conflict outside of mass mobilizations. Since then, we have seen numerous actions outside of mass mobilizations; some clearly with greater success than others. I think the “Take Back the Night” march could be viewed in this vein. There was, obviously, no mass mobilization present, and the participants, marched against capitalism, patriarchy, and the violence that enforces gender designations. So, in effect, there were clearly actions growing outside of the mass mobilization model. (There, as stated, have been a multitude of other actions one could also discuss from different parts of the country, which were very compelling.)

But what was communicated? The communiqué said they were “not asking for rights,” they were “demanding something entirely else.” They marched “to refuse the violence that continues to force us to be housewives and fuck-toys and mothers and daddy’s girls, to refuse to understand women’s oppression in the private sphere as a simple cultural or ideological matter.” So the question is: was this communicated through the action or the form? I think the answer is a resounding no. The communiqué states that during the action a woman asked one of the participants why they are taking such action. Upon getting what could only be assumed was an inadequate answer to the questioner, the woman responded, “Just get drunk and get laid – deal with it.” While this probably wouldn’t have been a typical answer to an action dealing with gender violence, it is illustrative of a problem. As an onlooker myself, if I hadn’t known beforehand what the action was about, I would have been utterly clueless.

Gilles Dauvé wrote “No act is sufficient in itself, nor is its meaning so obvious that it would require no expression at all.” The notion of the act and its communicability is of utmost importance. Through the act one shapes the social terrain into desired or obnoxious forms; which are never predetermined. But, as has been stressed time and time again, what matters here is resonance. For

resonance there needs to be comprehension of what Dauvé defines as “the nature of the change,” and what I have defined as the rituals of [our] refusal.

Resonance can be rather easily observed. The reproduction of actions is one example. In Greece, during the December insurrection, much has been made of the fact that people outside of the milieu began to appropriate actions that were previously the domain of the anarchists. In describing the Greek situation one participant in the insurrection stated:

“It is only in the past few years that we have succeeded in expanding beyond the limitations of the anti-police strategy that had characterized our efforts for 25 years. According to that strategy, we attack the police, they arrest people, and we do solidarity actions, over and over again. It took us 25 years to escape from this routine. Of course, the anti-police attacks and fights continue, and the prisoner solidarity movement is stronger than ever, but the anti-social element inside the anarchist movement is under conscious self-control and we can speak, care, and act for the benefit of the whole society now, using actions and plans that can be comprehended much more clearly by at least a part of the society.”

Many actions, like the attacks on supermarkets and the free distribution of stolen products to the people, became very popular and well-accepted. The attacks on banks, especially now following the economic crisis, are well-accepted also, and the attacks on police stations have been adapted and utilized by high-school students around the country.”

I quote this in length not to state that it is “correct” or “wrong,” but rather to demonstrate that there are differences and similarities. What is clear is that there is resonance. People in Greece know why attacks are occurring, and students are adapting the same actions. That is a far cry from our situation. But, as stated, it took 25 years for this to occur, and the description of the previous

routine seems remarkably similar to the American formula. Attack, arrest, solidarity. The description of the past few years in Greece is apt as well.

“Over the past few years, anarchists have created a network of communities, groups, organizations, squats, and social centers in almost all the major cities in Greece. Many don’t like each other, as there exist many significant differences among the groups and individuals. This helps the movement, though, as the movement now can cover a great variety of subjects. Many different kinds of people find their comrades in different anarchist movements and, all together, push each other—in a positive, if antagonistic, way—to communicate with society. This communication includes creating neighborhood assemblies, participating in social struggles, and planning actions that have a meaning for the general society.”

This also is rather familiar. There are many anarchist tendencies in the states today, which are extremely antagonistic to each other. However, this antagonism has not led to anarchists pushing each other to communicate, rather it has led to internal squabbles that have not gone anywhere, and are actually unknown to the vast majority of people. If our discussions are unknown to people who occupy our daily lives outside of the milieu, and our actions generate essentially stares of confusion from bystanders, with no discernible explanation from the participants in revolt, than we should expect a complete lack of resonance outside of the minority.

Returning back to the “Take Back the Night” march, our rituals of refusal must be addressed as well. In this action, and many others, while abandoning the context of mass mobilizations and representative mediation, one could argue that the milieu has sustained the same rituals and social form. The communiqué coupled with the action enforces this argument. It states that Take Back the Night has its roots in widespread social unrest in Italy. The communiqué defines the Italian action as follows:

“In 1976, a seventeen-year-old was gang-raped in Rome. A year later, when her case went to trial, she was gang-raped again by the same men: and this time, her whole body was slashed with razors in an attempt to keep her silent. Within hours, fifteen thousand women mobilized, uniformly dressed like the sex workers common to the district; “NO MORE MOTHERS, WIVES AND DAUGHTERS: LET’S DESTROY THE FAMILIES!” was the cry heard in the street. They came just short of burning the neighborhood to the ground.”

The original action was in response to an obscenity, but the picture painted in the action is profound and effective. In response to widespread rape, and a specific rape case, women dressed in a specific way to express solidarity and commonality. One could imagine, as an onlooker the message was conveyed clearly – breaking the normal chains of social

mediation, and still unambiguous. In comparison, during the 2010 march, we see a group donning the characteristic black mask with black clothing, with little to or no clarification about the action to, what could have been, supportive observers; and the result was utter confusion for onlookers. The clearest expression of the action was the communiqué released on anarchist sites; not in the streets of the neighborhood and adjacent neighborhoods of the action.

In effect, the same rituals from the mass mobilizations have been repackaged into different social arenas. Hence, we have entered a period of revolutionary redundant activity, and as should be reiterated, this specific march should hardly be the scapegoat. We can see this from the Asheville action to New York’s Catastrophe, even though these were all clearly well meaning attempts at upheaval. So the question remains: why have our rituals remained enveloped in the same unsatisfactory form?

I suspect that the problem lies in familiarity, self-policing, and to a degree, subcultural socialization. Anarchists have become comfortable with conventional modes of attack. Nothing could be more detrimental. In actuality, creative actions should be an area where anarchists excel. A brief glimpse at the striking banners, the poetic communiqués, imaginative street defense equipment, bloc tactics, and creative street parties demonstrates that anarchists have a remarkable capacity for innovative creative capabilities and organizational forms. It just seems at this current juncture there is a deficiency.

If there is one element of the mass mobilization/protest script that I have always found impressive is the, albeit, brief transformation of the social terrain. Often, with remarkable agility, anti-authoritarians manage to set up a diverse array of infrastructure, elaborate forms of differing affinity groups and actions, and a dizzying assortment of forms of artistic expression. In essence, the cities are transformed very briefly, and then drift back into “normalization.” But if such an atmosphere can, so often, be created for mass mobilizations, with such creativity, why do we find such difficulty in altering the model, and importing creativity we have all displayed elsewhere into different forms, and in fairly more important social terrains?

Our rituals of refusal from the mass mobilization mode are still hanging over our heads. Until we look at our ingrained rituals of refusal, of resistance, and our lack of communicability to others outside of the milieu we are going to keep marching in circles. Since our form remains almost identical to previous modes, and our actions are done without any genuine social engagement, then we will continue to be unable to generalize revolt. We must reach for the day when an action is taken and onlookers don’t question but already understand.



***Black Bloc
Rioters at the
Toronto G20***



***Rioters after
L.A. Lakers
Big Win***



Links:

Discover
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Books

Anything Can Happen

By Fredy Perlman

At Daggers Drawn

Available from Eberhardt Press.

The Theory of the Bloom

By the Invisible Committee

Society of the Spectacle

By Guy Debord

The Coming Insurrection

By The Invisible Committee

Grassroots Political Militants

From "Mute" Magazine

Web Sites:

These web sites have all helped us to stay up to date with insurrectionary struggles and resistance across the world.

LIBCOM

libcom.org

Social War in Greece

greceriots.blogspot.com

Our War: Insurrectionary News from South America

ourwar.org

Whenua Fenua Enuu Vanua: Anti-Colonialism

uriohau.blogspot.com

'Til It Breaks: Denver Social War

itbreaks.wordpress.com

Bite Back: Defense of animals.

directaction.info

NAELFPO: Defense of the earth.

elfpressoffice.org

Intercontinental Cry: Indigenous struggle

intercontinentalcry.org

Survival International : For Tribal Peoples

survivalinternational.org

The Anarchist Library

theanarchistlibrary.org

Modesto Anarcho:

modestoanarcho.org

Fires Never Extinguished

firesneverextinguished.blogspot.com

This is Our Job "Insurrectionary missives from the Spanish-speaking world."

thisisourjob.wordpress.com

Bash Back News: "Not Gay as in happy. But queer as in fuck you".

bashbacknews.wordpress.com

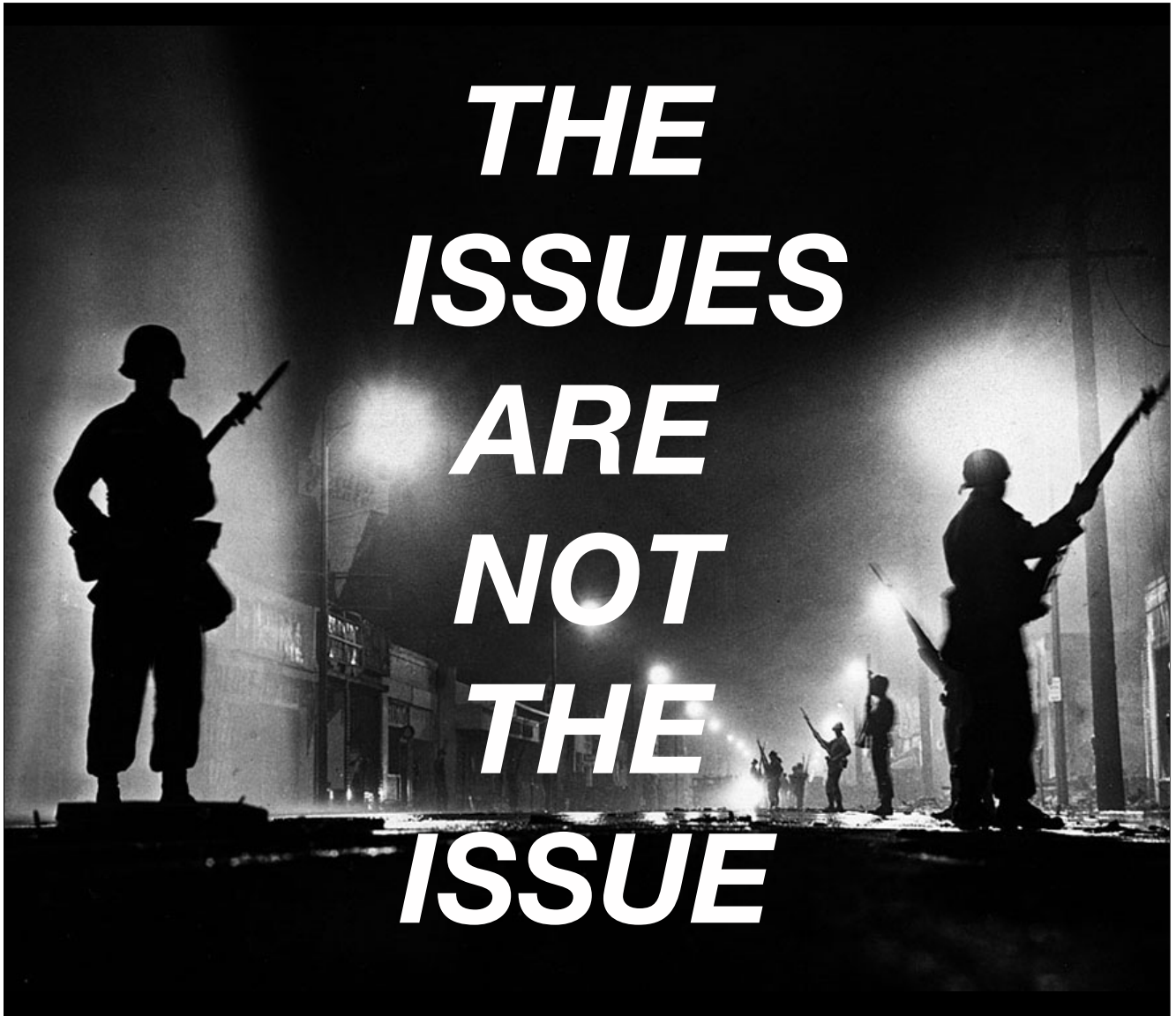
325: Insurgent News + Print

325.nostate.net

Social Rupture

socialrupture.blogspot.com

Whoever you vote for government wins. Whatever you purchase capitalism wins. There is a world of possibility that opens up when we seriously confront the world of restriction that surrounds us now. Coming to terms with this reality is a good start, but until we begin to grasp the totality of what controls our everyday lives, we will remain lost and confused in the dust of domination. We are not interested in working with or as part of the system, only against it.



With this we will only see potential in strategies that act in defiance with the methods of change suggested to us and condoned by the politics of the same system we are trying to destroy and overcome. Our actions must surpass all laws, show no mercy, and generalize as awesomely as the global order we are fighting so violently against. We won't find warmth in this cold world until those of us discontent with our conditions set it in flames. Until we are questioning and challenging everything that makes up this system, and act accordingly with such realizations, we are questioning and doing nothing at all!

CONTEMPT



Contrary to popular belief:

***CAN ALSO
CARRY OUR
AMBITIONS.***

***We already know that
we own everything—
the task is to exclude
the intrusions of
capital and power.***



*“Insurrection will never
be the political activity
of revolutionaries, for it
is the criminal activity of
becoming human.”*