

Modesto Anarcho

#6 Winter 2008

Free



a working class hero is something to be

artwork from prole.mio

WELCOME

in the time of presidents and police we sharpen our wits and our knives

Things in the central valley are getting worse. Counties in Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin all are leading the state in growing poverty rates as the divide grows between the rich and the rest of us. Foreclosure is pushing thousands out of their homes, corporations continue to lay off workers, and fee hikes, gas prices, the cost of living, food, health care, transportation, and everything else continues to rise. In Stanislaus County, the unemployment rate has shot up to 10% for the first time in three years. The reality of living pay check to pay check, of existing on the meager wages that the rich throw at us is having devastating effects as many are forced to find "work" in stealing cars and selling drugs. Prisons have become one of the largest growth industries in the valley and cities are spending literally millions on surveillance systems and the beefing up of local police who remain as brutal as ever. Repression has become a way to make money in a place where the upper class manufactures the conditions for crime, poverty, and homelessness. The Department of Homeland Security acting through ICE (the immigration police) also has been hard at work destroying lives and breaking apart families with raids and deportations. For the largely Latino population of farm workers and other migrant laborers who make up the back bone of the cheap labor which keeps this valley's economy humming, things haven't gotten better, they've gotten worse. As one person in the Modesto Bee recently commented, "I stress about getting back and forth from work. Gas takes almost half of my check. Sometimes I do without breakfast and lunch." The mix of the cost of living and shit wages has been too much for many, as the ranks of the homeless swell throughout the valley. These conditions of course benefit the entire global system, as the US government war machine requires the bodies of poor youth to act as troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere as people continue to be butchered in conflicts for resources, profits, and power.

Our "representatives," "community leaders," and heads of "opposition" groups of course have the answer for us. The answer is to vote for them, to join their organizations, to give them money, faith, obedience, and time at the "office." With the elections coming this year we will all soon be saturated by the spectacle of "democracy" in which we will be forced to "choose" which member of the ruling class will make decisions "for us" in the next four years... Some people will say we are crazy for dreaming and fighting for a world without power structures and classes; we say they're crazy for thinking we should ever be forced to live under them. What changes this world is not ballots and politicians, leftist ideologues or even anarchist newsletters – what changes this world is when people decide that perhaps the roles of worker, consumer, prisoner, citizen, student, immigrant, wife, husband, voter, unemployed, wage slave, renter, etc, and anything that they have been forced into, assigned, and made apart - no longer interests them. Things happen when we realize that we don't like these roles – that they leave us powerless and enslaved to others for the sake of making them rich and powerful. Things happen when we want to destroy



Youth shut down streets in Fresno against anti-immigrant legislation. Photo by Mike Rhodes.

them. At that moment, at this realization – we can decide to act, to strike, to relate with others who share (or could share) this same impulse. We perhaps will begin to see that our actions before (shoplifting, evading and fighting the police, graffiti, avoiding rent and work) really were not simply things we did as a reaction to our conditions, but actually constituted a *struggle* against the conditions that are imposed upon us. Perhaps we will start to move these individual acts away from just being deeds carried out by ourselves and help them blossom into actions that become *collective*: actions that include more and more people. In these ruptures, in these breaks with the social order, in *this* insurrection, we will find the power to create a new way of living, a new world. But on the eve of every prison uprising, wildcat strike, riot against the police, school walk out, looting of a major corporation, arson at city hall, graffiti campaign, defense of a women’s center, general strike, factory take over, attack on fascists, there will be those that say that it cannot happen here – and those people will be proved wrong.

So the goal of this magazine is not to get you to join an organization – it is to promote an organized attack on the forces that dominate and control our lives. The goal of this magazine is not to propose that we replace one new set of bosses and politicians with the old ones – on the contrary we want to abolish them all. We want the underclass and exploited to become a danger and a threat to every cop, right and left politician, work and union boss, fundamentalists of all stripes, corporations and capitalists, and so on – not only because we understand the horror and destruction that this gang creates – but because we desire a world without them entirely. Once we can identify our enemies, their networks and systems of repression and control and how they attempt to seduce and influence us, we can begin to think critically about how to act. Our enemies need many things from us in order to keep this whole machine running: legitimacy, material resources, information, labor, obedience, snitches, division, and much more. We become most dangerous not when we section ourselves off as Nortenos or Surenos, black or white, union workers and non, employed and unemployed, homeless and housed, prisoner and free, but when we understand who our enemies are and what our role in propping them up is. We can come to understand our situation. We can begin to refuse our role as servants to the rich. We can begin to build affinity with others. We can act, we can replicate these acts, we can expand these actions, we can rebel, we can attack – and we can destroy everything that confines us, represses us, dominates us, and locks us down. A working class hero *is* something to be.

-Modesto Anarcho Crew
January 2008



Folks gather around to hear various anarcho-folk performers grace the “stage” of Anarchist Cafe’ in downtown Modesto in January. The event featured great free food, musical acts from as far away as Canada, literature tables, and a lot of social networking and interaction. Kenneth Sime, local eco-anarchist acoustic sensation also played. Hear more of him at: www.myspace.com/kennethsime



A picture from a recent protest against the new dumpster dive ban. This protest took place outside of the new Modesto Police ‘sub-station.’ See larger article located within this magazine!

Know someone locked up within the California state prison system? Think they would like to get a copy of *Modesto Anarcho* or other class struggle, insurrectionary, anarchist publications? Are you a prisoner who is picking this up for the first time and wants to know more? We encourage all prisoners to write to us at our PO Box. We will send you free copies of our magazine as well as other publications for as long as we are able! If you have prisoner info and would like us to send something to someone - hit us up!

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FIRE IN OUR HEARTS

inspiring tales of action against the misery of work, prison, police, and daily injustice by ordinary people in the valley



Late September: In Manteca, someone broke into and squatted a vacant house that was being used by the local court to store office documents. Sadly, when officials arrived they called the police who quickly arrested the man before he could escape. According to the *Manteca Bulletin*, there are over 80 homes in Manteca that are in foreclosure and many of them have power and running water.

Early October: In San Andreas, workers in the middle of contract negotiations protested on the street against attacks on wages, health care, and also intimidation and harassment by management.

Early October: In a Susanville prison, inmates demanded that prison officials allow them to have access to anarchist literature supplied by *Modesto Anarcho*. In a letter to *MA* the inmates said, "We fought with our captors – and won!"

October 4th: A person robbed a north Modesto bank and got away with a large amount of cash.

Early October: In Turlock, the university newspaper *The Signal* reported a rise in (anti)political vandalism on campus, with posters appearing throughout the university against the police, governments, and the Iraq war. Some stickers and graffiti messages were also quoted as saying "Kill Your Boss" and "Don't Vote – It Just Encourages Them." Later graffiti seen on campus read "Smash Capitalism - Smash Racism" and "No war but class war."

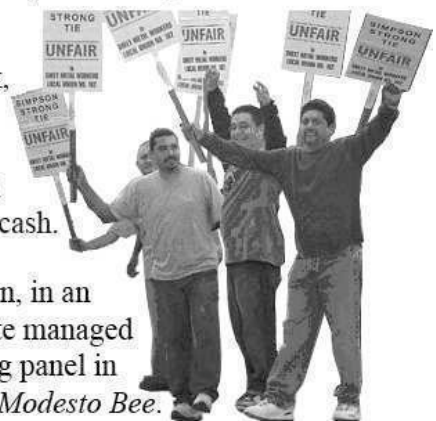
October 11th: In Stockton, two hundred and seventy workers at Stockton's Simpson Strong-Tie plant went on strike, calling for better wages and health care. In the *Stockton Record*, one striker was quoted saying, "These employers come from the Bay Area and think they can pay significantly lower. We don't think the cost of living here in the Valley is significantly different from the Bay." Another striker attested to the effects of increasingly harsh conditions. "The cost of living is up...and they don't want to give us nothing."

October 15th: In Turlock, a man armed with only a note robbed a Bank of America and escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash.

October 19th: In Stockton, in an attempt to escape an inmate managed to "pr[y] off a metal ceiling panel in his cell," according to the *Modesto Bee*. Sadly, he was later recaptured by prison guards.

October 23rd: In Modesto, a woman armed with only a note robbed a bank off of Sylvan Ave. and fled with a large amount of money. Long live the bandit queen!

Late October: In Livingston, pigs reported that attacks against new subdivisions are on the rise. According to the *Stockton Record*, police report that the vacant homes that



were attacked were all “completed and for sale, had been forced open and suffered interior vandalism ranging from broken windows, kicked-in walls and appliances damaged and destroyed. More than \$60,000 in damage was done to the homes over two months.” Police have made several arrests of people they think are involved, all local youths. Urban sprawl continues to destroy open green space, raise rent, and create more traffic and pollution at a devastating rate – so it’s great to see resistance to development of mega-sized track homes on the up.

October 30th: In Stockton, hospital employees carried out a solidarity picket in front of St. Joseph's Medical Center in protest against the hospital's business ties to O'Connor Woods, a north Stockton retirement community that is engaged in an ongoing dispute with workers (both groups are unionized by the Service Employees International Union or SEIU). In the *Stockton Record*, one of the picketers was quoted as saying, “We want to send a message to the administration that we don't put up with these kinds of antics...” These types of solidarity actions against various bosses that are connected to each other will hopefully continue and escalate!



October 31st: In Atwater, inmates gave a special “trick and treat” to their captors, by taking a guard hostage for nearly two hours. Due to censorship from the news media and prison officials, it is currently unclear as to what the direct motives were.

November 2nd: In Manteca, a Wells Fargo Bank was robbed by a woman who brandished only a note reading, “Give me your money!” She escaped with a large amount of cash. Local newspapers (*Manteca Bulletin*, *Stockton Record*) claim that the woman may have been homeless and is the same woman who robbed a Modesto Bank (mentioned in previous blurb). We say: even more reason to cheer this bandit queen on!

November 3rd: In Patterson, the Central Valley Punx (CVP) crew sets up a show space outside, has bands play, and raised money for a friend who is fighting a prison sentence.

November 5th: In Manteca, the bandit queen hits another bank. As in past cases, the bandit queen simply handed the teller a note demanding money and then escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Early November: In Sonora, it was reported that a group of youths spray painted anti-racist and anti-Nazi slogans and messages on an abandoned factory on highway 49. *The Union Democrat* reports that vandals have long used the vacant factory as a spot for rebel artistry. It's always good to see anti-racist and revolutionary slogans getting thrown up everywhere.

November 8th: In Fresno, students held a demonstration with art, literature, and banners without administration approval. This was done in protest against the bureaucratic rules regarding student activity on campus. College administrators can block access to political demonstrations, speech, and flyers based on whether or not they are deemed appropriate. For instance, the college allowed Christians to pass out Bibles, but did not allow a group raising consciousness about AIDS to hand out condoms because it “promoted promiscuousness” and the college preferred “abstinence.” As flyers said that were handed out by the Free Speech Collective, “A corporate owned state is a fascist state. A corporate owned school is a fascist school!”

Early November: In Fresno, a homeless man's underground squat was destroyed by the city, but this won't stop him from building another one. According to a story on indybay.org, the man stated that he has “...been doing this since [he] was fourteen,” and has no plans to stop creating underground squats. He went on to say “I'm self sustaining, self sufficient, and don't get in trouble with the law. . . as much as I can.” We can only hope that squats (above and underground) continue in Fresno in the face of repression against the homeless community.

November 13th: In Modesto, pigs used a taser to subdue a man who cursed and threw glass bottles at approaching officers, according to the *Modesto Bee*. Police state they were “suspicious” of the man because he refused to stop panhandling outside of the Vintage Fair Mall and because he was sleeping outside of Chili's. Whenever we step outside of the roles of consumers and workers we become a target for police abuse – at least we can say that this person fought back!

Late November: In Sacramento, eco-anarchist prisoner Eric McDavid went on hunger strike against not being allowed proper food and medical treatment. The Sacramento County Jail was swarmed with complaints and pigs even begged McDavid's family to call off the pro-

test. Eventually the prison caved and finally allowed Eric access to medical care; showing that even a prison can be broken with solidarity! More info at: www.supporteric.org.

November 27th: In Turlock, people at CSU Stanislaus took over a section of the quad area without permission and hoisted banners reading "Faculty and Students Unite and Fight" and "Stop the Fee Hikes!" Copies of a handout were distributed that called for class struggle and a united attack by staff, students, and faculty against the CSU Board of Trustees and the university itself. More info at: www.myspace.com/stopfeehikes

December 12th: In Stockton, an inmate tripped a fire alarm inside the San Joaquin County Courthouse in the early morning, forcing the entire building to shut down.

December 12th: In Stockton, according to the *Stockton Record*, students at McNair High School who were engaged in an altercation decided to take the fight to the real enemy when police came in to break up the skirmish by punching one officer right in the face.

December 13th: In Sacramento, eco-anarchist prisoner Eric McDavid won further concessions when his captors tell him that they are bowing (again!) under pressure and will be giving Eric more access to various food items that he had been fighting for. In past weeks, McDavid's support group had been calling on people to flood the jail with calls and letters of support.

December 14th: In Modesto, someone robbed a bank Friday evening, injured no-one and got away with a large amount of cash.

December 18th: In Fresno, around 30 people protested outside of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's meeting. Protestors were there to remember central valley folks who have died recently from asthma attacks and to also protest the bureaucrats making the decisions killing us. In the *Merced Sun Star*, one protestor said, "The district only adds to the problem by taking too long to adopt new standards that boost environmental health." Another commented that "There's always another meeting and other meeting. Everything keeps getting delayed." Hopefully with this type of community action, we can start putting the heat on the capitalists and bureaucrats making us sick.

December 20th: In Manteca, according to the *Manteca Bulletin*, police were beaten back from entering the local watering hole, the Pub, when various drinkers attacked the cops as they attempted to ask one patron questions. Police were forced to bring in reinforcements to the Pub in order to keep the brawl under control and one woman was taken to the hospital after being sprayed with police mace.

PRISONER

FEEDBACK

Dear *Modesto Anarcho*,

I would like to thank you for once again "making my day."

The pamphlets and publications you send me were fucking great!

Green Anarchy mag used to be my favorite publication. But the only problem with *GA* was it was hard for some people to understand it. It needed to be "dumbed down."

However, I now have a new favorite, *Modesto Anarcho*!

#5 was "the shit!"

It was the same stuff as *GA* but in plain words. And I absolutely love the direct action reports. They make my heart soar! And cheer me to no end. *Bite Back* mag was full of these also. Another fucking great mag!

Sabotage in the Workplace had the same effect on me. I love the snitch flyer. Those should be sent to everyone! I just wanted to write and thank you for what you done for me and my friends.

Happiness in this dismal shit-hole is priceless.

Respectfully,

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SONORA SOLIDARITY PROTEST with HOMELESS SQUATTERS

By Rien

On November 28th, 2007, the Sonora Police Department acting on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forced 20-40 homeless men, woman, and children from a well known squatter's camp known as Hobo Hill. Situated on the outskirts of downtown Sonora, the camp became home to many through the years with homeless residents having built elaborate tent structures able to withstand the winter onslaught and lived autonomously for years without much hassle from outsiders. Unfortunately, for those who called it home, they will now have to start over as they must prepare for the worst of winter, by either establishing new camps dispersed throughout the hills or by exhausting the already established resources and charities committed to the homeless in the area. But as with most dealing with the year's hard times who are feeling the crunch, many will have to go without.

In a survey taken earlier this year, it was estimated there was roughly 128 homeless and 53 homeless children in the area. With the rising costs in living, higher gas prices and a bad economy in general, options to squat the land become all the more enticing, knowingly or unknowingly, denying the capitalist idea of having to pay for shelter. But for many, going without is the only option amidst these hard times.

And so, many in the area who support the homeless saw the need to bring direct attention to this recent act and on December 21st a solidarity protest was held at Courthouse Square in downtown Sonora. 20-30 people gathered to bring attention to the often overlooked homeless issue in the county and the group marched on Washington Street, passed out literature, and sent the message that the homeless aren't the problem. Rather it is the police state and the forces that be that creates division and poverty.

The reasoning behind the eviction hasn't been entirely clear, but for some locals familiar with Hobo Hill said it was only a matter of time given the residents lengthy earthly impact and overall living conditions. In other words: if you do intend to squat the land, do so respectfully.

Despite circumstances, repression against the homeless has been on the rise throughout the valley and the foothills making it clear we must be a voice of support and solidarity to squatters and everyone who resists the idea that rent and wage slavery are the only way. Our solidarity in the face of this repression sends the message that we do not support this backwards class based system and the division it creates. Arm the homeless! Resist capitalism!

Jan 3rd: In Merced, a man armed only with a note robbed a bank and fled with a large amount of cash.

Early January: In Turlock, a new bank inside an upscale shopping center that was under development had its windows busted out.

January 4th: In Merced, a man in prison for 'drug offenses' according to the *Merced Sun Star*, managed to escape from the John Latorraca Correctional Center despite its towering 12-foot-high razor-wire fences and 24-hour video surveillance system. Prison officials suspect that the inmate may have been helped by up to three others. Now that's what we call mutual aid!

January 8th: In Manteca, a bank was robbed by a man armed with only a note who quickly escaped with a large amount of cash.

January 11th: In Stockton, two men robbed a bank and escaped with a large amount of cash.

January 19th: In Stockton, two banks were robbed in separate incidents. The first bank was robbed by a pair of teenagers while the second was robbed by a man in his 50's - 60's. Bank appropriation knows no age limits!



Marching through the streets of Sonora.

January 20th: In Modesto, folks outside of a pizza place assaulted a Stanislaus County sheriff's deputy while pigs were making a security check. According to the *Modesto Bee*, someone in the large crowd which was gathered outside hit the deputy in the head with a beer bottle, prompting the deputy to call for backup and deploy a Taser against the anti-police mob. Refuse to be beat or harassed - fight back!

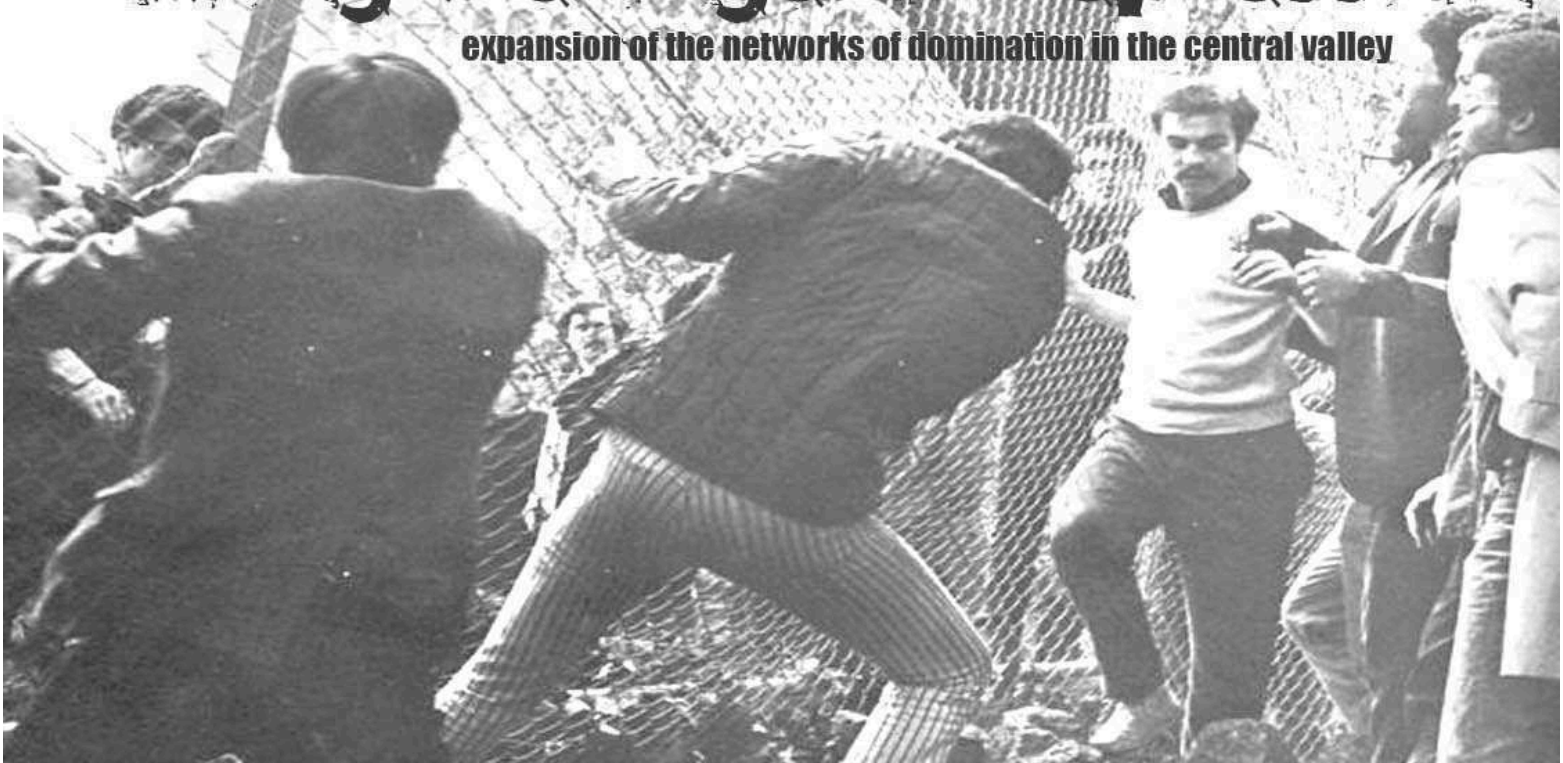
January 21st: In Merced, three county inmates are on the run after escaping from the John Latorraca Correctional Center early Monday morning -- the second escape from the jail this year (see previous blurb) according to the *Merced Sun Star*. Pigs believe that the inmates escaped from the jail after midnight by crawling through a ceiling vent in bathrooms of one of the jail's dorms.

Are we missing something?

Something happening in your community, town, or neighborhood that you want us to cover? Are we missing some action reports that you think need covering? Want us to touch on or write about an issue? Write or email us at: anarcho209@yahoo.com

rattling the cage of repression

expansion of the networks of domination in the central valley



Rebel Teens Caught By School and Police Forces: In Late October, 104 students were caught in a truancy sweep that cut across Stockton. Over 20 local pigs were called out in order to bring in teens who were suspected of refusing to attend school. Police commented in the *Stockton Record* that rebel youth freed from the clutches of school would run wild and engage in, “tagging and other forms of vandalism, drinking [and smoking weed], and shoplifting.” Left to our own devices, we (like the youth of Stockton) find ways of subverting the daily misery of work, school, and the police.

Valley Pigs Get New Tactical Vehicles: New ‘Ballistic Engineered Armored Response’ vehicles, or BEARs, are now the “latest addition to the [sheriff’s] department fleet,” police said in the *Modesto Bee*. These new ‘tactical vehicles’ are to be used throughout Stanislaus County by the Sheriff’s department and are designed to quickly put down any sort of threat to police authority. Ceres pigs have already purchased one of these units in the wake of AWOL Marine Andres Raya shooting down two police officers (one fatally) in 2005. Ceres Police Chief de Werk stated that the new vehicles are designed to work in a “military fashion.” If the police are growing into a more and more militarized force that stalks our streets and communities – we in turn must become an insurgent force that pushes them out!

New Moves Against Valley Squatters: In order to beat back the tide of squatters taking over vacant homes in the Central Valley,

cities like Manteca, Turlock, and Modesto are starting to pass new laws and ordinances that will further criminalize squatting and make it harder for people to occupy empty homes. In Manteca, under new “health and safety laws,” it is now illegal to occupy a vacant home that does not have running water, according to the *Manteca Bulletin*. Before this new law, police could only ask squatters to leave a house for trespassing. On top of criminalizing squatting, cities like Turlock, Modesto, and Manteca (according to both the *Modesto Bee* and *Manteca Bulletin*) are in the process of passing ordinances that will ensure that vacant homes will be “up kept” (boarded and locked up) in order to keep out squatters. In cities like Manteca, the city government estimates that it could spend up to an average of \$3,000 per year on vacant homes in order to keep them squatter free. With the city spending so much money on keeping squatters from taking over vacant homes - we should all begin to understand just how scared the rich are that we will all start taking this city back!

Ceres Police Attack Party Goers: Some Ceres party goers were attacked when Ceres police conducting a house call violently broke up the party of mostly Latino college students. In the *Modesto Bee*, the students claimed that the police broke “up [the] party [by] dragging women out of the house by their hair and used a taser gun on a man, then sprayed him with pepper when he was handcuffed.” Police also



Stockton Police Come Down on Truant Skateboarders

knocked one woman to the ground who was filming the incident with her cell phone and took her phone as “evidence,” clearly in a move to cover up their actions. Students also claim that police had no legal reason to enter the house being that all those who were drinking at the party were 21 or over, although police claim otherwise and used this as a reason to enter into the house. Ceres Police claim that the young people responded to the assault by “cursing at them, [and used] obscene gestures and did not disperse when ordered.” It is always disgusting when those who perpetuate violence claim the role of the victim! By stating this, the police are claiming that not only were they acting in self-defense, but that they also were justified in brutally attacking a group of young people because those young people actually responded with defiance to a police attack. According to complaint forms submitted to the police, some of the youths “no longer trust police officers and see them as modern-day Nazis.”

Also according to the *Modesto Bee*, two of the officers involved in the assault have in fact a history of brutality. As the *Bee* wrote, “Officer Bryan Ferreira was accused of severely beating Marcus Aue, a man arrested at the Merced County Fair in July 2004 when Ferreira was a deputy with the Merced County Sheriff’s Department. Aue and another man caught up in the altercation sued the department and received settlements totaling \$335,000.” After the incident, Ferreira left the department when steroid use was being investigated (although his pig bosses won’t disclose if he was on the drug or not) and then landed a job in Ceres. Another officer, Chris Melton, has been cited by psychologist’s reports to have “fits of temper and [has] made profane comments to the public and co-workers,” according to the *Modesto Bee*. The Ceres mayor has proposed that the students who were assaulted be represented by the local NAACP chapter and work with the police to create some sort of “constructive solution.” These kinds of “kiss and make up” actions will only help to diffuse the fact that police brutally attacked a group of young people. By attempting to use left groups like the NAACP as bridges between the police and the communities that they exploit, they also seek to give the police legitimacy where there is none. The only constructive solution that we see is that we stand up, fight back, and end the power the police have over our day to day lives.

Don’t Let Those Dirty Pigs Near Your Kids!: While in Ceres police savagely beat youth, in Hayward and Ripon, police take a much more ‘hands on’ approach. In Ripon, officer Daniel Icedo, 34, admitted to inappropriately soliciting sex acts with a 17-year-old female police cadet last summer, but was sentenced to only 30 days in jail and three years probation. Icedo will also not have to register as a sex offender because according to the ‘legal’ system he “won’t do it again.” Working class and exploited people get much harsher sentences than pigs like Icedo because we sit on the bottom of this pyramid of shit. Clearly

Repression at the Feral Visions Gathering

by *Brennus*

In late July, several of the Modesto Anarcho Crew attended Feral Visions, an annual Green Anarchist/Primitivist gathering. The gathering moves every year and this year the event was held in the High Sierras of Northern California. This was the first year the site was not a hike-in; that is, we were able to drive directly to the site. This made it easier for many to come and encouraged higher numbers than a hike-in may have, however, it also encouraged Federal Agents to come. This was our first mistake, in terms of security.

Starting on the second day, we had bi-hourly drive-byes of between 2 and 8 Federal SUVs, one of which held caged dogs, until well after dark. Sheriffs and Forest Service Agents, collectively referred to as “Freddies” from here-on out, would stop by, walk through our whole camp, accosting random individuals simply at the drop of a pin, or for no reason at all. A single word from one’s mouth would draw the attention of three Freddies if they were present. For this reason, many of us refused to speak when in their presence. This tactic, however, failed when the “Men in Green” made threats of confiscating personal property and destroying our encampment.

Freddies employed the “Good Cop, Bad Cop,” tactic to great effect in getting us to talk. Several of us were enticed, with promises of cooperation and quick fixes to put an end to our harassment, all to a communal detriment; each conversation we consented to gave Freddies more information, more evidence, more excuses to stick around, to search, to interrogate, to issue tickets and citations. Each individual who attempted to cooperate or reason with them put the whole of our community in danger.

When we all held silent, when we all refused to cooperate, the Freddies left. They knew they weren’t getting anywhere, they didn’t have anything to charge us on, they left. But when someone faltered (and several did), when one of us risked conversation, they were enticed to stay, to ask more questions, to lie, to make false promises, anything to get us to say another sentence, anything to get us to reveal one more detail which they could exploit to our detriment. Every day, Freddies upped the ante; they would threaten one step above the day before. This was proof they were not simply seeking to right a wrong, they were not simply attempting to force us within the bounds of their laws, they were out to get us, plain and simple. Their systematic increase of tension showed they were following pre-determined courses of action that had been hammered into them in training.

The Modesto Anarcho Crew left after the first weekend, but the gathering was not a failure by any means. We were, however, beaten. Plain and simple. We shouldn’t have been, but we were. The lesson? Non-cooperation with Federal or State agents, under any circumstance. They work for the enemy. Though our true enemies are ultimately the various systems of oppression surrounding us, rather than the tools used to oppress, these tools are employed, are paid money, to further the goals of the state, our enemy. This lesson is not only applicable in the struggle. We can, and should, apply this mindset to our every day lives. How many days do we have until another police shooting? How many of our friends, how many of our brothers and sisters have been sucked into the military with false promises of a quick two or three years followed by an easy life with benefits? Or maybe the fast track through school? Ever been refused at the Welfare office because the social worker cared more about being a good clerk than they did about your kids? How many more kids in Grayson, Westley, and Patterson, grow up with Asthma, or worse, because the Mayors, the Assemblymen, the City Council members, refuse to recognize the taint being pumped into our air every day by the Covanta Energy Plant?

No one shoots an undeserving black man in the back, no one sends a kid off to die in the desert, no one makes a mother decide how to tell her kids there won’t be enough food this week, no one ensures half the kids in rural towns grow up with asthma, and other lung problems, unless their priorities are far from just. Agents of the State, in their roles as tools of oppression, will remain just that, until the state is no longer able to utilize them. They should never, under any circumstances, be treated as friend, ally, or anything short of the enemy.

For the full text of this article go to:

http://shiftshapers.gnn.tv/blogs/25282/Security_at_Feral_Visions_Against_Civilization

there are two sets of laws, one for the rich and the police who protect them and one for the rest of us. At the time of the assault, Icedo was a supervisor of a youth program, which is designed to give young people experience in law enforcement. A message to all youth cadets now enrolled: drop out and run!

In Hayward California, an 18-year Hayward police officer of Tracey (name not given) admitted to having sex with two teenage boys and will soon be sentenced. Another Tracey pig, Jeff Cristofani, 41, pleaded no contest in late 2007 to two counts of oral copulation with a minor, according to the *Stockton Record*. All of these instances are fucking disgusting and show the degree in which those in power will continue to exercise their authority over us if we continue to do nothing.

Modesto Police Downtown Office Successful in Kicking Out Kids: According to police, the newest Modesto police sub-station located right in the heart of downtown Modesto has helped to "...ke[ep] people moving on, mainly the kids who used to hang out there," said Lt. Ron Cloward. This goes to show that when people choose to use public space for hanging out and enjoying themselves they put themselves right up against the logic of capital and its police. With more and more public areas being taken over by the pigs, the need to assert ourselves is ever growing.

Immigration Pigs Want to Deport Abused Women: The Department of Homeland Security is considering doing away with a policy that allowed undocumented women who are victims of domestic violence to remain in the United States. Because many fear being deported, many women will thus not seek medical care or report acts of violence, according to *Vida en el Valle*. This will only strengthen the hold that abusive husbands have over their partners. This system that forces people into poverty and servitude also forces women into continuing cycles of abuse and violence.

Merced Residents Demand City Government Clean Up Pollution: South Merced residents claim that a lot filled with leaky oil tanks and a paint dumping pit has contaminated their neighborhood. Residents complain that the city government is continuously dragging its feet in cleaning up the problem – which has lasted for years. Many residents have also stated in the *Merced Sun Star* that they are concerned about children getting sick and other health risks. More government red tape seems to be in the way before the city does anything about the problem. Officials with the city have stated that first more tests need to be conducted before action is taken. One resident commented that, "I question this. They are overseeing themselves." While the rich live in comfort they flood working class communities with pollution and cancer causing filth.

WAR IS OVER...

...IF WE STOP IT.

In late 2007, it was announced that the Stockton based Peace and Justice Center would be closing its doors and calling it quits due to lack of funds and interest. In the valley, peace groups in Modesto, Stockton, Sacramento, Fresno, and elsewhere continue to put on ritualistic "vigils" (quiet sign holding demonstrations), hold prayer meetings, and other 'actions' that are designed to pressure 'their' politicians in hopes of changing, let alone stop, the war(s). Then these groups sit around and wonder why no one is joining them. Young people and others aren't getting involved because everyone can see that standing on street corners, lighting candles, and repeating the same failed tactics won't bring about any sort change in the slightest. It does, however, make middle class people feel that they have done something without actually engaging in any form of real struggle. The following piece was written by some comrades in Seattle and addresses what we *can* possibly do to act against the increasing war machine:

Another march, more signs, and the war continues... The anti-war protests of the past few years have completely failed to stop the ongoing carnage in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. This is not due to the mere indifference of one politician or another. Protest-as-usual has not and will never pose a threat to the forces that create war. The "anti-war movement" has reduced understandings of the war to paralysis-inducing cliches like the profiteering of Halliburton, war for oil, the Bush regime's evil plots, the issue of illegality and so on. Real opposition to war requires placing war in a larger context instead of reducing it to piecemeal issues.

Our world is ruled by the dictates of capitalism. Everything is valued for its ability to be bought and sold, whether it's land, food, people, DNA, or bombs and tanks. The globe is divided like a giant chessboard by states and capitalists vying for control of resources, territories, and populations. War is an integral part of the political strategy of all states, a negotiation of power through organized violence. War is also one of many engines of the global economy, spinning the wheels of profit and misery. Within this system we are simply pawns, sacrificed as cannon fodder for their wars, manipulated as slaves to their work economy, and treated as empty vessels for mass consumption.

How do we stop the war? We can stop the shipment of essential war supplies out of the northwest such as Stryker vehicles. We can demonstrate solidarity with soldiers who resist like Ehren Watada and Suzanne Swift. We can disrupt the operations of banks, contractors, and manufacturers involved in the war. We can refuse the daily routines of school and work by walking out and striking. Ultimately we must stop the economy that makes war necessary. We should learn from the failure of calling for peace and love, let's bring the social war instead.

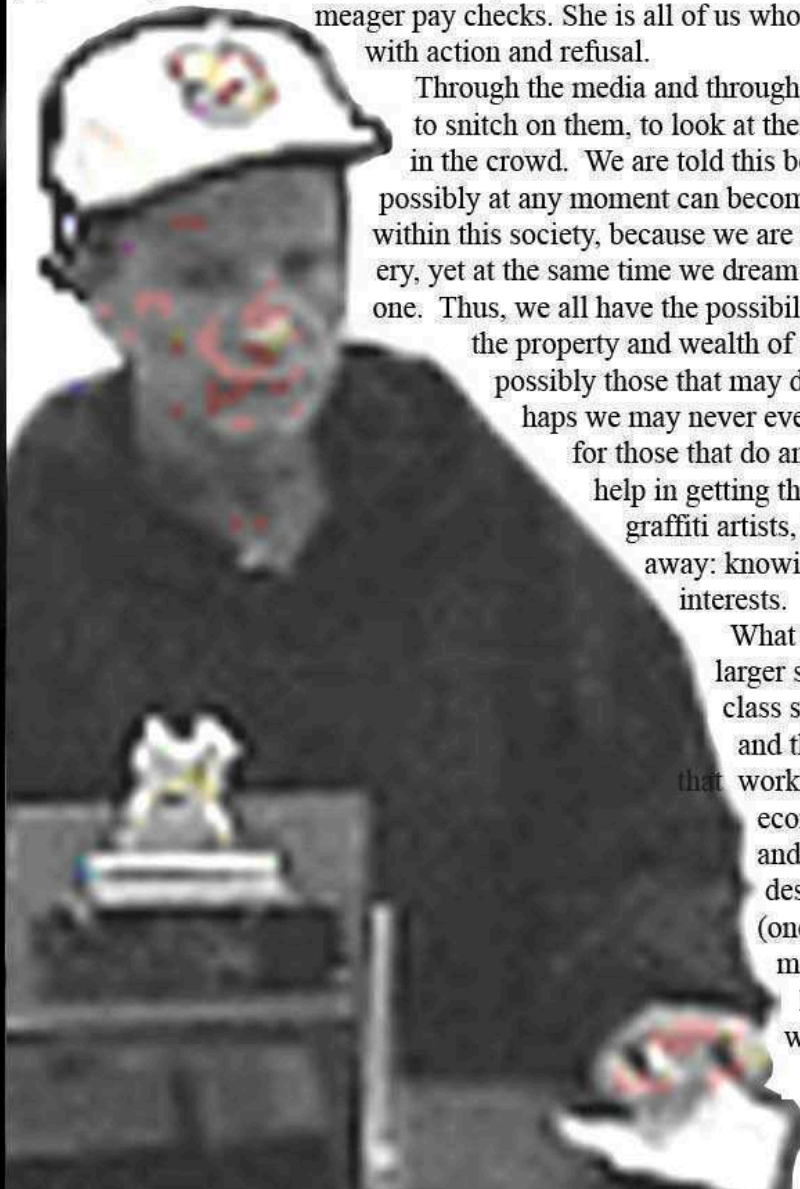
-some people against war and work

Long Live the by crudo **Bandit Queen!**

The media covers her every move, the police are on the look for her and rewards for her capture are plastered throughout the newspapers of the rich. This mystery woman, the Bandit Queen, has appeared throughout the central valley appropriating massive amounts of money from various banks. She appears quickly and is armed with only a cardboard sign which reads, "Give me your money!" Then, this mystery woman escapes on foot or with the use of a get away car. She continues to elude the pigs and shows no sign of ending her hits on banks across the valley. But who is this mystery woman that has managed to steal large amounts of cash from at least three major banks in both Manteca and Modesto? The local newspapers like the *Manteca Bulletin* claim that the Bandit Queen is perhaps a homeless woman, judging from her appearance (which they deem to be 'unkempt' and 'dirty') and the fact that she uses cardboard signs to demand funds. If this is so, it only makes us even more joyful, because it means that someone from the streets has decided to stop playing the game by their rules. The fact is, it doesn't matter who the Bandit Queen is. She is all of us who have ever faced the daily realities of living pay check to pay check. She is all of us who are forced to sell our time, energy, and sweat for a wage so that we may then buy back the products of ourselves and other workers, pay for rent, transportation, taxes, food, health care, and so on. She, ultimately, is all of us who have ever had those joyful thoughts that scream, "What if I just robbed this fucker?" while standing in line at the bank waiting to cash our meager pay checks. She is all of us who have attempted to reject the indignities of daily life with action and refusal.

Through the media and through the police, we are told to be afraid of the bank robber, to snitch on them, to look at their pictures in the news and then try and find their faces in the crowd. We are told this because the rich know that all of us "ordinary people" possibly at any moment can become that very bank robber. We are the contradiction within this society, because we are those that toil under the regime of work and wage slavery, yet at the same time we dream of a new way of living and openly resist the current one. Thus, we all have the possibility of becoming that person who refuses to accept that the property and wealth of our enemies (which we create) is sacred. We all are possibly those that may decide to take action, to hit back, to appropriate. Perhaps we may never even complete these acts, but at least we can show support for those that do and when the media, police, and government ask us for help in getting the "bad guys" (the bank robbers, the revolutionaries, the graffiti artists, prisoner escapees, etc) we can simply smile and turn away: knowing we will never rat on those that have our common interests.

What are banks anyway but greater building blocks in the larger system of capitalism which creates and maintains this class society; this world where the rich control everything and the rest of us work and take orders. Banks take money that working people make and then invest it back into the economy, which pumps capital into major development and business projects. War, urban sprawl, environmental destruction: they all need help from banks. Banks like Citi (one of the banks hit by the Bandit Queen) also contributes massive amounts of money to the Republican Party and helps fund industries like coal, ensuring that our future will be ripe with even more war and environmental desolation. Because of this, we will continue to cheer on the Bandit Queen and "homeless" female bank robbers everywhere!

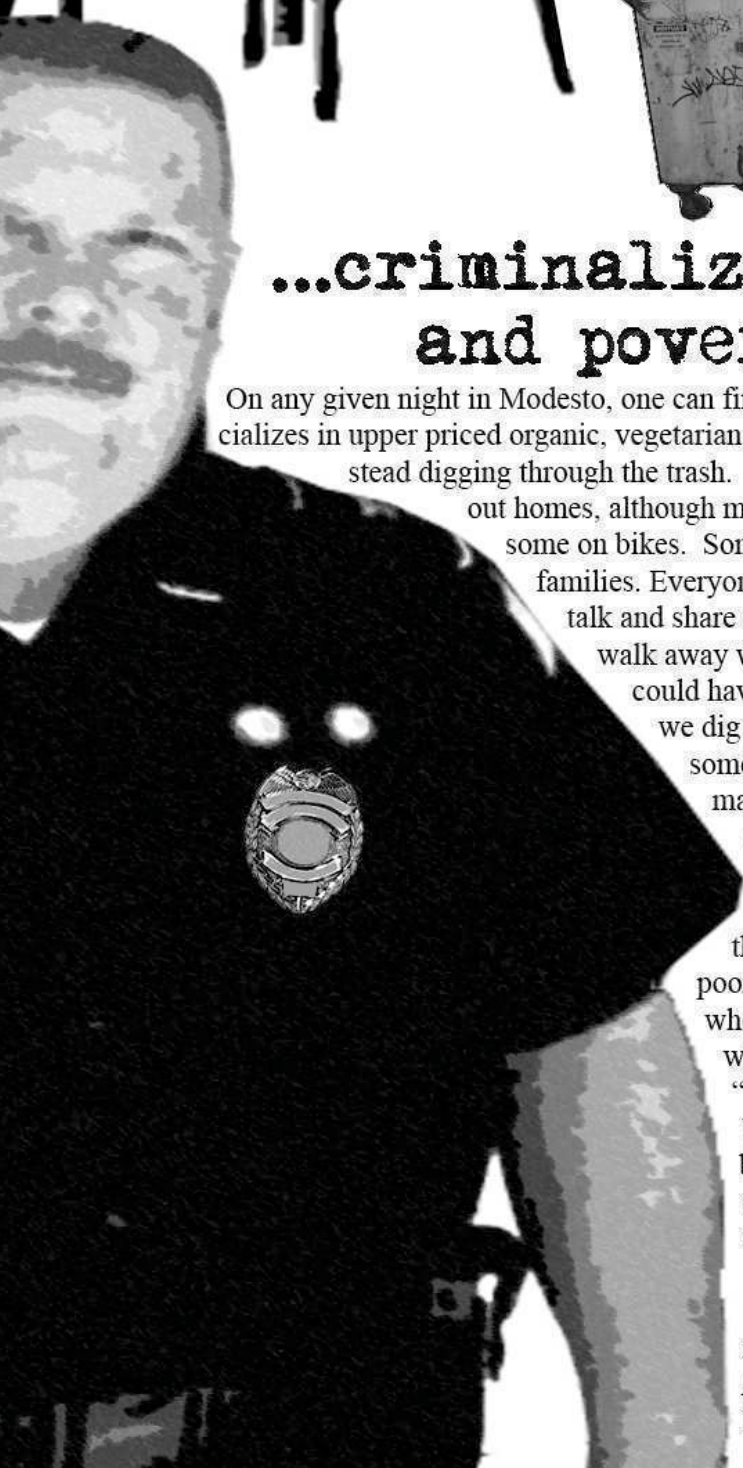




trash the rich by erudo



...criminalizing dumpsterdiving and poverty in Modesto...



On any given night in Modesto, one can find many ordinary folks at a certain major chain store that specializes in upper priced organic, vegetarian, and specialty foods engaged not in buying anything, but in stead digging through the trash. Some of those that frequent the dumpster buffet may live with out homes, although many live in houses throughout the area. Many come in cars, some on bikes. Some come by themselves, but most arrive with their partners and families. Everyone though, comes for the food. When I meet people there, we talk and share stories. The food there is incredible. It is always amazing to walk away with food that was thrown out a few hours ago knowing that you could have paid too much money for it in the store. With this in mind, as we dig through the trash we also help each other grab various items, sometimes recalling that time we got a whole case of free wine or maybe that night we found a whole dumpster full of whipping cream! We trade items we don't want for items we do. "Here is a package of hamburgers for that case of butter." Many people have met take the food back to their homes and give it out in their neighborhoods or to their friends. What the rich waste, the poor claim for themselves. Often we exchange tips on other spots where we can stock up on food. Once, someone stopped in a car when they saw that they knew a friend I was with and exclaimed, "You do this too?" Sometimes the workers were afraid of their bosses giving them shit and tell us to scam. Sometimes they bag up some food and just give it to us. Lots of people depend on this single store being so wasteful that it throws food away almost every day. The good times however, may soon be coming to an abrupt end.

In January, after urging from the Modesto Police, organizations representing rich areas of Modesto (such as the La Loma Association, etc), and several city council members, the Modesto City Council in a 5-2 vote passed a new ordinance that

would according to the Modesto Bee allow the police to slap dumpster divers “with a misdemeanor, issued a citation carrying a \$500 fine, or both.” (1) Dumpster divers could also face up to 6 months in a jail cell just for looking through a trash can. It seems the system again has us right where it wants us, as it forces us into poverty and then seeks to criminalize us when we try and subvert that reality by appropriating (taking without paying) food. This reality of course, is not by accident, but by design, as the economy of the rich requires us to produce massive quantities of goods and commodities as workers, yet at the same time ends up throwing so much of them away when it can't sell all of them. Capitalists (the people who own the means of existence and force us to work for them) need to make sure this surplus of thrown away goods is not used in any way by regular people. So, they lock these items away in the garbage, leaves them to rot, or smash them in compactors. Capitalism needs to create scarcity; it needs to keep things that we all need to survive locked up and under guard. In this way it can control what we have access to so we will be forced to work

harder to earn wages and thus have money to buy things. It needs to do this because if there's enough for everyone, why would we ever have to work so we could get money to pay for anything? If people squat homes and take over buildings - why would anyone ever pay rent? If people appropriate and grow their own food - why would anyone ever pay for it? We can see this reality very clearly in the steady



stream of economic refugees that pour into the United States from Mexico and other Central American countries. Thanks to “free-trade” agreements like NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) big businesses and governments have forced people off of their lands or put them out of work. This pressure forces many working people to seek work in the United States. Without being divorced from a way of making a living; divorced from a way of getting their basic needs met, why would anyone want to come to the US to work in near slave like conditions (and face a hostile journey and ongoing racism) picking and growing food or any of the other jobs many migrants are forced to take? Without taking the means of life from us, without divorcing us from the means to feed, house, and take care of ourselves, without protecting that system through violence (the police, the prisons, the legal system, etc), the rich have nothing, and they know it. Thus, the bosses of this economy try and control our access to land, to resources, to how we are able to spend our time, and even how we go about our very lives. Now in Modesto, they're even doing it with trash.

But, many of the upper crust of this valley do not enjoy seeing the effects that their society has on the rest of us. They don't like looking out their posh windows in downtown Modesto and seeing the homeless walk by with their shopping carts, the squatters taking over an abandoned building next door, or the hungry dumpster diver getting a few-hour-old pizza right out of the trash. Make no mistake, the dumpster diving ordinance is an attack on poor and working people who would take to the trash of the rich and corporations for the sake of gaining anything from building materials to a bite to eat. It is also a way for the police to intrude into yet another aspect of our lives for the sake of perpetuating and expanding their hold over our day to day affairs. Should we offer them anything else but contempt and resistance?

The Rich Get Organized

According to the Modesto Police and the Modesto Bee, one of the main promoters of the dumpster ordinance is the La Loma Association and various neighborhood watch organizations (people who often act as a citizen's police department). The La Loma Association is an organization representing one of the highest income neighborhoods in Modesto

and to many, represents where much of the ‘old money’ of Modesto calls home. Victorian style two story mansions dot the landscape of the La Loma area, which is located next to Dry Creek. Compare this area to working class districts of Modesto such as Airport, South Side, and West Side (and even many of the homes that fall just outside of the La Loma area), and it is painfully clear that the rich part of Modesto has found

itself a home. However, in an ironic twist, many homeless people also call the La Loma area home, as many squat (occupy without renting) along the river in the patches of woods and hang out in Moose Park. Many homeless folks often make the trip from Modesto's downtown to the Gospel Mission, one of two facilities that offer a place to sleep for the night. This of course creates tension between those who live in the nice houses and those without. According to the La Loma Association, they support the dumpster dive ban because it would "...keep the neighborhood we live in, in a condition that is acceptable to everyone." What they really mean is that they are in favor of a new legal means for the police to harass, imprison, and detain homeless or poor people who are passing through “their” neighborhood.

It is then no surprise that according to the Modesto Bee, the Modesto Police Chief sought out the support for the ordinance from the La Loma Association and various neighborhood watch groups, because of course, these groups have the same function and goal: the suppression of poor and working class people. This is not to say that some within the homeless “community” (a diverse group just like any) that occupies the

downtown and La Loma area are not without fault. Many homeless, working class, and regular folks often complain about the ongoing racist and often Neo-Nazi graffiti and activity around the area often attributed to homeless crews or the continuous drug dealing and violence that are sometimes associated with homeless strongholds such as Tower Park. Some homeless people of color and local residents have been assaulted or had racial slurs hurled at them by homeless people who frequent the area. Of course, a dumpster diving ban won't solve any of this, these are all problems that are caused by poverty, racism, and often the prison system. But of course, the police and groups like the La Loma Association aren't interested in ending any of these things; they're interested in seeing them continue in order to ensure their privileged position within society.

Manufacturing a Problem

Stopping identify theft has been touted as a reason for the criminalization of dumpster diving. According to the Modesto Bee, "Councilwoman Kristin Olsen supports the measure. Her husband, Rod, was a victim of identity theft after he said someone rifled through a commercial Dumpster and obtained financial information he left with a Modesto brokerage firm." (2) The La Loma Association also pleaded for an end to dumpster diving because they too felt that their privilege could possibly be threatened by trash diggers. At meetings, some complained of tipped over trash cans and garbage thrown about, and somehow this all is supposedly the work of "dumpster divers." Logic might instead point the finger at neighborhood dogs or recent storms, but of course to the La Loma Association the homeless are the major threat that stalks their gold plated streets. Clearly, to paraphrase one recent letter to the Modesto Bee, if the homeless of Modesto have been stealing people's identities then they have little to show for it. Olsen, the La Loma Association, and the other cheerleaders for the dumpster dive ban, all contend that the ordinance would help fight identity theft and would give the police "another tool" to put a stop to such activity. What this "tool" means in reality however, is much different. This means that any person who looks like they have been "dumpster diving" (i.e. homeless) is suspect to a search of themselves and their limited property. The ordinance becomes another reason for police to intrude and harass us and possibly place us in prison. Thus, that package of bread you just picked up from behind the bagel shop now is cause for the police to search your entire personhood. Who knows what else they'll find that they could use to throw you in prison or issue you a ticket to put more money in their pocket? A joint, a pirated DVD, a copy of this magazine...?

Furthermore, giving the police more power to fine, harass, detain, and imprison people looking through dumpsters is a piss poor way of stopping identity theft. As NAID (National Association for Information Destruc-

tion) wrote in regards to the new Modesto ordinance: "[Our] position on such laws is that they actually make things worse by giving people a false sense of security." (3) In other words, the dumpster diving ban won't do anything to stop identity theft. As a recent 60 Minutes report showed, hackers armed with only simple software can drive past any large retailer that is transmitting electronic information via credit cards and get into a person's bank account, get their social security number, and obtain other information with the push of a few buttons. Corporations refuse to update their software because it would be costly. Also, banning dumpster diving will actually only lead to more crimes and theft between regular people, as many dumpster divers are unable or afraid to gain access to cans and bottles that they turn in to various local recycling plants for money. If people who can not find work are then denied access to the only means of generating income (can and bottle collecting) that they have, where is the only logical place to turn other than crime? We only hope that people will find new and inventive ways of subverting the system without having to turn to robbing, thieving, and stealing from other working class and exploited people. It is clear then, that the dumpster diving ban has realistically nothing to do with stopping identify theft, but everything to do with criminalizing a wide section of the population.

Furthermore, the Modesto Police were actually caught during a city council presentation presenting false evidence while making their case against dumpster diving. As the Modesto Bee wrote, "Officers mistakenly reported that four valley cities had adopted ordinances prohibiting people from foraging in waste containers. The Bee later found that the cities -- Ceres, Clovis, Oakdale and Tracy -- had ordinances against stealing recyclables or measures designed to protect franchise rights for garbage hauling companies. They did not ban Dumpster diving." (4) In this classic pig move, when the police couldn't find the information that they wanted, they simply manufactured it.

Tax the Poor, Legitimize the Pigs

Most people view acts by the police and city government such as the criminalization of dumpster diving to be simply "bad policy" or frame them only as a moral issue that is something that does not affect them. "It's horrible what they're doing to the homeless." People often rarely understand the larger reasons why the rich and the police seek to criminalize further aspects of daily life and why the city government seeks to gain more and more revenues based upon the giving out of tickets, court fines, jail time, etc.

At the same time as the dumpster diving ordinance was working its way through the city council system, the city government was also looking at various other projects which would cost a lot of money. According to the Modesto Bee, the city approved "...the second half of the city budget, a \$336 million plan that describes funding for 318 capital projects." This work includes "\$66,500 worth

of work in designing an expansion of Pelandale Avenue .” In other words, more sprawl and work on the rich areas of town while homes go empty and streets in places like South Side Modesto don’t even have sidewalks. The city is also looking to put in a “\$400,000 in redevelopment funds on the cameras and equipment that would enable the Police Department to monitor downtown.” (5) We can now see that the actions of the police and the city government are designed not only to extend the power of the State but also to increase a flow of revenue into the city for its own projects which will benefit anyone but working and oppressed people (i.e. more revenue through fines and tickets means more money for sprawl and surveillance). This complex is not simply limited to Modesto, however; for instance in Arizona the “...proposed state budget counts on the anticipated speeding fines [generated by new speed surveillance cameras] to help erase a projected revenue shortfall.” (6) These actions by the police and the State also work to further give them legitimacy. If we become used to surveillance cameras tracking our every move, being fined for digging through the trash, being sent to war, etc, then what else will we put up with? Soon, we will be unable to remember life as it was before the ever watching eye or the big pig stick invaded every part of our lives.

Our Dreams Won’t Fit into their Dumpsters

If we can begin to see the actions of the police and the city elites simply not as bad “policy” or bad “morally,” we can begin to make sense of their actions and see that they do have a logic within the framework of a larger system which wants to ensure that working and oppressed people have the least amount of control over their lives as possible. With a lack of any agency over how we want to live, labor, and associate with others, what choice will we have to continue to work, buy, and reproduce this hierarchal and alienating society based upon wage-slavery, violence, and boredom? Once we can understand this context, we can also understand how illogical it is that the institutions that most promote and protect this system (the police and city government themselves) are not going to have any role in changing things for the better. It’s silly to imagine that in some room in downtown Modesto only a handful of people on a “city council” will decide the fate for over 200,000 people in the city, but perhaps it is even more absurd for the rest of us to put all our hopes of change into these same people. If we continue to put faith in the democracy of the rich, our

lives will only be as democratic as “our representatives” allow them to be. This of course, is no freedom at all.

While the recent dumpster dive ban should not surprise us, we should be prepared to respond to this attack with action. The imperative to fight back is needed now, as many city governments have stated publicly that they soon will be following Modesto’s lead and will consider implementing their own anti-dumpster diving ordinances. If we are going to fight this, first we must realize that in most cases the police will depend on calls from people complaining that a “dumpster dive” is in progress. Being that Modesto is the epitome of the Public Enemy song, “911 is a Joke,” many people will probably have nothing to worry about! Still, those looking to dumpster dive under the current police state restrictions should possibly look to be as quiet as possible, be on good

terms with the locals, and also stay out of sight from the authorities and employees of a given business. Diving at night is the best time. Teams of divers can also provide look outs incase pigs decide to roll through certain areas. Perhaps dumpster divers can also think about talking with nearby folks living in the area, explaining the situation and asking them not to call the police as they search for food. Those looking to find new ways of getting free food perhaps can look to appropriating food from work, gleaning fruit trees, starting community gardens in vacant lots, or perhaps finding new forms of liberating items from stores. What is important for people is that they try and move these actions away from just being based around individuals, but towards collective revolts against the current order. The more we resist with others, the more we get in return. The more people fighting, the harder it is for the pigs to stop us. In the end however, the greatest way to fight back

against the dumpster dive ban is to fight and struggle for a society without police, prisons, and city councils, and also a society without the need to dig through the trash in order to get something to eat. In Modesto and across the globe, the rich have organized themselves with their governments and police in order to better launch an assault on people who are exploited and excluded from their system. We should learn from their example and offer them nothing but an uncompromising assault.

Response to City of Modesto’s New Dumpster Diving Ordinance

pomegranate

as I see it
nourishment can be found
if you
look hard enough cause

it’s hard enough to work for
slave wages
hard enough to live
paycheck-to-foodstamp
hard enough to
wonder when you’ll get

your next meal. so don’t tell us
stay out of your dumpsters
the rich don’t know
what it’s like
to be hungry and besides

you’re not gonna eat it anyway.

Notes:

1. Modesto Bee, Jan 13th. Jeff Jardine.
2. Modesto Bee, Jan 7th, Adam Ashton.
3. NAID website: http://www.naidonline.org/news/12-18-2007_2.html
4. Modesto Bee, Jan 23rd, Adam Ashton.
5. Modesto Bee, Jan 9th, Adam Ashton.
6. Paul Davenport, Associated Press, “Arizona budget banking on speeders.”

The Place is Called Wahallich

By Mike Robe



Karl Marx once said, "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce." There is little farce and a numberless repetition of tragedies in the history of engagement between Euro-American colonizers and the indigenous people of turtle island. The dramatis personae of these tragedies vary little: government and corporations bent on the expansion of territory, technological culture, and profit; indigenous people subject to the policy of "divide and conquer" and riven by traditional and modern factions; and relatively poor and powerless whites on the border of Indian land with all manner of motives, interests, and sympathies.

The latest and nearest performance of this tragedy is at Jesse Morrow Mountain, a beautiful and powerful foothill to the north of Freeway 180, about fifteen miles east of Fresno. Nearly a decade ago RMC Pacific, a subsidiary of the RMC Group of London England, purchased a part of Jesse Morrow Mountain and proposed to mine it. Three years ago, Cemex corporation, headquartered in Mexico City, completed its \$5.8 billion acquisition of RMC. Cemex thus became the world's largest provider of cement, ready-mix concrete, and other "materials," operating in more than fifty countries and producing 97 million tons of cement annually. Cemex is now petitioning Fresno County to grant it a one-hundred year conditional use permit to mine the mountain, removing 2 million tons of aggregate per year and reducing the height of the mountain by four hundred feet. The project, which will include blasting and "aggregate processing," would operate 24 hours per day, 315 days per year and will require approximately nine hundred daily truck trips. It will also consume 150,000 gallons of water every day. On site, 70 feet high storage silos and storage capacity for 61,000 gallons of oil, gasoline and diesel fuel will be constructed.

Jesse Morrow Mountain is at the heart of the traditional lands of the Choinumni, a band of the foothill Yokuts people who have lived in the area for millennia. (Anthropologist Michael Morado states that people have lived in the area for one-hundred and thirty centuries). The real name of Jesse Morrow Mountain is "Wahallich" which translates from the Choinumni language which means the "Crying Mountain." Traditional Choinumni elder Angie Osborne recounts a story told by her elders that "crying mountain" refers to a spring on the southwest side of the mountain. Choinumni would camp near the spring to gather deer grass and white root for baskets. Late at night they would sometimes hear what sounded like the desperate wailing of infants from somewhere near the spring. Anyone lured by these cries who entered the spring would become ill. Others say that "Wahallich" refers to the rivulets that run down the sides of the mountain during rainy years. One thing is certain: Wahallich continues to be held as a powerfully sacred landform by the Choinumni.

The Choinumni people, like other first nations in the Central Valley, lived sustainably in one of the most ecologically diverse, beautiful and verdant places anywhere on this Mother Earth. After just a century and a half of "civilization" the rivers are gone and with them the salmon. The grasslands are gone and with them the Pronghorn Antelope, Tule Elk, and the wolves. The wetlands are gone and with them the migratory birds and waterfowl once so numerous they darkened the skies on taking flight. Even the most powerful of all the local animal relations, the Grizzly Bear (symbol of California's Bear Flag) has long been driven out of the valley, foothills, and mountains. As the great Lakota healer Lame Deer once said concerning the near extinction of the Bald Eagle, "A people are in a bad way once they start killing off their own symbols."

Except from the perspective of "civilization" we have been in a bad way for quite awhile here in the valley. First nations everywhere have been devastated by the rapaciousness of what goes by names like "progress" or "development" or "property rights." For five hundred years global capitalism has relentlessly integrated a wider share of nature and indigenous peoples into its orbit. The Cemex proposal to blast and mine a sacred mountain is symptomatic of the perpetual assault against the Earth and the people whose skin is the color of the Earth; this assault IS western, capitalist, technological "civilization."

By contrast the Choinummi recognize Wahallich as a sacred place worthy of utmost respect and care. The mountain environs give life to people and animals, give the power of a ceremonial place, and give shelter to the ancestors buried there with their sacred objects that they carried across to the spirit world. As neighbors of the Choinummi people and as people of this valley we need to decide what this valley and these foothills and mountains mean to us. What is Wahallich? Is it a mountain? Is it the center of a people's world? Is it a ceremonial center? Is it a habitat of kit foxes, coyotes, hawks and eagles? Is it a stunningly beautiful landscape of wildflowers? Is it one of our largest, longest and most notable foothill mountains? Or is it a "resource?" Is it a mine? Is it a pit from which to haul aggregate? Is it a necessary concession to this curious blindness we suffer called "progress?" Will it continue to give life and sacred power? Or will it become a cipher in the noise, pollution, and blight of sprawl?

It is possible that the impending tragedy at Wahallich will be averted. Now in its late stages the ecological and cultural effects of globalized capitalism are creating unlikely allies. Goliath has been stomping around for centuries, but at the sedimentary level of history there are rumblings of change. David is starting to fashion a slingshot. (For those lacking faith, a few years back an RMC official went to Wahallich to check "the company's land" and was bitten by a wild pig. Take that!) During a public scoping meeting for the proposed project at Sanger High School, more than 150 people from all walks of life stood together in opposition to Cemex/RMC. At a scoping meeting, the public is advised of the elements of the proposed draft Environmental Impact Report and informed that they may submit questions and comments to be considered in the report. Representatives from Greystone, a consulting firm hired by the county but paid by Cemex/RMC, presented the elements of the project and an overview of matters to be taken up in the draft EIR. The response was emphatic: NO. No to RMC; no to the project; no to tearing up a mountain and a community for the profit of a multinational corporation.

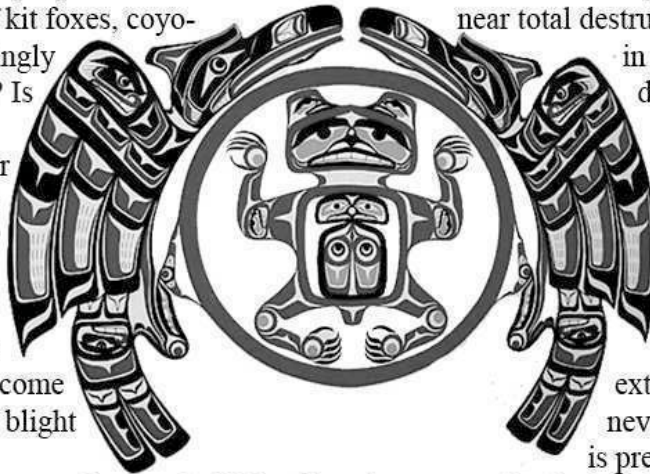
It was one of the most extraordinary political unions I

have ever witnessed: ranchers and Earth First!ers; conservative Republicans and immigration rights activists; a winemaker/bed and breakfast owner promoting agri-tourism standing with a lady who grows hay; suburbanites standing with traditional indigenous people. When the Fresno based Sierra Nevada Earth First! activists disrupted the presentation by carrying a giant black and green banner reading "A MOUNTAIN NOT A MINE" onto the auditorium stage, the whole crowd erupted in sustained applause. It's true that the most hardcore conservative, free-market Republican will become an instant environmentalist when the methodical destruction wrought by Goliath comes to their backyard. But what's happening with Wahallich is more than a NIMBY phenomenon.

Fresno is beginning to wake up to what it means to be the colonized rather than the colonizer. The story of "first world" governments and corporations moving in to monopolize the "natural resources" of "third world" countries is as old as capitalism. It is what drove the near total destruction of the Choinummi people in the first place. It is what is driving the destruction of indigenous people in the last few remaining wild and free places on the planet—in the rainforests of southeast Asia, in the Amazon basin, in southeastern Mexico. Many people naively wonder why "we" continue to extend loans to countries that can never pay those loans back. But that is precisely the point. Mired in debt, these countries fuel global capitalism by providing a steady supply of cheap resources and cheap labor. (For an eloquent statement of this relationship, see EZLN subcomandante Marcos's statement on the eve of the Zapatista rebellion—"The Southeast in Two Winds: A Storm and A Prophecy").

By this logic, the logic of capitalism, Fresno has what powerful multinationals and corporate builders need: cheap land and cheap "resources." From the perspective of multinationals, Fresno looks much the same as rainforest tracts on the islands of Sulawesi and Maluku, or Anapu Para in Brazil or Chiapas. And by the same logic, Fresnans are forced to stand in a resistance struggle for their land in much the same way as do Demetrio do Amaral de Carvalho in Indonesia or Chico Mendes and Dorothy Stang in the Amazon or the Zapatistas in Chiapas. The only real hope is that all of these movements coalesce in a struggle for resistance against corporate capitalism, restoration of land, rivers and the plant and animal nations, and a rejuvenation of Life.

Cemex/RMC proudly boasts that it will provide necessary "aggregate" for the next hundred years of



News Briefs

growth in this area. But the people of Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain—both “conservative” and “liberal”—like people throughout this area, are beginning to wonder whether 100 more years of unchecked suburban sprawl is really what this valley needs. The friends of the mountain don't want a mine in anyone's backyard. Is that naïve? Only if you think that unchecked growth is inevitable. It is not. Except for a few isolated islands scattered here and there in our valley—in places like Wahallich, for instance—the last 100 years has seen one of the most vibrant, verdant, fertile, magical natural places on this mother Earth converted into a vast agribusiness, suburban wasteland. What would 100 more years of global capitalist expropriation bring? No, whether some would like to admit it or not, the friends of the mountain are saying the same thing as the Zapatistas - ya basta! Enough.

Finally, it appears that the Goliath, Cemex, has followed the tried and true historical path of exploiting divisions within the Choinumni. According to an e-mail from RMC Pacific president Eric Woodhouse, RMC's consultant, Greystone, hired two California State University anthropologists to begin the cultural studies portion of the Environmental Impact Report. But according to Angie Osborne, no contact was made with the traditional Choinumni regarding studies of sacred and cultural sites on Wahallich. This violated the practices and procedures recommended by the California Native Heritage Commission. The problem was compounded when the CSU anthropologists failed to carry out the appropriate cultural studies to determine whether Wahallich constitutes a sacred indigenous site. David struck again. After complaints lodged by the Choinumni and further public meetings Greystone was removed as the consultant for the project and the entire cultural studies portion of the report was thrown out.

In the next few months the fate of Wahallich will be decided. The new Cemex/RMC consultant will present the EIR sometime in the spring. Public comments will be followed by a vote of the Fresno County Planning Commission and, if that passes, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. At each stage we must aggressively resist the machinations of Cemex. Please join in a decisive last stand against the destruction of Wahallich. The history of Euro-Indian relations has been tragic; the future remains unwritten.

Many groups and individuals are working to stop this project. Please feel free to contact any of them to get involved. Contact Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain at jessemorrowmountain.org. You can also keep in touch with Sierra Nevada Earth First! through our website sierranevadaearthfirst.org or through the Collective for Arts, Freedom, and Ecology at cafefresno.org. To reach the Traditional Choinumni people, call Angie Osborne 787-3336. The Reedley Peace Center has also been actively opposed to Cemex.

Burning Cop Car Lights the Night in Sonora: A 27-year-old man will spend the rest of his life (111 years) behind bars for being convicted of vandalizing several police cars and setting fire to another one. Lawrence Adams, who is homeless, was convicted of tagging 11 county-owned cars with spray paint and then setting fire to an officer's personal car in the Sonora Police car lot in early July of 2007. Adams already has two strikes against him (under California's “Three Strikes” law) and police claim that he is guilty because he was walking by the police station about two hours after the fire was started and matched the description of the suspect. Upon searching him, police claim to have found “bomb” making materials, while Adams' defense claims that these materials were actually for drugs. Police also claim that Adams had a motive, being that he was kicked out of a homeless encampment and was very “enraged” about the incident, according to the *Union Democrat*. Adams maintains his innocence. Whether or not Adams is responsible for these actions or not – he deserves our support. No one should have to rot in prison their entire life for damaging pig cars – this and the continued repression against people daily by the police is the real crime.

Fresno Already \$1.3 Million on Surveillance: According to an article written by Mike Rhodes on indybay.org, “After working on the project for over a year and spending \$1.3 million on video surveillance equipment to spy on citizens, the mayor and Fresno Police Department held a press conference to say that . . . well, their cameras filmed a crime. Fresno mayor Alan Autry and Police Chief Jerry Dyer did not claim that the video surveillance stopped the crime from happening or even that it solved the crime, [but did lead to an arrest].” Needless to say, the cameras have brought lots of money into the pockets of the police but have had next to nothing results in regards to “fighting crime.” Fresno police have close to 50 cameras in Fresno now, but want 200 installed in the next two years. City governments in Modesto, Manteca, and across the valley are all putting in new surveillance systems. More surveillance only means greater criminalization and repression – time to break out the slingshots!

Galvan Family Sues Police: The family of Sammy Galvan has sued the Modesto police department and is going through trial motions in Fresno. Sammy was killed in 2004 by the police when they shot him in his home. We wish them the best of luck!

ARMED POETICS

edited by pomegranate

Molotov
Dee Allen.

1 part cloth.
3 parts petrol.
Hell under glass.

Pick a bottle, any bottle
And fill it with
Flammable content.
Stick in the rag,
With one half in the fluid,
One half protruding.
Set the protruding rag ablaze

And throw it at those
Who threaten your life.

When there's civil unrest
And the state's agents move in to
Trap you in the streets,
Don't play victim.
Play barista.
Serve them a hot bottle of trouble.
Turn your darkest hour into cocktail hour.

Send original poetry to:
anarcho209poetry@yahoo.com

or

Modesto Anarcho
PO Box 3027
Modesto, CA 95353



Too Radical pomegranate

It is said that our behaviors
aren't socially acceptable because we
raid the dumpsters at night, we mix
wildflower seeds with soil in the
palms of our hands because we'd rather
seed ball than
speed ball, we'd rather
sew love than
slavery, we dream of
destroying the forces which
smother our desires, we believe that
if voting changed anything
it would be
illegal, we don't see how a
fight for freedom can maintain
non-violence
when we are suppressed by so much of it
and besides,

the encouragement of
non-violent demonstrations is an act of

control

being non-violent is an act of

submission

It is said that our behaviors
are systematically not accepted because we
do not accept the system, and we
go into this monstrously civilized world
holding hands and
fighting for our lives.



Black Masque Dee Allen.

for Danielle B. a.k.a. Sick Girl.

Slip into black clothes
And most importantly, your masque
Before you lies
A most daunting task

Wars for conquest
Bioengineered crops
Spreading global Capitalism----
Here is where it stops

The streets are coloured
In a surge of black
On palaces of the rich
You wage the attack

Banks, shops, skyscrapers
All symbols of wealth
Generators of revenue
Attribute to this system's health

Smashed under the weight
Of rocks, kicks, & blows
Whatever it takes to leave
Capitalism in death throes

The state responds----
Armoured police advance
To guard ruling class interests----
On with the swift, violent dance

Another battle in the avenues
Another steel fence torn
Amidst the gas & debris,
Another victory will be born

Because without you,
Social movements wouldn't persist
Without you,
There'd be no courage to resist.



Why They Kill Poets First Todd

we are guerilla fighters;
words, our weapons.
we travel light,
each word chosen carefully.

Truth held captive,
behind barbed values,
misdirection, sound bytes.
get close, then

pull the pins on
metaphor, meter and meaning
strapped to our chests,
until

Truth ignites;
incendiary awareness
sweeps the world,
deeply cuts; another

packs images and
word choice,
to a sleeper cell
of seers.

The insurrection spreads.

Send feedback, questions, comments, suggestions, hate-mail, and submissions to:

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or email us at:
anarcho209@yahoo.com

On the internet at:
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Because the streets won't vandalize themselves!
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