

As The Economy Fails, Real Possibility Begins

As the economy continues to plummet, despite what media reports say, we start to see the physical effects that this crisis driven economy is having on itself. Circuit City, Gotschalks, Mervyns, Lane Bryant, GAP, Footlocker, Zales, Disney, Linens and Things, Sprint and many more are shutting their doors for good. They are the corporate casualties that now litter the battlefield of an economic war zone.

Here in Antioch we have seen corporate monsters Mervyns, Gotschalks and Circuit City go down along with smaller corporate stores and mom and pop businesses.

The talking heads on the television will say that this is the crisis of our generation, but we know this lie all too well. We have lived with the crisis our whole lives, we have lived paycheck to paycheck since our conception and have known the waits at the welfare office, and can describe the pattern of the tiles on the floor to anyone who will listen.

This current crisis is so reported on because it began to effect rich people. Being broke, not being able to afford rent and running out of food wasn't seen as a crisis until rich people started losing money.

This is the norm of this society. This is why we say that this society is not desirable.

This is also why we say that this is a crisis driven economy.

Much like abusive relationships the one thing that this economy will not give you is a leg to stand on. At any moment you should feel that you can lose everything. They want you to remember why you need them and the only way out of it is to realize that you don't.

Since Obama has been elected not much has changed. We're still poor, the cops are still on the block and our healthcare still isn't magically taken care of.

We say stop hoping.

Be your own change.

Only when you lose hope in everything can the real possibilities begin.

-Budget Cuts Close Women's Shelters

-Shooters Attack Contra Costa DA's Office

-Chino Prison Riot
-BART Strike



“A form of conflict, and positions, have emerged that are explicitly *not manageable.*”

Antioch Police Get \$2 Million Federal Grant; Who Gives A Fuck?

Recently the Antioch Police Department was awarded a \$2,078,988.00 grant from the federal government under a program called CHRP, or Cops Recovery Hiring Program. This will secure the jobs of six Antioch cops who found their positions on the line in recent months due to budget cuts. At the same time twenty eight other positions have been cut. For us this means that the government is putting billions of dollars where it sees fit, in hiring police to keep us in line.

The good news is that this means that the city won't be hiring cops anytime soon, since they can only afford to keep the ones they have because of a government grant.

Police are a product of a society that has a gap between the haves and the have nots. We believe we could function in communities without police, and instead have neighborhoods based on localized community control. We also call this communalism. Our relationships with those we live around should be based on interactions of sharing that which we want to share and by making more things shared, or common.

If we used the land around us to grow food on, instead of empty lots or abandoned houses we would have spaces and resources that everyone in our neighborhood would have access to.

It isn't that we hate police as their personal selves, but we understand the relationship that happens. They are a group hired to enforce laws that many of us may not support, such as criminalizing marijuana, curfew or noise ordinances.

They have a role in keeping society as it is, they are the ones sent out when protesters stop begging for attention and start taking back space. They were there in the 1960's to sick dogs on black people fighting for civil rights. They are the tool of the State.

The same State that harbors an economic system that leaves us poor and allows mortgage companies to own the houses and land in our neighborhoods. Its the same system that cuts funding to battered womens shelters but has enough money to fund a federal prison system where 72% of the people in federal prison are non-violent offenders with no history of violence. In 2008, one in every 100 americans was behind bars.

So why do we need more police? To continue doing what police do? Put non violent drug offenders in prison for sentences that, from 1994 to 2002, increased 73% for African Americans compared to 28% for whites.

We don't need more police, or any police for that matter. We need stronger communities and stronger relationships. Then we can all see the police for what they are, irresponsible tools that the State uses to keep the poor in line.

Budget Cuts Leaves Women's Shelters In Ruins

As the Federal government hands billions to private corporations that continue to destroy the lives of millions of people, and as they give billions to police departments (see article on front page) the women's shelters of California are feeling this crisis more than most.

State funding for several Bay Area women's shelters was eliminated just as the shelters were reporting that spousal abuse is rising in frequency and severity. The decisions was made by governor Schwarzenegger who decided to cut \$16.3 million from the states domestic violence program.

No shelters have been forced to close their doors but several shelter officials say that they will have to cut or reduce their 24 hour hotline and will lay off case workers who help battered women and their children find housing, jobs, legal needs and counseling.

Oakland resident Jacqueline, a domestic violence survivor who was left permanently disabled by her abuser and declined to give her last name because she said he is still stalking her after 25 years, called the cuts terrifying.

"These little children, at home they hear fighting, screaming, shooting, cutting, blood. Then they're all of sudden in a new place with strangers and other children and moms, and it's traumatic," she said. "That's why they need ladies to come and do the therapy and counseling. They need that; those are needs."

Jacqueline said her time in an East Bay battered women's shelter helped save her life. "I needed them at that time," she said. "They gave me a safe and secure home to live in, helped me with getting jobs, getting restraining orders, custody hearings. I needed help with everything when I was in the shelter. I didn't have anything, and I was 8 months pregnant. Didn't have anything, nobody, nowhere to go."

In Contra Costa County, the 25 percent cuts from the operating budget of the STAND Against Domestic Violence advocacy group comes in the midst of a deadly spate of domestic violence. During the past 12 months, 16 people have died in domestic violence-related cases in Contra Costa County, including a murder in Antioch and a murder-suicide in Pinole last month.

Calls to the organization's 24-hour crisis line have increased 54 percent over the calendar year, and requests for shelter have risen 26 percent, she said.

In San Mateo County, where Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse is the only agency solely devoted to serving survivors of domestic abuse, 911 calls of spousal abuse are up in every city 20 percent to 30 percent, executive director Melissa Lukin said. "There are only 20 beds in the whole county for women's shelters," Lukin said. "Last year, we had 700 demands for shelter and could only service 100 of those."

Meanwhile, Oakland's only battered women's shelter, A Safe Place, will lose half its funding and have to cut its motel program, which houses women who call in the middle of the night with emergencies, executive director Carolyn Russell said. "It will impact women everywhere even just knowing services have been decreased," she said.

Abusive relationships are all too common in this society. The capitalists would rather save their precious economy than to build sustainable ways for people to escape their abusers. It is our role as autonomists, people who want to run our own communities, to intervene in domestic violence and to offer space to those we know are being assaulted.

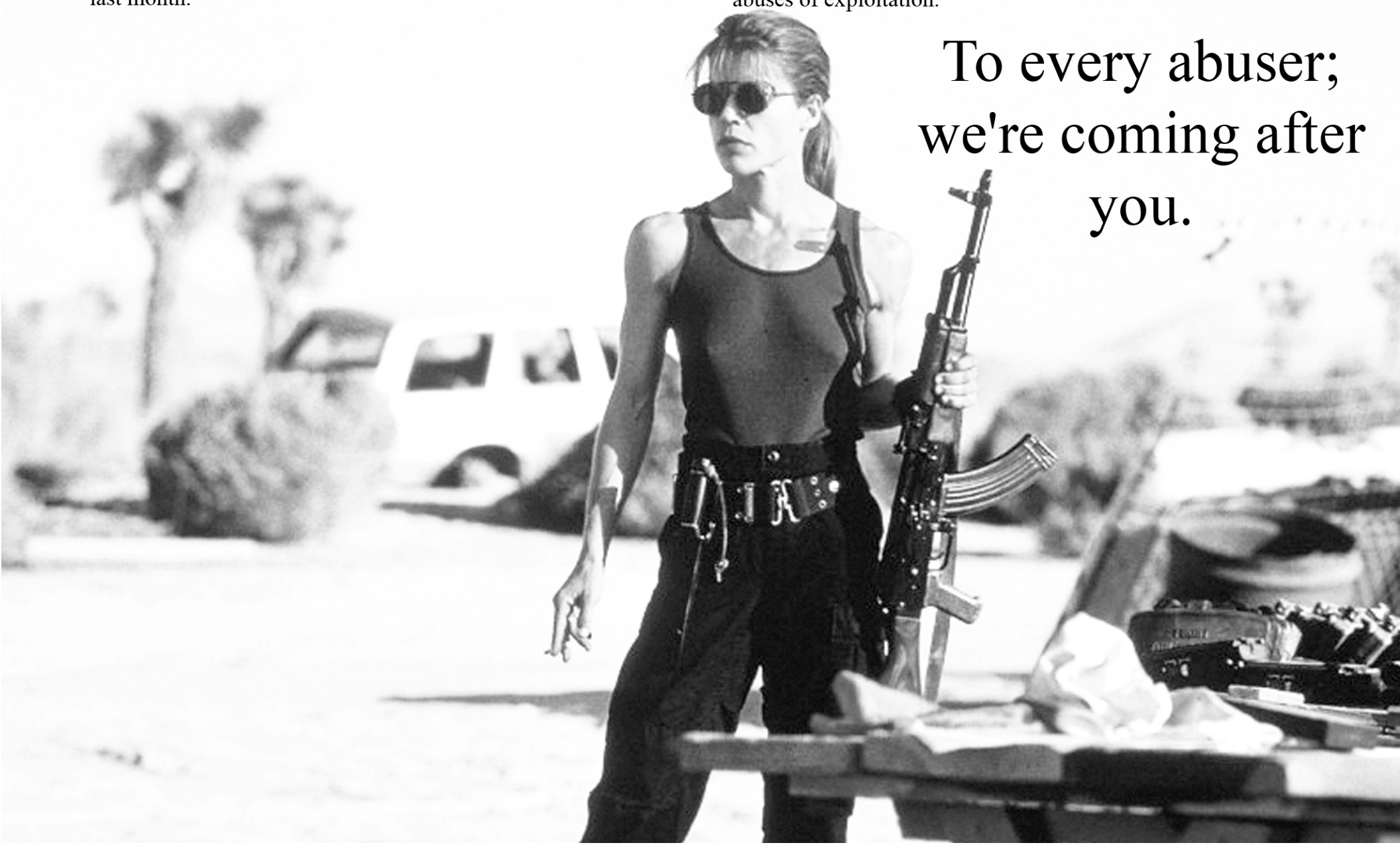
If you have a loved one, friend, or acquaintance, who is being abused, please offer them a couch, an extra room, even floor space if they ever need it.

Many times you can even offer to watch their children, because too many children see too much domestic abuse in this society.

When the government bails on us we have to be able to offer our own services, to make our homes common, to those who need to escape abusive situations. These acts of kindness, of solidarity, are the only ways that we can truly change this nightmare we're stuck in.

Abusers are much like the State. They make you believe that you cannot live without them, that you can't possibly make it without them, but we say that you can, we know you can and we can only offer help and our solidarity to you on the way.

Just as the State tells us that this is the way the world works, we know it's a lie and we believe in ourselves enough to escape this situation of domination and to start to build our own relationships without the abuses of exploitation.



To every abuser;
we're coming after
you.

Shooters Attack Contra Costa District Attorney's Office

On Saturday, August 8th, a hip hop show in Martinez began clearing out. About 400 people were in attendance. Shortly after gunfire was reported, nobody was injured.

However, 3 windows were shot out of the District Attorney's office.

The reports said that about 20 rapid gunshots were heard just after midnight. Police were able to determine that at least 5 different caliber weapons were used.

Local hospitals were checked for victims, but none were found.

This attack comes after a rough year for the District Attorney's office. Earlier in the year the District Attorney, Robert Kochly, announced that ,unless more money was found, he would be unable to prosecute most misdemeanor crimes.

The local governments, scared at what this might mean, demanded money be found.

Another possibility of the DA not prosecuting misdemeanors is coming up again in September.

The DA handles 11,000 cases annually.

Another \$50 Million In Cuts Expected In Contra Costa County With Health & Social Services Taking Huge Hits

After Governor Schwarzenegger's decision to add \$500 Million in cuts last month, Contra Costa County is seeing the repercussions.

The biggest targets are health and social services like in home care for disabled people, health insurance for the poor and their children, foster care and calWORKS welfare to work program that includes job training and childcare.

An estimated 8,000-9,000 children will lose their county healthcare.

Cutting in home care for disabled people will cost in home care workers 400 jobs.

As the economy continually collapses we see social services and health services get axed before the police would be allowed to take a cut. The government is obviously more interested in control than our well being.

As these cuts continue we need to find a way to work together and to share with each other. It will make our lives that much easier if we all share in the burden.

Riots Shake Chino State Prison, One Building Burned Down

On Saturday, August 8th, Chino State Prison in Southern California erupted in riots for 11 hours.

Media reports indicate that this was a racially motivated situation between African Americans and Mexicans.

250 inmates suffered injuries while 55 were taken to the hospital. Oddly, not one guard was hurt. One building was severely damaged by fire.

Comments on newspaper articles reveal a more intense situation. Ex prisoners say

“The public has a misconception of how prison really is. YES, it is way over-crowded. YES, the inmates who are there did put themselves in the situation, so I make no excuse for them; as I said, I was one of them. However, I also know that some NOT ALL, but some correctional officers DO INFACT instigate racial tensions and riots, because I have seen it. I also know that some officers take a mentally unhealthy pleasure in physically harming an inmate.”

This is just one of the many comments that claim that the correctional officers regularly exploited racial tensions.

Other articles state that the prison had a warning, 2 years in advance. Corrections experts warned two years ago that over-crowding at the California Institution for Men at Chino created "a serious disturbance waiting to happen,"

The Chino prison houses 5,900 inmates, nearly twice its designed capacity.

One inspector even commented in 2007 that “"The barracks are very poorly configured. It's very crowded. There are very few toilets and sinks and wash basins, and any time people are fighting over those kinds of services, it builds tensions."

California has 158,000 prisoners in facilities designed for 84,000.

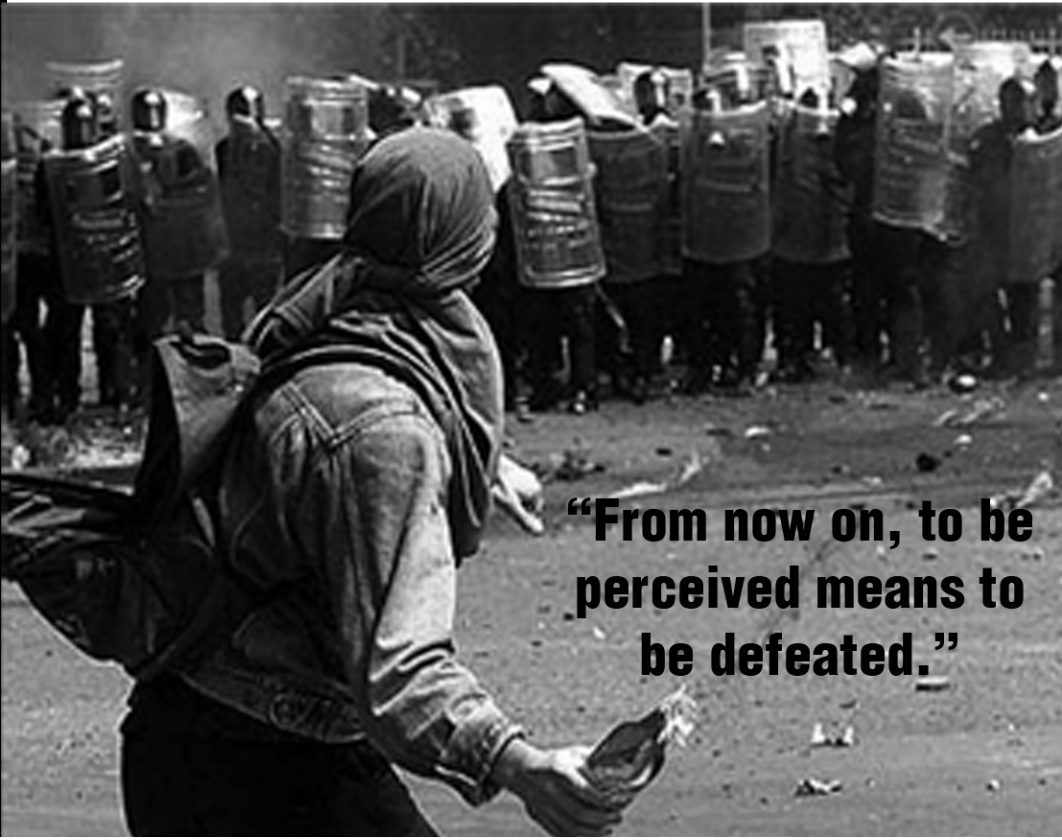
Many family members are not being told whether or not their relatives are among those injured.

The U.S. has a prison population of over 2 Million, while half of the prison population is in for non violent crimes, like possession of marijuana.

A federal mandate has ordered California to release 40,000 prisoners over the next 2 years.

For more prison statistics check the front page article.

Thirty years of “crisis,” mass unemployment and flagging growth, and they still want us to believe in the economy.



“From now on, to be perceived means to be defeated.”

Strike Without End

The Impending Collapse Of The Work Force

Workers at BART announced that they are willing to go on strike over attacks on their retirement by management. A strike would threaten to shut down mass transit in and around the Bay Area.

At the same time, thousands of hotel workers marched through the streets of San Francisco, against attacks on their health care. In the Bay Area, as across California and the world, the ruling class has made one thing clear: we must pay for their crisis. We are faced with an increasingly impoverished existence, as the price for food, fuel, rent, and basic items continues to increase. At the same time, workers everywhere are facing increasing layoffs, cuts to their hours, and threats to benefits.

Meanwhile, Obama and the rest of the rich continue to bailout the banks and corporations; all the while cutting basic services such as women’s shelters, health care, and education.

The managers and bosses of the trade unions would like nothing more than to capitalize on this crisis as well. During this time, they are hoping to build up their business - the unions themselves. This gains them more power and influence, as well as more money through union dues. They are hoping to control and direct any sort of conflict between the people and the bosses and the exploitation that they represent. Thus, the union bosses and the BART managers “negotiate” while hundreds of workers have their voices ignored and millions of BART riders are left stranded.

Any fight against this system will also have to be a struggle to self-organize and control our own struggles against capitalism that must be autonomous from the organizations which seek to contain true working class power. But the question remains - how do we do this?

The possibility of strikes in the bay area have shown that their is still power in the mass refusal of workers to sell their labor.

However, we need a general strike - a mass strike by all working people in solidarity with not only the workers in struggle, but also in order to better our own conditions.

The occupations at the Republic Windows and Glass factory in Chicago, at the Vestas plant in the UK, and most recently in Ssangyong, South Korea show that not only by striking, but also by taking over work-places we gain power; not only over our own struggles but also our lives.

These occupations and strikes can also move beyond just the confines of the workplace, and become genuine social strikes: People refuse to pay transportation fees in the city and workers refuse to collect. Neighborhoods organize mass appropriations of food and other goods and redistribute them in their communities. The homeless take over vacant homes and live in them.

In short, we turn this crisis around on the rich - we push for rupture with all of capitalist relations. When one group of workers goes into struggle, we must all show solidarity. This means much more than honoring picket lines; it means engaging in a struggle against the system that exploits and controls us all.

OCCUPY EVERYTHING!

Links To Check Out:

<http://news.infoshop.org/>
<http://www.indybay.org/>
<http://www.myspace.com/modanarcho>



The Rebel

We stand as a crew of friends who want to make our neighborhoods our own. We are against Capitalism, a system that continues itself by taking advantage of working class people, environmental destruction and wage slavery. We do not have a problem with work, we do have a problem with working to make rich people better off, we want our work to better the neighborhoods and communities that we live in.

We are against Police. The Police are the protectors of capitalism, they protect the gap between rich and poor. If we seek to close that gap, we will have to be at ends with Police. We understand that though individuals who choose to be officers may be kind hearted, their institutional role as protectors of capitalism, and of the rich, is in direct opposition with what we want. They protect the system that destroys the lives of millions, so we say that they are equally as monstrous and atrocious as the system that they undeniably protect.

We are against government, this is not to say that we are against organization. Government controls people by means of violence, oppression, homophobia, sexism, racism and classism. This government seeks to continue to control us, whether it be by way of the racist border guards between Mexico and California, or the armed police that stand guard at local high schools.

We seek to organize our own neighborhoods in aims to make police obsolete.

We will not negotiate.

We also understand that every time Liberals have attempted to negotiate with the current order they have been ignored, or made ineffective. That is why we will not follow their model of resistance.

Government and capitalism are connected. Capitalism needs government to protect it and government needs capitalism to empower it. We attack both.

We must gain power ourselves by creating community and understanding that any social change happens through the struggle of all that are effected.

The Rebel is an extension of The Antioch Arrow, which is a locally based Anarchist publication and crew that seeks the destruction of this oppressing and imprisoning world that has been made reality.

We say fuck the rich.
Fuck the police.
Fuck the State.

Both The Rebel and The Antioch Arrow are free of charge.

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