

# Modesto Anarcho

the valley's insurrectionary journal of class struggle



# #14

# What We Believe

We want a stateless and classless society. We want to live in a world of autonomous communities without any forms of hierarchy. We desire a world where all people have agency and control over decision making and their lives and where power is spread out horizontally to all, not concentrated at the top. A world in which all resources that people need to sustain themselves are owned and cared for in common and in harmony with the Earth. We want to see human labor and creativity put towards real needs and desires - not profit.

We are against all governments and capitalism. We are against all governments because they are based upon a monopoly of violence. Government is a system of domination who's function is the preservation of a class divided society.

We are against capitalism, because it benefits those who own the means of existence, not those who must work to survive. This is a system of wage slavery - in which we trade our lives for wages and then buy back what we need to survive with those wages. Capitalism deforms and contorts all human relationships by turning everything into a commodity, including the Earth, living things, and our very lives. Capitalism cannot exist without government - it needs the government's violence to protect the privileged position of those who benefit from it.

We reject the reformism of the Left - we are revolutionaries. We do not desire a seat at the table of politics; we desire working class power. We believe in people self-organizing for the purpose of taking direct action. Class society can only be attacked and destroyed and we must organize ourselves to carry out this attack and to maximize our own power. We believe that class society can only be done away with through the collective mass revolutionary action of all working, poor, and oppressed people that creates an international human community through social revolution.

Modesto Anarcho is a quarterly journal produced in Modesto, California by Modesto Anarcho Crew (MAC). MAC is a street-based organization that exists to create revolutionary propaganda, promote class consciousness, and participate and engage in class and community based struggles in our area. This publication is free to all. We also run a social center, Firehouse 51, in downtown Modesto.

We have no demands for this system; we seek only its destruction.

In March, young high school kids in Sacramento, angry at budget cuts, layoffs, and rising class room sizes, decided to take action on their own. Together, they walked out of their school, pulling fire alarms along their way and went to other nearby schools to gather more friends. It is in these young kids that we see ourselves. In their desire to fight, to engage with our enemies, and to feel powerful. To not channel our resistance through any sort of mediation; even if it is leftist or liberal, or claims to be "on our side."

And, this magazine exists to tell others about these actions; that resistance happens all the time and from a wide variety of people. This is why we are here; this is why we put this out into the world. We are here to encourage resistance, to denounce those that would decry it, and to glorify those that seek the destruction of the world of wage slavery, exploitation, and prison. We are the enemy of every politician, judge, racist, rapist, cop, boss and bureaucrat. We seek to find friends among all those who think that this is a good thing. We smile when people run out of stores with unpaid goods and are not caught. We applaud when people fight the police. We are proud when workers go on strike, when people take over buildings without paying rent, when prisoners riot, when students walk out, and when people beat racists in the street. This is us. This is how we do. This is how we struggle, it is how we advance, and it is how we better ourselves and our lot.

We do not work for an organization, a union, a political party, a religious group, a figurehead, or even an ideology. No - we are a position. We are here to affirm things, and to destroy others. We are made what we are, based on the conditions that we are faced with. Thus, we desire to see an end to a society divided by rich and poor; of order givers and order takers. This is what makes our lives our lives. We live this everyday. We see the banks grow rich while thousands are kicked out of their homes. We know what police brutality and the jail cells feel like. We know the feeling that exists deep in our stomachs when we see those tiny numbers on every pay check as we know the bills of food, gas, rent, and insurance that await us. We know the powerlessness that we feel at work, at school, and on the street. Democracy, we are told, gives us all a say, but our only say is in electing the latest group of rich and powerful people that will steer this ship where they want to go. Meanwhile, we are left to ourselves, working, going to prison, homeless, abused, penny-less, stressed



out, and foreclosed on.

This magazine exists for every poor person, everyone living pay check to pay check, everyone evicted, everyone sitting in a jail cell, and everyone who's heart starts racing at the sound of the police sirens. For everyone who socked the fucker in the face when they got called a "nigger," "faggot," "a hot piece of ass," or a "spic." To anyone who yelled "fuck the police" when they raided the party, who called for a strike at work when the union said to settle down, and who laughed in the face of every bank agent and stayed inside their home when the eviction notice came. This is for everyone who, smiles on their faces, walked out of stores with shopping carts full, not paying a single cent.

We exist because we must; to resist everything about this world which has decided our only worth is to make those above us wealthy through our labors, and others powerful due to our powerlessness. But in the end, we exist to find others in this project. We want to link up with those around us who share our positions, based on living through this shit. We desire more friends to walk the road of revolution with. This is why we go to the picket lines, the occupied spaces, the protests, and the riots. This is why they throw us in jail from time-to-time. But the pigs can't catch us all. We continue to escape; to be free. This is the new issue, unleashed upon Modesto. Let the rich tremble. Holla if ya hear us.

**Legal Disclaimer: This journal is for educational purposes only, and is not meant to endorse or condone illegal and violent activity. All contents are anti-copyright, feel free to copy and reproduce.**

**Are you a prisoner in California? Do you know someone locked up in a prison, jail, or a detention facility? Would you like to get this and other magazines for free? Would you like copies of our magazine to hand out at work, school, or where you live? Simply get in contact with us by email or through our PO Box. Check our website for news, updates, and events.**

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# Dear Diary

So it's been a while since this diary shit was updated, and a lot has certainly gone on since then. Countless local events, book fairs, speaking tours, occupations and even a couple arrests have happened since issue number 12.

The hip-hop show, Keep Ya Head Up, that ya'll saw the flyer for in issue 12 was a huge success and everyone involved had a lot of fun. Several hundred people showed up throughout the day to enjoy hip-hop and punk music, film screenings, free food, a graffiti wall, and, of course, free literature from Modesto Anarcho, Central Valley Radical Mental Health Collective, the Revolutionary Hip Hop Report, as well as several other groups. Mad props to RHR and Modesto Brown Berets for this shit!

November was a really busy month for us. We spent the first half getting ready for and tabling with our friends from Fire to the Prisons at the Seattle Anarchist Book fair. Aside from getting soaked because Seattle is constantly raining, and almost getting a beat down from a hipster as we 'appropriated' some new clothes from them, and having to deal with the ridiculously out-of-touch politics that pervades most of the anarchist scene, it was a decent weekend. Afterwards, people from MA and Fire to the Prisons did a short speaking event at Evergreen College in Olympia Washington. Tempers flared and we even had a blog post written about us - angrily of course; it was a good time.

The second half of November was even more hectic. The student movement really kicked off in California (see issue 13 and some of the articles in this issue). We made a presence at UC Berkeley where one of us was arrested for

giving a short speech! Despite the huge amounts of stress this caused all of us, their charges were eventually dropped.

The November week of action certainly was a turning point for us. We were able to feel the excitement of being in the middle of thousands of angry people, and we got to feel the frustration of reformist liberals that sided with the police against fellow students and workers. Most of all, it gave us a lot of inspiration for what to do here in our hometown. We immediately began working with various students and student groups with whom we helped organize several events. First was a march in front of CSUS President Shirvani's house. Then a walk-out, rally, and a march the next week through the CSU campus that ended with a sit-in at the President's office. There was also a General Assembly (that was sadly co-opted by Party bureaucrats in Socialist Organizer).

One of the biggest victories we participated in was with our friends in the Central Valley Miwok Tribe. They were facing eviction from their house, and only tribal land, but a successful occupation and court battle stalled the eviction! This has allowed them to continue to stay in their house while they continue to battle the BIA.

March fourth was another major day for the Modesto Anarcho Crew. After having spent months working at CSUS to have the work done by us and other students be taken over by student politicians and union bureaucrats, we decided to head out once again to the Bay Area. Long story short (you can actually read the long story in this issue): most of MAC ended up being arrested in Oakland. Check our blog ([modesteanarcho.org](http://modesteanarcho.org))... *continued on page 6...*





# Letters from the Inside

**Dear Modesto Anarcho,**

I am currently incarcerated in California Rehabilitation Center (C.R.C.) in Norco, for robbery, forgery and a couple assault with a deadly weapons. My friend gave me some of your literature to read and I was hooked immediately. You have yourself one more fanatic to add to your team there in Modesto. My name is Ian Stinson, they call me Polar Bear, and I'm from Oceanside, California. That's San Diego County. This is my 3rd term and I got 9 years 4 months and I've gotta do 85% of that. That's like 7 years and a couple months. And I'm only eligible for that with 15% good time off my sentence if I behave and I don't give the pigs any problems. Yeah right!

Anyway, I totally enjoying knowing that theres other people out there that think like me. If you could send me any kind of literature or books, I am well versed in psychology and sociology, so I can more understand my position in this fucked up society. I'm a graffiti artist for 13 years now. I started a click named F.T.S. (Fuck the System) we have over two hundred members, and I would like to take some anti-pig type knowledge home with me to some of my friends, so we can continue furthering our anti-social behaviours and anti-authoritative actions and ways of thinking as well. Thank you for your time.

Ian

**To All Concerned:**

First and foremost, I hope that this letter has found you all doing well and in the best of health.

I wanted to extend my thanks and gratitude towards you guys and gals for providing the literature that you do to those like myself behind these walls. Currently, I have been housed in the administrative segregation (the hole) for the past seven months and am likely to remain here until April/May/June of the following year. The reading material I've received from you guys has given me something to do as

well as educate my mind.

All of you are doing a great job by putting things out there and opening peoples eyes to the truth. I applaud you all and wish you the best in your goals and plans for the future.

If you guys have any new articles coming out or anything on prison reform I'd appreciate a copy. And, if you guys have any questions I might be able to answer regarding the institutional setting/life, feel free to ask.

Again, thank you for your dedication to the cause and all that you do for it.

Sincerely Alfred  
Lakota Nation

**MAC 51,**

Again, thanks for the material and well done! You've opened my eye's to an area I've never really gave much focus on, "When the Workplace is the Street." I guess I was one of those who passed judgement in that area for lack of understanding, and I'm wrong for that. Yes, more focus on this subject is needed to open the eyes of other's too. Crudo's article "You Get the Back, We'll Take the Front" put a smile on my face haha. Corporations want us to accept the crumbs that fall from their table. Let all the shelves be stripped bare in revolt!

To cut down on printing cost's I'm returning these materials to be reused by others. Are you guys drinking 40's in that picture? I hope it's not 211, that shit will eat a hole through you haha. You might need a fat bowl to coat over that. I hope to hear from you in the future.

In Solidarity,  
SKI

**Modesto Anarcho,**

Much love to you and your crew and everyone who reads this. I'm up here in Susanville and I'm writing to ask you if you can please put me on your mailing list and start sending me the Modesto Anarcho. I got my hands on a few of your old issues that were floating around here and I want to be part of everything you guys stand for. Some of your articles hit it right on the nose with my life style and gutting all caught up in the system. I've had my prison number since 1991...

I'm 42 years old and white with eight prison terms with the same number. My release date is 9/17/2012. I've been stuck in a rut my whole adult life with the lifestyle of crime, drugs, money, and prison. Can a motherfucker get a break and a good understanding of what the fuck is wrong with the system and how I spent my whole life caught up. Yes they know what they're doing and its all about the money and the revolving door. I do feel like a damn motherfucker so do me a favor and pull me in and let me be a part of what you guys got going on. You fucking rock.

I'm your brother who's been stuck in the system but still loves whats real and tight. Feel free to print this letter and anyone who wants please write.

Much Love and Respect  
Your Brother,  
Kenny Nelson #E-98126  
SD-4701 LOW  
P.O. Box 2400  
Susanville, CA 96127

### Dear Folks,

I met some of you last month at the Power to the Peaceful Festival in S.F. While I can't remember any of your names, I'm the short, old, chubby fuck who was with the Colombian woman. We really like your stuff and I'd like another dozen or so of the "Broke on Broke" stickers and anything else you can fit inside the envelope.

My home phone number is on the check. I'd like a number I could call if possible as I really hate that e-mail shit. I hope to visit your Firehouse soon. Here's ten bucks to help out. I'd send more, but I've unemployed for two yars and I get nervous about sending an unsigned check through the mail.

Stacey

### To: Modesto Anarcho Crew

I received a manilla envelope back in May, 2009 it was crammed full of way worthy reading material, and was grateful to have had that sent to me since I am incarcerated at a State Prison Conservation Camp.

I hope that this letter not only serves as a request for more material, namely the (Modesto Anarcho Journal) and anything else that may be afforded and sent my way. But also as a change of my address, as I am now at a different camp. Below is my new address. I'll be down until mid 2012 so I truly appreciate any effort on anyone's part out there for helping me stay current.

Also, since arriving here 2 months ago, I've made new friends, some of whom have expressed interest, and I am looking forward to being able to present more to them. Thanx crew!

Best regards, always.  
Your comrade  
Ry

**If you like what you read  
in these pages, or otherwise  
want to get in contact with us,  
feel free to write to us at our  
PO box or email us. If we like  
it we'll print it!**

*...continued from "Dear Diary," page 4...*

and keep reading in the future for updates on all of our legal situations.

After dealing with shitty weather and shitty internal disputes, the Firehouse is once again open. We are scrapping Firehouse Fridays for a weekly BBQ on Saturdays and a major event once or twice every month. Our space is welcome to all, so bring some hotdogs, or veggie dogs, and say hi! We are also planning on starting up the Anarchist Cafes in downtown again, as well as possible monthly meetings in the park. Stay tuned!





# DOING THE DAMN THING

## direct action and confrontation in the central valley

**Early January:** In Fresno, the City and its pigs were again stopped for the second time in a month from evicting the homeless from an encampment at Ventura and F street in downtown Fresno. In December, the city posted signs saying they were going to evict the homeless 8 days before Christmas. Homeless advocates talked about building a manger scene, with the baby Jesus and Mary. The city backed off from the eviction, probably not wanting video coverage of city workers dragging off the baby Jesus and throwing him into a dumpster. Fresno is home to various homeless encampments, some of which are years old.

**Mid January:** In Stockton, people successfully occupied a foreclosed home (see interview in last issue of Modesto Anarcho). This report from the occupation was taken from the blog, [likelostchildren.blogspot.com](http://likelostchildren.blogspot.com):

“We will not budge and are willing to die... Everything has been taken. This is the last.”  
-Silvia Burley, CVMT chairperson

*Anarchists and indigenous activists from the Bay, Central Valley, Santa Cruz and Canada have gathered at a foreclosed house in Stockton which is the only property belonging to the California Valley Miwok Tribe. It's an hour and a half into the second announced eviction date (the first was in June and sheriffs were held off by a lawsuit).*

*The contest over the house is part of a struggle over the legal identity of the CVMT. It is also one of the first eviction resistances attempted in the U.S. since the housing market crashed, and it is happening in Stockton, CA which has been the #1 city in the U.S. for foreclosures the past 3 years running. (The Central Valley in general has been exceptionally hard hit by the foreclosure crisis.)*

*The CVMT has existed as a federally recognized tribe (i.e., technically a part of the federal government) since 1915. The tribe existed as a mere formality, without organization or land, until the late 1970s when Silvia Burley and a number of other young activists inspired by the burgeoning indigenous movement of those years began the process of building an actual tribal government organization which can obtain and disburse federal funds and other services. It has been a long slow process but the CVMT has managed to obtain food, housing, environmental protection and other aid for some of its members.*

*In the past few years, the tribe's funding stream has been frozen. A development corporation which owns a chain of casinos in Nevada and major housing development concerns in California has hired a front group of thugs and assorted scumbags to intimidate the existing tribal members and take control of the tribal government, with the goal of building a casino. Casinos represent the most crude*

*monetization of the land rights and sovereignty that tribal governments represent. It's also worth noting that four major "gaming tribes" in southern California hog most of the federal funds available to the state's 108 recognized tribes (many of which are landless).*

*There is a very long story here about the BIA, the developer, and the various connections between businesses and government agencies involved. (see the CVMT website) The point that really resonates here though, is that a group of people are drawing a line and standing their ground against the forces of capital. Our homes, our futures, and our lives will not be taken away without resistance. We are not few enough to be easily pried apart. Today, anarchists resisting foreclosure will stand with indigenous people resisting disconnection from their territory. And tomorrow? The occupants of this house are prepared to keep out the sheriffs, the developers' thugs and anyone else that tries to fuck with us. If the house can be held until Feb. 9 there is a court date which may release funds to the tribe and save the house, so it would be concretely really helpful for more people to join the resisters here. It would also be awesome if more people started occupying foreclosed houses, resisting eviction, and occupying fucking everything.*

**Early February:** In Modesto, supporters of two volunteers that had started an underground needle exchange in Modesto rallied in front of the court house in the downtown. About 40 people chanted while holding banners and signs. Several people got up and addressed the crowd, which then packed the court room.

**Early February:** Over 200 students, staff, and parents protest outside a school that is scheduled to be closed in Salida by the school board.

**Mid-February:** Parents and students marched on



the Salida School Administration building, protesting layoffs and school closures.

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**Mid February:** In Modesto, students and non-students attempted to organize a general assembly at MJC in order to discuss cuts to classes, layoffs, and the 33% fee increase. Over 1,000 flyers were handed out about the event, a banner was dropped, and various posters were put up around the campus. However, repression from campus administrators and pigs kept the meeting from happening (see *The Block is Hot*, pg. 11).

**Mid-February:** In Merced, graffiti writers left anti-police and anti-government slogans in a variety of public places. The messages, which stretch down 12th street from Martin Luther King Jr. Way, include "M.P.D. is useless" and "Police profit off the poor." One of the messages, "Fascists eat here, go home pigs" was painted on the side of Sam's Café, 235 W. 12th St., popular with law enforcement.

**Early March:** On March 4th, a variety of protests and actions over education and layoffs took place at colleges and public schools across the Central Valley. Here is a list of some of the ones that we came across.

In Modesto, teachers at several schools held protests with signs before class rang. Although they did not continue actions after school began sadly. Hopefully with student involvement, they can launch larger and more disruptive actions.

In Turlock, teachers also protested. At CSU Stanislaus in Turlock, students walked out of class and rallied in the quad of the school. Sadly, leftist, liberal, and union organizers had downplayed and discouraged large scale disruptive activity from taking place and instead encouraged simple rallies. For more information, see *March Fourth* pg. 23.

In Merced, protests and rallies took place at high schools and at UC Merced.

In Stockton, hundreds marched through the downtown against cuts and layoffs.

In Fresno, after a large rally and march of about 500



people, students at CSU Fresno ended up having an occupation of the administration building. Students stayed in the building for most of the day, despite threats by administrators that police would be called to remove them and that students would face penalties for engaging in the action. A statement released by some of the occupiers read as follows:

*On March 4th when 80 students, alumni and community members entered Vice President Dr. Olario's office on the second floor of the Joyal administration building we were taking back space and asserting our power. Our entire lives we have been told what we can and can't do, we are forced into tiny boxes where we do not belong and can never really fit. If we want to build a better world we have to take control of our own lives and our own destinies, taking back our university is a beginning step towards this. For those 8 hours, that office was our space, and we transformed it into what we wanted it to be at that moment. We wanted it to be a space where we could be alive and breathe; so we conversed, we danced, we lived and when the group decided to leave we left.*

*One woman brought her children with her to the sit-in, Dr. Olario told her "my wife is a social worker, I should call CPS on you". She defiantly told him that she was there because she wishes one day to have the chance to go to college, and for her children to go to college. She explained to Olario that she had brought her children with her because this is what Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King did and said you should do, she wanted to raise them as conscious individuals who are not afraid to stand up and fight for their future.*

*It has been said that occupations are an act of desperation, but these are desperate times which call for desperate measures. We can no longer sit idly by hoping that the administration will somehow magically solve the problems that they have created. We must take action now before it's too late. Chancellor Reed has instructed each campus to take this crisis as the perfect opportunity to "restructure" the CSU system with fewer students and more corporate sponsors. We have decided that Chancellor Reed is right, this is the perfect opportunity to do some "restructuring", so we are creating a structure free from the dead weight of overpaid administrators. A university where the people who do the work of teaching, staffing and learning decide how they will teach, staff and learn.*

In Davis, UC Davis students clashed with the police



in an attempt to march to and block I-80 near their school. Fighting was brave and fierce on behalf of the students, as police pelted them with pepper balls and tear gas. As one poster on indybay.org wrote, "way to stand up to those pigs! power in numbers baby, awesome job, keep it up!" Students also pulled fire alarms throughout the day, helping to shut down classes and move others out into the streets.

In Sacramento, students at a middle school and a high school walked out of their classrooms after pulling fire alarms. Police and school administrators had to track the kids down and round them up before further actions could be taken. Our hats go off to these brave youth who face down not only the administrators at their school, but also the cops. To the parents of these young rebel youth: congratulate your kids!

**Late March:** In mid-March, students in Modesto City Schools District launched several walkouts of their schools, against lay offs of teachers. For a report and an interview with a student involved in the walkouts, see *Spring Break the Bourgeoisie!*, pg.19. To watch the video interview go to [modestooanarcho.org](http://modestooanarcho.org).

**Early-April:** In Turlock, students at CSU Stanislaus were able to uncover information in regards to a recent speaking engagement with Sarah Palin by dumpster diving at the administration building. Staff and students have been enraged recently by the university bringing the conservative former Vice Presidential candidate, being that to see Palin speak, one has to pay \$500. The students are facing penalties from the administration.

**Mid-April:** In Modesto, a group calling itself "BEE KILLAZ" sabotaged Modesto Bee newspaper boxes against the Bee running stories favorable to the actions of local police against sex workers. According the IndyBay.org:

"She takes a loss 'cos she don't wanna see her child lose. So respect her, and pay up for the time used."

-Lil Wayne

*It seems the local Sheriff's Department, when not getting slapped with fat lawsuits for sexual harassment or getting their own guns stolen from under their pig noses at the local Honor Farm, came upon a slow night in Modesto several days ago. Instead of doing what most of us do while at work during a slow day, (nothing), they decided to "make the most of it" and went down to 9th Street and arrested several sex workers after waiting for various John's to take them over to motels. More sickening, the Modesto Bee printed the names of these people in their disgusting corporate publication, further humiliating them and vindicating the police in their story.*

*Sex workers, like all workers, sell their labor for wages. As women in a patriarchal society, they face attacks from customers and often from police. The same system which seeks to criminalize them is the same force that shut down production at the Modesto Bee building itself, and threatens people across the Central Valley. The police, the protectors of the rich. The media, their mouth piece. Fuck you all.*

*With super glue, with gave you a liddle sumthing, knowing that hopefully not being able to collect money from people that buy your horrible publication will be a thorn in your side. In total, 10 newspaper boxes were sabotaged last week. These actions are easy. They are simple to reproduce. Fuck the Modesto Bee, from it's ongoing layoffs and horrible wages, to it's boss and cop loving content. We up in yo honey pot, what?!*

**AGAINST PATRIARCHY AND IT'S POLICE!  
DESTROY CAPITALISM!**

- BEE KILLAZ

**Late April:** In Modesto, Robert Stanford, the well known snitch (known to call cops on youth, harass Cop-watchers, and also worked with the pigs to stop the Modesto Needle Exchange Program), and would be city council person, was run out of Earth Day. A report is reprinted below:

*"Yesterday at Modesto's annual Earth Day celebration in Graceada Park, a group of community members evicted well-known snitch, "Suck My Dick" Robert Stanford (see last issue of the magazine), from the park. While he was*

*tabling with the Central Valley Democratic Club with fellow democrat Al Nava (famous for running for local election on the No Fat Chicks platform), the community members confronted other members of the group, talking about his racism, sexism, and snitching. While one woman tried defending Stanford, most of the members simply looked on, trying to disassociate themselves from him both physically and verbally. Stanford, who has previously, among other things, been recorded on video as saying that most if not all chicano youth look like gang members, is so laughable that even his fellow "progressive democrats" will not stand by him. After about a minute of this, Stanford stood up to leave, whereupon he was heckled out of the park.*

*There are several interesting points here, and a couple lessons to be learned:*

*1) Community members did not directly engage with Stanford until he was already leaving. He is a liar, a snitch, a racist and sexist bigot. They had no interest in talking with him.*

*2) Stanford has no allies outside of the wingut world of Modesto-area bloggers.*

*3) Stanford has previously been laughed out of the local chapters of both the ACLU and NAACP, making the reactions of the Democratic Club even more hilarious. He is a joke.*

*4) As soon as community members made a spectacle, Stanford was forced to leave. It is regretful that they did not take action earlier in the day, before he had a chance to sit down even. This should be standard practice; snitches are removed.*

*5) The group who forced stanford's removal were diverse in age and political background, race and gender, sexuality and experience with the Snitch. Everyone hates Stanford!*

*No safe ground for snitches!"*

**"To poor people, prisoners, slaves, and the disenfranchised everywhere—through faith and theories put into practice, you can bend the most oppressive circumstances to your will, to make the impossible possible."**

**- Stanley Tookie Williams**





# The Block Is Hot

## repression in the central valley

### County to Raise Co-pay for Low Income

**People:** In Stanislaus County, patients whose co-pays were as low as \$3 are now expected to pay up to \$574 a month when they see a doctor, need medication or require other treatment. Others with more income are seeing their co-pays increase from as low as \$45 to \$1,205 a month. The new policy applies to adults with incomes of \$600 to \$1,806 a month and goes into effect when their enrollment comes up for renewal. The Western Center on Law and Poverty is suing the county over the issue. "This is one of the worst examples we have heard of," said attorney Katie Murphy of the nonprofit center, which is involved in indigent health care lawsuits in San Diego, Fresno, San Francisco and Sacramento counties. "We believe the Stanislaus County policy is unlawful," she said. "We intend to be in touch with the county shortly, demanding that they change this on behalf of [patients]."

### Repression at Modesto Junior College and California State Stanislaus Grows:

Students organizing for a general assembly at Modesto Junior College (see action section), were met with resistance from administrators and police. Administrators became aware of students plans to hold a general assembly after thousands of fliers

were distributed throughout campus. Soon, police were hot on the tails of those passing out fliers and organizing. In one incident, a student who was passing out fliers was threatened with arrest if they ever returned to campus by MJC security.

A post on the blog [occupycentralvalley.blogspot.com](http://occupycentralvalley.blogspot.com) read: "Today while engaged in passing out fliers at Modesto Junior College for the campus' first-ever General Assembly for Students, Faculty, and Staff to talk about the Budget Cuts and the International Day of Action for Education on March 4th, a youth was approached by several security guards (failing to identify themselves as such), who then proceeded to question the youth about their intentions, what the fliers said, etc. The primary guard eventually threatened the student: Ok [name withheld], now I know what you look like, and if I ever see you here again I'm going to arrest you."

*The message from the administration is clear: they are scared. They want to intimidate us, they do not want us getting together to talk about our shared conditions, they do not want us to organize together. They will go so far as to threaten teenagers with arrest for passing out simple fliers.*

*When Students, Faculty, and Staff join together, we wield a power which the administration can never match."*

While administrators stressed that they did not want the general assembly to happen because the group organizing the event did not get the okay from the school to use the student lounge, it is clear that the politics of the event influenced their decision in trying to stop it. On the day of the meeting, security guards and administrators were busy walking around, looking for anyone who was coming to the meeting to plan and organize. In an article written in the student newspaper, *The Pirate's Log*, administrators said that they wanted to stop the general assembly to 'prevent a riot.'

At California State Stanislaus, administrators have even made a "blacklist" of students that they see as "organizers" and "troublemakers." These students are getting warnings from administrators about their involvement in protests and actions, and encouraged not to continue. It is clear that the bureaucrats who run these institutions do not want the occupations that have been happening at other schools to spread to the valley. It's up to all of us to see that they never get their wish.

**Lay-Offs Continue in Education:** Nearly 1 in 5 Stanislaus County educators get layoff warnings in the coming months. At least 964 Stanislaus County educators have been notified they may lose their jobs in July. That's more than 17 percent of the teachers, counselors, librarians and administrators in the county's public schools. Meanwhile, administrators continue to ride high on the hog, with salaries often exceeding 200K, that also come with car allowances and other added perks. Teacher and staff layoffs in schools mean simply larger classroom sizes and lower quality of education for students.

**Fifth Person in 8 Months Dies in Stanislaus County Jail:** A woman arrested and taken to jail simply on the suspicion of a probation violation has become the 5th person in 8 months to die in the county jail. In January, a man was found dead in his cell after spending a day and a night in the facility. The man, Ronald Schade, 53 was also arrested for a supposed parole violation and giving false information to authorities.

In September 2009, Alton Warren Ham, 45, of Oklahoma died after jailers used a taser to subdue him while he was being moved to another cell. According to the McClatchy news site, Modesto Police use of tasers is also

rising. "Modesto police officers used the devices 65 times in 2007 and 146 times in 2009. [In 2009], three men died in custody at the Stanislaus County Jail after law enforcement officers used Tasers and other force to subdue them. In one of the three deaths, the Stanislaus County district attorney's office investigated the use of Tasers by Sheriff's Department personnel but found no wrong-doing. The investigations into the two other deaths are pending."

According to chief pig Mark Harden, "But I do believe in the studies I've read that it is a safe and effective tool that makes everyone safer in the long run." However, most studies would disagree with the chief. According to Amnesty International, more than 360 people have died in the United States since 2001 after being stunned by police Tasers. Taser International estimates its devices have been used more than 660,000 times on suspects or inmates. In fact, the Taser corporation recently announced that police should not "aim for the chest" when using the weapon on suspects, being that the device can be lethal to those with heart conditions. In fact, at the time of Mr. Ham's death, he was the third person in five months to die while in custody after being attacked with tasers by guards.

Another inmate, Manuel Dante Dent, 27, died in August 2009, when he swallowed a bag of meth while officers were chasing him, and died in his cell soon after. Craig Prescott, 38, died in April 2009, after police tasered him. According to an autopsy done later, Prescott died from a lack of oxygen to the brain during a struggle with jailers. A lawsuit is ongoing from Prescott's family.

Any tool at the hands of the police will just be another way for them to kill us. How many more must die at the hands of police and sheriffs in local jails? Those in prison are there largely for non-violent property, drug related, and parolee violation crimes – *fire to the prisons!*





by Brennus



## Foreclosure, Solidarity, and Fighting Back

A few months back, we're sitting in a foreclosed house in Stockton, with 40 of our closest friends. The cops are set to come anytime after midnight, on order to evict the members of the indigenous tribe which calls this place home. Amidst the discussion of our tactics for the night, one of the tribe members speaks up: *"You know, this is great; all of you coming out here to support us like this; if these fuckers come we're gonna give them hell. But you know what I'd really like to see? I don't want those fuckers to feel safe coming in to our neighborhoods. Not just here, but everywhere. Every time the pigs come down a street to evict someone, I want to see neighbors come outside with baseball bats, saying "not in our neighborhood." I want those fuckers to run away with their tails between their legs."* Even though we didn't have a chance to practice this that night, it got me thinking: *"Why not? Why not send them packing?"*

As time goes on, more and more of us have been there. First come the letters: notice after notice of foreclosure. Then come the calls, and eventually the Sheriff. It doesn't matter how we get here; whether we've lost our job, gotten our hours cut, or had to take care of more family members; what matters is that the police are trying to remove us from our homes, and how we choose to deal with that.

In Carson, near Long Beach, a man barricades himself in his home and refuses to leave until the bank allows him to buy it back. In Stockton, the California Valley Miwok Tribe occupies their foreclosed home with a group of 40 allies and successfully staves off eviction until they can get the money to pay on their mortgage. In Alamogordo, New Mexico, a family shoots at every cop who dares approach their home with eviction papers, resulting in two injured officers and one dead resident. And everywhere, people squat their foreclosed homes, waiting for the day the Sheriff comes knocking again. The Alamogordo case in particular speaks to a desperation that many of us have thought about but never acted on. But if we don't want to die, and we don't want to live on the streets, what actions can we take? Alone? Together? What relationships can we build to combat the banks, the politicians, and the pigs?

In Seattle, Washington, people formed a group called the Seattle Solidarity Network (SeaSol). Basically, when someone is faced with a situation such as a slumlord who won't fix the heating or return a security deposit, or maybe a boss fires you for the wrong reasons, or won't pay final wages, SeaSol responds. They do whatever it takes to help each other out. Some examples: Jorge was owed \$892 of wages, and the boss adamantly refused to pay. Jorge and a group of other workers visited the boss's house, then



leafleted the boss's church twice on Sunday mornings. After that, the boss agreed to pay Jorge every cent. Bert got his rental deposit stolen. He and a group of Solidarity Network supporters visited the property manager at her home one morning, and within a few days she paid up. Stephanie, Yvette and other long-term motel residents demanded relocation assistance when they were ordered out of their homes at short notice. With the help of SeaSol, motel tenants and supporters defied eviction threats, visited the landlords' neighborhood and launched an online and on-the-streets boycott campaign. Within a month the landlords met all their demands, paying 3-months' rent per household to all residents who got involved.

In San Francisco in 1992, during unprecedented winter storms, a group called Homes Not Jails formed in response to large numbers of people dying on the streets while countless buildings lay vacant. To this day they open up vacant buildings in the City and help people who are homeless to move in. Many of their squats have lasted years, with one recently being secured legally via adverse possession (also know as Squatters' Rights). In Miami, Florida, a group called Take Back the Land formed in 2006 to move homeless people (especially families and victims of the recent foreclosure crisis) into vacant, foreclosed homes. They secure access to houses, clean, paint and make repairs, change the locks, and help move the homeless families in. They provide supplies and furniture and help residents turn on electricity and water. In Cape Town, South Africa, people have come together under the banner of the Anti-Eviction Campaign, to physically resist evictions. When the pigs show up, they are met by large numbers of people who will not let them through to the house. When this fails,

they often move families right back in to the houses. Failing this, they have even been known to render the houses unlivable, saying that if the people cannot have the land, then no one will. It is important to note that none of these groups operate as charities, or with a party platform, but simply as groups of disenfranchised people coming together to combat their shared material conditions with mutual aid. It must be asked then, do we even need organizations to do this? Thinking about these different responses and our own conditions, I have a proposal.

What if the next time one of us gets that final eviction notice, we call up 40 or 100 of our friends, and we barricade the house? What if the cops do evict us, but our friends are there to move us right back in? What if we have to leave the house, but we've already picked out another foreclosed home around the corner to squat, and our friends help us move in? We could take this idea further: if we can take back our homes, what can't we take back? How do we move from a defensive to an offensive tactic? This same group of friends could call a 100-person flash-mob at Raley's or Safeway and have everyone leave with a shopping cart full of food. When we need stuff to repair our homes or open new ones, someone could rent a U-haul, and as soon as she backs it up to a Home Depot the rest of us come unload our carts into it and drive off. Cut the employees in too and fuck the management. The possibilities are endless. We have power: we must only learn to wield it. These are all simple actions that anyone could take. If we start talking with our friends and neighbors now, we can be that much more prepared when they finally do come knocking.





# Miwok Occupation a Success

by lil prole

Looking back on the occupation of the Miwok house and tribal office in January, it is still impossible to put into words the feelings that were present during the time of the 17th, when over 40 or so people held the house off from eviction. Perhaps it is needed to go back to the start and discuss how the situation came about in the first place: to talk about how a small group of friends that were revolutionaries came into contact with a group of indigenous people who were willing to hold their ground from the developers and banks who wanted them gone. During the summer of 2009, through friends, we became aware that a group of Native people in Stockton were occupying their house that had been foreclosed on. After a quick search on the Internet we find their website, watched some videos that they had posted online about their situation, and got their phone number. After a late night phone call, we got their address and the next day headed out to meet them. The next day, from behind a welded shut gate, we met face to face, as they thanked us for our gifts of fruits and copies of Modesto Anarcho, and we discussed ways in which we could help them. Knowing that Stockton, like Modesto, was one of the cities hit hardest by the foreclosure crisis, we understood that such an action was ground breaking, because it's success could signal to others in the same situation that such resistance could in fact yield tangible benefits. We were also aware that the Miwok were the original peoples of the Central Valley area that we all now inhabit, and such a stand represented a tangible blow against the colonial state's hold over all oppressed peoples.

Over the summer and into the fall and winter, we kept in contact with the Central Valley Miwok Tribe, calling them once a month and keeping up on how they were doing. Then, in January, we heard from them that they were once again facing eviction from the bank that owned their property. They told us that they were planning two protests outside of the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) in Sacramento, to decry the BIA's lack of inaction on the issue. We issued a call for solidarity to other revolutionaries, and also to the burgeoning student movement who proclaimed that people should "Occupy Everything." Despite our call, support from the radical students never materialized, however we were there to stand in solidarity with our new friends who were facing eviction. Bringing banners and free literature, we declared that the struggle of the Miwoks was also our struggle as well.

On the 17th of January we learned, there would be a public occupation of the CVMT's house, against a possible police raid. We were told to be ready for anything, and to bring as many friends as possible. The night before the day of the occupation, at our social center, Firehouse 51, we enjoyed the Canadian Hip Hop of Testament and others. They were on a tour promoting indigenous and anarchist resistance to the Olympic games happening in Vancouver (which drove out working class, homeless, and indigenous people from their lands and housing and militarized Canada for the sake of a capitalist spectacle), and once we told them of the situation, they informed us that they would come out



**we have seen**



**and it come**

**IN THE FUTURE**

**IS IN FLAMES**





with us to the occupation. Joined by other revolutionaries who wanted to act in solidarity with the struggle, we then headed out to Stockton. Many of us stayed up late, some of us stayed up all night, ready for a possible police raid.

We made new friends in that house, making food, shaking hands, and getting ready for a showdown. In the morning, someone again welded the gate shut and placed signs up over the property declaring that the Miwoks were not leaving their tribal office and home. During the night, as people relaxed and watched movies, made food, and talked with each other, someone from CVMT came downstairs and told us that the bank had just emailed the tribe. In the email, they stated that they were giving them another 30 days to come up with the money, thus stalling the eviction. It took several minutes to sink in, but it was clear: we had actually won! We had stopped the eviction from taking place by using collective action. We had done it together; Native and anarchist, white, latino, and indigenous.

Now, the CVMT is engaged in a court battle to get tribal funds finally granted to them so they can pay their mortgage and not have to worry about again slipping into foreclosure. Our participation in the struggle did much more than just bring people out to resist the eviction, it also created interest in the struggle from a wide range of people. More than anything, we hope that our participation helped to inspire other people to not only struggle with other indigenous people fighting the colonial state, but also all of those facing foreclosure to stand up and resist the banks and the police. What worked at the Miwok occupation is not hard for any one group, family, or association of friends to reproduce. They simply called on their friends and family to come out and stand with them as they stood their ground. People heard this call and came out in mass, ready to throw down against anyone that would seek to evict them. This in itself is inspirational. It is something that will hopefully spread and happen far and wide. We need only stand up for ourselves during these moments of crisis and call on our friends and family to do the same.

# Squat the World!

Recently some friends were walking down a street in a derelict part of Modesto (that sure narrows it down right?) and happened upon a large building completely boarded up. At random, a hand reached out to grab the hand of one of the doors and turn the knob. We totally expected the door to be locked, but instead, the handle turned and the door opened. Not wanting to be seen by oncoming traffic, we then tried turning the handle at another one of the doors; this one too, was unlocked. Giddy with excitement, we rushed home. We came back later that night to check the place out, and once inside found that the large warehouse space was altogether abandoned.

Judging from the dates left on some of the mail, it appeared that people had not used the space for several years. We then looked around for signs of life, to see if other people were squatting the building. Looking at old food bags and checking expiration dates (over six months old), and also not finding anysort of bedding, or other possible signs of human habitation, we concluded that if we were to squat (to live without paying), we would probably be the only people doing so. It is not that we were opposed to sharing the space with other people, far from it; it's just that in this town, one has to be careful because of the high rate of addicts that squat in vacant houses. At this point, the building could be used for a variety of purposes: to live in, to hold events, to be a place for people to crash at, to be a spot where we organize from, or all of the above. Find vacant buildings in your area - squat them, take them over. Get housing, keep shelter, create space, free of charge.



**International squatters' symbol**



# SPRING BREAK



# THE BOURGEOISIE

While occupations and protests at university campuses have died down since the March 4th Day of Action, in the Modesto area, students, teachers, and community members have launched a series of actions largely independent of any formal group or organization.

In the Spring, local school districts announced the possible closure of various schools in the area. California teachers also discovered that thousands of them would be laid off as the state issued pink slips. Meanwhile, in the local area, administrators with the district continue to in many cases, more than \$200,000 a year and receive kick downs in the form of things like travel allowances. As one student recently pointed out at a board meeting, "Where are you traveling to, Argentina?" The recent budget crisis has exposed class lines and dug up old antagonisms that have always existed, but are now much more pronounced. The actions of students in particular are showing the way forward for the rest of the working and poor population that must respond to ongoing attacks against it.

In late February, parents and kids began a series of protests and marches in Salida (located 5 minutes north of Modesto), against the closure of a middle school. Much like the situation in Modesto, administrators and managers are paid in the range of 200K+, leaving many to ask why children and labor must suffer while the rich continue to wallow in wealth.

In mid-March, students at Modesto City Schools also responded to the lay offs of several hundred teachers by organizing a round of walk out strikes at their schools. At Davis High School, several hundred students walked out, and at Johansen High School, according to the Modesto Bee, 25 students walked out, despite a heavy police presence. At Enochs High School, student plans for a walkout were discovered by administration, who then offered to give the students "whatever they wanted," in return for a "no walkout" promise. Students then demanded the use of two lunch periods for a rally, the printing (free of charge) of flyers designed by the students, and the use of a PA system.

On Monday, March 22nd, students from various schools that have been involved in these actions gathered in downtown Modesto to march on the Modesto City Schools District Office, in order to address board members and demand an end to the lay offs. The mood in the room was tense, with students and union members addressing the board demanding that administrators - not teachers and students face the ax.

Students have stated in the Modesto City Schools District that if the school board does not rehire the teachers that have been laid off, then they will launch another round of walk out strikes, this time, district wide. Students will have to be on guard for several things in the future however, firstly, the desire of the school administration to

keep these protests in the “proper channels.” While even the bureaucrats claim that they are on the side of education, their desire to keep the protests non-disruptive is a way of managing them and keeping them from being effective. The only way forward is to disrupt. To walk out. To strike. Students are workers in the education factory and their greatest power is in refusal. The spirit of student disruption is also fresh; in 2006, students by the thousands in the Modesto area walked out of school on strike leading up to May 1st in protest against racist anti-immigrant legislation

Many teachers must learn that students must have autonomy and control over their own struggles. They cannot direct them, only act in solidarity with them, which also means acting in their own interests as well. Lastly, we must all resist the power of the police to try and stop these events from happening as well as support various students that may face repression from their actions. Teachers are also in a position to act in more confrontational ways, being that so many of them are facing the unemployment line. Working together, students and staff can form united groups of people that can take action; outside and against the existing framework of power.

Students in public education face many challenges, but are in a position to possibly explode the struggle against budget cuts into a wider rupture with capitalism. Students in the local area aren't some weird group on a far away campus, they are the sons and daughters of all of us. They struggle against attacks on their own conditions but also on the conditions of other workers. They see the gulf between the order givers and the order takers. Between the bosses and the workers. The message is on the board: the rich want a class war. Let us give them one. School is out! Chop the Top – No Layoffs!

## Student Interview

**Crudo:** So this is Crudo live in the streets with Modesto Anarcho magazine, we're talking to a student organizer here. Can you describe... what happened today? What did you guys do?

**Student:** Today we met at Modesto Center Plaza, with other students from around Modesto City Schools district to march and protest the injustice that is occurring with our board.

**Crudo:** Can you talk a little bit about the walkout that happened at Johansen, and also the rally that happened at your school, and how the administration responded to that, and in response to the students organizing against the layoffs?

**Student:** Well the original plan was to have a walkout at every Modesto City school, high school. It started at Enochs, and it went to Davis, and then to Johansen. And I didn't really get directly in contact with Johansen, but I was in contact with Davis. They had over 300 students walk out of their classrooms at 12:35, because that's the designated time that teachers get paid no matter what—

**Crudo:** Wait, just to stop you; so you said 300, not the 25 that the Modesto Bee reported at Johansen?

**Student:** Yea, it was 300.

**Crudo:** So it's a lot... ok, great.

**Student:** 300 at Davis, that's what I know for sure.

**Crudo:** Oh ok, wow.

**Student:** 300 at Davis, I don't know how many walked out at Johansen. But at our school, we had a huge response. Probably over 400 would have walked out, but the administrators came to us and basically told us that if we called off the walkout, they would do whatever we wanted. So, that's basically what happened. There were no punishments as far as any of the walkout students.

**Crudo:** We know that obviously the layoffs will directly affect the teachers, but what are some of the things that will happen to students if these layoffs go through?

**Student:** Well it's just gonna mean bigger class sizes, which means less interaction with the teacher, and students that tend to maybe move at a slower pace, or struggle will ultimately fall behind and be forgotten because they won't have that extra teacher input to maybe pull them through a subject or an area that's harder for them. That's one of the major ones...

**Crudo:** So what's going to happen if the board doesn't listen to you today? What do you think students will do?

**Student:** If the board is unresponsive to what's



going on today, we're planning a district-wide walkout. We're gonna plan that, where all the schools participate in a walkout that isn't just like 50 people at some schools, it would be massive. That's what we hope to do.

**Crudo:** So if you're a student at a school right now and you're angry about all this, and you wanna organize something but you wanna talk to other students, what's the best way to do that?

**Student:** Just approach students. I mean, it started for me in my English class, just talking about budget cuts and how angry we all were that some of our favorite teachers are getting pink slips and it just started, we just started talking, and I came up with the idea, and then you know, eventually other kids were like "you know, I care about teachers too, I wanna do it." You know, just talk to people, and spread the information by word of mouth, or you know, word for us got around through a text message so we just forwarded it to everyone, "hey walk out at this time," and that was successful for us.

**Crudo:** Ok, great. One last question: How can teachers, and staff, and students do you think work together to organize and fight?

**Student:** I think that the teachers are in sort of a tough position of what they can and can't do, 'cos their jobs could be threatened, but I think teachers should show support for students like us, and speak at these events, and show how it's affecting them, because we're doing our part to come out and support them, and I think that they should all be with us, and join us.

**Crudo:** Ok great, thanks a lot.

## Dismantle Buraucracy – Not Education!

Across Stanislaus County - and the state of California, School Boards are laying off teachers, shutting down schools, and placing workers on furlough (unpaid) work days. In Salida, the School Board is considering shutting down Salida Elementary school, laying off teachers, and possibly placing them on furlough days. Workers at Modes-



**Student involved with the walkouts gives interview, March 22nd 2010.**

to City Schools are facing a round of layoffs, and since March 3rd of 2009, the District has OKed \$11.3 million in education cuts, despite internal and public protest. Meanwhile, 50 positions at the Sylvan Union School District that are also up on the chopping block while in Atwater, up to 30 teachers have been laid off in recent months. In Empire, Teel Middle School was closed down in 2009, which was home to 542 students. Also, substitutes, councilors, custodians, yard duties and others all are having a harder and harder time finding work - if they can manage to keep their jobs at all.

As Classified Employee's Union President Aaron Castro commented, over the last few years at the Modesto City School District, 4,000 fewer students have been enrolled, however 22 more managers have been employed. Thus, while student enrollment has actually been declining, those at the top have still found it in their hearts to keep raking in the cash. But it's not just the rich locally looking out for themselves, but the desire of those in power in Sacramento to completely dismantle public education. In his State of the State address, Governor Schwarzenegger promised he would not cut funding for public education. However, days later, he released his budget proposal containing \$2 billion in cuts and plans to outsource classified employee jobs. Schwarzenegger is resurrecting his call to slash state funding for school transportation proposing to cut \$300 million by out-sourcing classified employee jobs to private

companies. These attacks on public education mirror the same attacks that are happening to higher education across the state, as CSUs and UCs have faced a 32% fee increase this year, hundreds of faculty have been laid off, and classes on have been cut. At Modesto Junior College, 180 classes have been cut, while student fees have gone up by 33%. At CSU Stanislaus, more faculty have been laid off than any other campus, while fee costs have gone up 32%.

Meanwhile, last year Stanislaus County was awarded \$18 million for a new 60-bed Youth Detention Camp, while four other valley counties were given a total of \$30 for similar prisons. Likewise, in places like Livingston in late 2007, police were awarded a grant by the state to put in a \$112,339 high resolution surveillance system in the local high school of only 1,150 students. As Dan Walters commented in the Sacramento Bee, “[Prison cost] has jumped from less than \$5 billion a year to more than \$10 billion in the last decade, over twice as fast as school spending, the biggest budget item. It now costs about \$45,000 a year to feed, clothe and medicate each of the state’s 170,000-plus inmates, or roughly five times what taxpayers spend on a typical public school student. And that doesn’t count what it costs to supervise tens of thousands of parolees.”

Those who will be first and most affected by these cuts are school children, as many will be faced with bigger and bigger classes taught by overworked and underpaid teachers. Staff will also be overworked and underpaid, leading to more and more derelict and run down campuses, while teachers themselves will find it harder and harder to engage with students in any meaningful way. Furthermore, if students do decide to enter into college, they will find it harder and harder to do so, as the cost of higher education increases at Junior Colleges, California State Universities, and University of California campuses. What will it mean to live in a society that has more interest in locking us up than education? In a nutshell, children of working and poor families will face the brunt of this assault; an assault that will not end with K-12.

These attacks on our living standards effect us all, as out of work staff and teachers struggle to pay their bills and home payments and slip into foreclosure. As one poster on the Modesto Bee website stated, “[M]y husband is [a school employee] and has been for 11 years. After 11 years of dedication to the children of Salida, he will be laid off. He has absolutely nothing to do with the finances and yet he and 15 other teachers will pay for these errors in very big ways. We could lose our home. Our son is going to college

next year and we can’t help him if my husband is unemployed. Due to health issues, I am only partially employed normally, but I was laid off this year due to program elimination. I just want someone to find answers other than repeatedly laying off teachers. This country gives great lip service to how important education is, but then they want to pack 30 children in a classroom. I truly fear for our future.”

Since 2009, there have been ongoing protests and demonstrations at school board meetings - calling for an end to layoffs and school closures. Another tactic that people have employed in Stanislaus County is the packing of meeting spaces over capacity, so that fire department officials are forced to close the meetings down, thus delaying the decision at hand. In Britain during the middle of 2009, community members and concerned parents occupied their elementary schools when the Labor Party threatened to close them down. The two schools, Wyndford and St Gregory’s were both occupied by up to 20 parents, families and supporters at the start of the Easter holidays. Parents slept in the sports halls of both schools, and mounted a determined campaign to keep the other threatened institutions open. Under the “Save Our Schools” umbrella group, parents across the city have mounted a series of demonstrations, events and press conferences. One occupier commented: “Everybody has supported us. Shops have been handing in rolls, crisps and juice in morning.” Again at the start of 2010, five parents barricaded themselves inside the school until their demands were met. This is only one exciting example of parents, students, and workers overcoming their divisions and coming together to better themselves.

Elsewhere, such as in Greece, students in High Schools and Universities have also continuously occupied their schools against cuts to education. In California, students at community colleges, CSUs, and UC, have also launched a movement that has employed the occupation of campus buildings as a way to stop attacks on public education. Across the world, these actions have often been effective - not only in stopping the closure of certain schools, but also in bringing people together. Now is the time to organize with other parents, staff, faculty, and students - for our schools and our educations. Hold protests and demonstrations, calling for an end to the attacks on education. Disrupt school board meetings, don’t let the bureaucrats sign away our futures! Strike and walkout, shut the school down! Occupy, take our schools back until our demands are met! No layoffs, no furloughs, no school closures, no bigger classroom sizes!



# March Fourth

A person is holding a bright yellow sign with the words "THIS IS A SIGN" written in large, bold, black letters. The sign is held up high, and the person's hands are visible at the top corners. In the background, a large crowd of people is gathered for a protest or march, with various other signs and flags visible. The scene is set in an urban environment with buildings in the background.

## Attempted Escalation, Realized Recuperation From the Bay to the Valley by Sentient

Within the crisis that is capitalism, life for working people is falling apart. Houses are being foreclosed upon, unemployment is rising, and schools are closing. Indeed it is the last one that has been garnering the most attention lately, especially within California. We are told that if we just work hard and go to school, we can make something of our lives. The college degree becomes a key to a supposed better future.

But, even as the powerful tell us this, they are doing everything they can to make sure poor and working people are unable to get a decent education. Kindergarten through 12th grade schools are receiving less funding, which means that teachers and staff are being laid off and class sizes are going up. Larger class sizes prevent kids from receiving the proper attention from teachers in order to develop the skills they need to survive in a capitalist world. Working class teachers are under constant stress from either having to worry about being fired, or having to deal with way more students than they should. All the while, more administrators are being hired, and living large on six-digit salaries.

The future of the university is even bleaker. The number of students allowed within the UC system is going to be decreased by 40,000 next year. Every campus within the UC, CSU, and CC system is suffering from class cuts and lay-offs (state-wide it's something like 30,000 teachers, over 500 from Modesto City Schools and even more at higher levels of education). As these cuts are happening, schools are beginning to feel more and more like the social

factories that they are. Classes are being cut from Arts and Humanities departments, leaving only classes that will help produce more efficient workers. They tell us that they do not want this to happen; that if only there were more money they wouldn't have to do this. But this does not ring true. Many campuses are undergoing extremely expensive remodeling projects, and some are even having entirely new buildings built. These are not, however, for the benefit of the people that attend these schools, but are capital projects that are borrowed against to maintain credit ratings. And at the same time, administrators are still receiving their ridiculously high salaries and allowances (President Shirvani of CSU Stanislaus has a housing allowance that alone is more than teachers there make in a year, and the head of the Modesto City Schools Board has travel and clothing allowances that are more than many working people make in a month). It seems strange to create buildings that will stand empty, or that there are people that get so much free money, but such is the logic of capitalism.

Starting in September of 2009, students and teachers within the UC system came together to struggle against the proposed budget cuts. General assemblies formed at UC Santa Cruz and UC Berkeley as well as other campuses, where more radical and militant elements within the movement pushed for immediate occupations. The Santa Cruz occupation lasted a week and became the center of parties, graffiti and even an attempted looting of the bookstore, but the one at Berkeley was headed off by recuperative Leftists. Because of both of these actions a precedent was set. A



precedent for occupation as well as antagonism between those that wish to manage rebellion and struggle, activists, and those that wish to confront everyday problems of class society head on, with balled up fists.

Three days of strikes during November throughout all UC campuses as well as CSU campuses sought to bring the universities to a halt in order to say “we control this shit!” However, the strikes in the Bay Area were mainly led by recuperative unions and activist organizations. The same boring chants were slightly altered to fit the situation at hand, and the dull droning of the picket lines sounded more like zombies walking in a circle than the strikes back in the days of militant worker struggles during the early 1900s. In Berkeley, whenever students and community members acted in their class interests, tensions flared and the managers of social struggle reined everyone back in through cries of “We have to keep a clean image for the media” and through suppressive calls for consensus. However, despite this, and that a comrade from Modesto Anarcho Crew may have been the first anarchist in a hundred years to be arrested for giving a speech, we were all extremely excited about the possibilities the future held.

Despite confrontations and tensions with Left and other activists, there were many instances of beautiful rebellion that should not be forgotten. The first day in Berkeley there was a large march that snaked through downtown before ending back at the UC. Once on campus, it went to California Hall where the main administrators are, and formed a circle around it, almost effectively sealing off the exits. After a short while, people started to get rowdy, and attempted to push their way into the building. There was a period of time where students and working people were entirely out of the control of Leftist activists and union bureaucrats. This moment was eventually recuperated as some students stood with police to block other students from getting down. What’s important about this, though, is not the recuperation, but the brief moment in time where people wanted to throw down with those that have continually fucked them, despite what those who play themselves off as comrades said. The last day at Berkeley there was another occupation that took place in Wheeler Hall, which is where a lot of class and lecture rooms are. This lasted just over 12 hours, but the length is not important. This occupation created a situation that pitted over 1000 students against the police and the administration. It made it painfully obvious what side the administration was on, and who the police were working for.

A few weeks after the November strikes and the Wheeler Hall occupation, a group of students were able to get permission to keep Wheeler Hall open 24 hours a day during finals week (from Monday morning until Friday night). The space was used for studying, dance parties, and film screenings. The last day that it was to be open, there was supposed to be a live show with Boots Riley from the hip-hop group The Coup with a street party to follow. When the chancellor heard about this, he ordered the police to invade the building extremely early in the morning on Friday. They made 60 arrests. What happened next is one of the greatest instances of escalation so far: a mob of working people from the community and students made their way through the streets of Berkeley to the house of the Chancellor, where they proceeded to yell at him and break windows and things on his property. The governor of California went so far as to call this an act of “terrorism,” and the Chancellor said he was afraid for his life. But what about the lives of the students he had arrested? Or the people that are unable to finish school or even get into school because of the decisions made by him and the rest of the administration?

**March 4th:** In the past, the Bay Area has been a stronghold of radical activity, and many of us believed that this day of action would expand upon the last ones. We imagined unrestrained and generalized rebellion. We imagined multiple occupations and people acting within their class interest, without the mediation of activists. Essentially: genuine proletarian struggle. However, where working class and anarchist forces were once gaining a strong foothold, single-issue, reformist Leftists and managers were taking over. There was all of this talk of “escalation of tactics” and “generalizing revolt” after the November strikes, but what actually culminated was nothing more than a media spectacle that did very little to move toward the creation of a movement on the offensive.

The march that went from UC Berkeley to downtown Oakland did not challenge anything. It did not present us with opportunities to build our collective power, or ways for us to improve our immediate material conditions. We did not strike, or occupy, or takeover. The rally afterward did little other than make a few eyelids heavy and paint those who might want to actually fight back in a bad light. One speaker actually had the nerve to “warn” the youth of Oakland to not participate in potentially “violent” actions, as the police would just come down on them extra hard. This was clearly a veiled attempt at saying “if you are a person of color you should not fight back.” However, youth of color have every right to fight back, and in some ways have more of a right to

fight against the racist police that beat them in their own neighborhoods or the educational system that does not give them access to the tools to rise above their shitty conditions.

The biggest mistake made on March 4th in the Bay Area was the breakaway march that happened after the rally. The march that should have ended in front of the office of the University of California Office of the President instead went on to march onto I-880. This ended in a cluster-fuck mass arrest that put over 150 students and working class kids in jail for 24 hours. We were unable to walk away from March 4th with anything except bellies full of jail food and citation numbers.

The actions that happened, especially in the Bay Area, were a step or two backwards for those involved in the student movement. Occupation as a tactic is one that solidifies the antagonism between those in power and those without. It takes a space that was once used to destroy life and regulate the flow of commodities and turns it into a space where I's and Me's and You's can come together and become We. Occupation creates a break in the time and space of capitalism that can be used to spring board into an insurrectionary situation. Where this seemed to be the main tactic in use during November throughout California, and seemed to be the logical starting point for March Fourth, it was entirely ignored in favor of mass marches and symbolic actions. Occupations alone are not the end-all of revolutionary activity, and it's important not to fetishize them. But they do provide a potential space to escalate (such as the committees and councils formed in occupied spaces during the student-worker revolts in France during 1968). By immediately moving away from more radical tactics, the Left was able to direct the struggle along the lines of "acceptable protest."

Every aspect of the march from UC Berkeley to downtown Oakland was controlled, from the placement of banners to the speed of the march. This meant that those who wished to act outside of what was deemed appropriate were alienated from the rest of the march, and were decried as provocateurs. There was an instance where we were getting ready to set off from UCB, and a group of anarchists were standing in front with banners that read "OCCUPY EVERYTHING" and "We Have Decided Not to Die," but were told that they could not be there because they wanted certain banners in front to present "the proper message." The rally that happened after the march was the same old shit of boring speakers talking about speaking truth to power. The air

of boredom during the rally says a lot about the differences in desires between the protesters and the Left.

Closer to home, the build up from November to March 4th at CSU Stanislaus started out as a potential site for exciting social and class struggle. Very quickly we realized that there was a split in interests with those that were doing the main organizing. On one side there were the students that had been "radicalized" through recent events relating to the education struggle, and on the other were union bureaucrats and Leftist student-politicians like those in Socialist Organizer. Almost immediately after the November strikes, when organizing started taking place on CSUS, it became apparent that there was going to be a conflict of interests between the two groups, although many people worked hard to not let this happen. Unfortunately working with organizations like SO, instead of not giving them any platform, allows them to further their own interests, which in most cases are not the same as the interests of working people. An example of this was the General Assembly that took place in mid-January. Instead of the assembly being an atmosphere of open discussion that allowed students to voice ideas for resistance on campus, the people in SO heavily controlled discussion, and shot down ideas that students put out that were not in line with their Party's stance. At a previous meeting, someone had proposed the idea of having an occupation or multiple occupations on campus, but was met with strong opposition from SO. We later found out that they had received instructions from higher-ups in the Bay Area that occupations were to be opposed. In fact, SO has become infamous for opposing occupations at SF State despite the overwhelming support for them from the student body. It's hard to say whether or not the students at CSUS would have supported an occupation or not, however due to the recuperative actions of the Left, any potential for discourse on more militant and radical tactics was squashed.

At Modesto Junior College, people from the community, including members of Modesto Anarcho, attempted to organize a General Assembly in February with the goal of looking at the effects of the budget cuts at MJC and ways to address these. Almost one thousand flyers were handed out the week before the assembly was to take place. What happened was the administration became extremely afraid. One person that was handing out flyers was even harassed and threatened with arrest by campus security. On the day of the assembly, the amount of police officers on campus had at least tripled, with multiple officers patrolling the major buildings. Someone from the school newspaper was seen taking pictures of people in the Student Lounge where the

assembly was to take place, and then talking with members of the administration. The newspaper released an article that poked fun at the people that attempted to organize the General Assembly, and even said that if people had just gone through the appropriate avenues to organize this, then it would have turned out differently. However, the article fails to address the increased amount of police on campus and the pictures being taken, which are signs of blatant intimidation, and it almost seems stupid to ask if the same thing would have happened if it was the anime club trying to organize a meeting outside of the appropriate avenues.

The Salida school district and the Modesto City Schools district are also becoming sites of tension. In Salida, the administration is in the process of closing down an entire elementary school, saying that there is not enough money to keep it running. Within the Modesto City Schools, over 500 high school teachers received pink slips. In response to the former, parents and teachers and students organized protests outside of schools and at board meetings, and in response to the latter, high school students organized amongst themselves to coordinate walk-outs on multiple campuses. They also organized a small march through downtown Modesto. While the same critiques that are aimed at the events that took place during March Fourth can be leveled at the actions taken by people in Modesto and Salida, the important thing to keep in mind is that there is almost no precedent for this sort of stuff in our area. There is no organized Left to recuperate struggles here, and these symbolic acts serve as a base with the potential to push the struggle in more radical directions that may have the ability to create our own power.

It's important to take into account the role of education in society, and the reason why reforming it is not our goal. Primarily, the university acts as a factory, except the commodities produced are future workers, not objects. The class cuts and such that are happening to most schools are only streamlining the university back into its most basic function. The way this was originally intended to work was the university was fairly accessible for those who wished to pursue education, sort of like an investment those in power made in hopes that people would then come out as more specialized and capable workers. This would allow the bourgeoisie to pursue greater economic feats and ultimately make more money as their businesses would be running more efficiently due to better trained workers. Reform cannot change the fact that schools are no more than social factories, and that education is no less alienating than working a shit job.

As anarchists, we do bring a certain critique to the table. It may seem strange that a bunch of hooligan kids would be down to support a student movement. But we do recognize the school as a site of attack and a site for attack. What I mean is that this is an instance where the attacks that are waged on us every day by those in power are not hidden or softened. Because of this, this also becomes a place to attack back. To organize ourselves and act in a way that will benefit us. This is not to say that education in today's world can play any other role than one that pumps out more workers. But the university is a place where we can attempt to make our lives within capitalism a little bit better, but this is being taken away from us. Obviously we do not see a better or more accessible university as the final goal. To do so would be to ignore the tensions that exist around us, and the war that is waged on us by those in power. The class cuts, teacher and faculty lay-offs, and fee hikes are no different than corporate down-sizing and outsourcing, mass lay-offs, taking losses out of employee checks at work, or racial profiling and deportations by the state against people of color and immigrants.

Escalation is the only place left to go. The occupations and strikes that have been happening on campuses across California and the United States need to not stop there. Unless we can break out of the "student" movement and into a generalized movement, we are going to be stuck in a continuous spectacle that will burn out very quickly. At the same time it is important to get away from the mentality of "the schools for the students; workplaces for the workers." Capitalism creates pigeon-holes that we are forced into, and without destroying these, we will simply be changing one group of managers for another. The distinction between occupied university and occupied workplace must be destroyed. We also need to steer away from "Days of Action" as have been the norm thus far. This "tactic" amounts to little more than spectacular muscle flexing, and makes us look and feel like we are unable or afraid to actually confront our enemies. They also create a situation that allows Leftists and recuperators to control the way things unfold, pretty much cutting any chance of escalation out of the picture. Not to mention that a day of strikes, or even 3 days of strikes, that are established with bureaucracies and the administration has no potential on its own of effectively stopping anything. The only way forward is to recognize who we are, recognize who our enemies are, and then attack.

The student movement is dead; long live the proletarian movement!



# Don't Be A Coward



by lil prole

Our day-to-day lives are spent suffering indignities; we find our time and energy being animated not for our own desires and needs, but instead for the benefit of those that profit off and dominate us.

We are asleep, and the alarm clock rings. Our bodies cry out for more sleep, as we hit the snooze button in an attempt to buy more time. Finally, we roll over and look at the clock, our eyes grow wide as we curse ourselves for sleeping in and we bound out of bed, hitting the shower. Coat in hand, and of course, no time for breakfast, we rush off to another day at a job that we hate for assholes that think they are smarter and better than us. Later, off work, we are on the street, or perhaps driving home, and we see the police man. He pulls us over, he stops us, his pig snout looking for something, anything, to fuck us with. We have to resist every urge in the world to stop ourselves from beating his pig snout in with a baseball bat, as he berates us like children, issues us tickets, takes us to jail, or threatens us with (or carries out) violence.

On and on it goes; the faces may change, but the relationship between us and those above us, be they land lords, lawyers, bosses, judges, managers, administrators,

social workers, teachers, cops, and so on, remains the same. We are always made to feel small, to feel powerless, and always to feel bad about fighting back. There are channels in place, we are told, for anger. It is reserved for the letters page of the local paper, the well managed room of the union hall, or the tightly choreographed antics of the Leftist demonstration. At the end of the day, we are made to feel that there is something wrong with resisting the way things are. "Why are you angry?," they ask? "Why the fuck aren't you angry!," we yell back. "You are a bad person for wanting to fight back," they tell us. "No, we are sane. We are here and we are alive. We do not want to live only to die," we reply. We do not wish to exist only to submit to the regime of work, school, traffic, rent, and paying for things. "We have ways of making you play the game," they whisper to us. Oh, but so do we, my enemy.

Thus, while the landlord may smile now, tomorrow when the rent is late it will turn to a frown, and you will see their friend, the policeman. And, that officer may come into your school with a happy face today, but tomorrow you will see them in a raid with guns drawn. I am among those that see through the game and I find associates among those that do so as well. We see clear enemies, and we wish to

attack them and their system. We find enemies as well, with all those that collaborate with our exploiters day in and day out; for these people are cowards. There is no way to mince words. They are those that toe the party line and go along with the logic of their own domination. But, cracks are always visible in the social fabric of this society, we can find the ways in which we can fight back as individuals and together. We can link up with others doing the same and grow more powerful. We can begin to turn the tables.

In our day to day lives, we find ways as individuals of fighting back. On the job, we avoid work as much as possible. We don't do our jobs, we come in late, we take money from the boss when possible, we lie about our hours, we spend more time on our lunch breaks than we are supposed to, and so on. At home, we lie to our landlords and attempt to get them to pay for as many things as we can. On the streets, we enjoy ourselves as much as possible; drinking in parks and stealing from stores. We evade and dodge the police as much as we are able, and lie to them when they do catch us. We know what lies at the other end of the police car ride, simply an extreme version of this world: the prison cell. We sneak into movie theaters, write graffiti, steal pallets from the back of stores for firewood, and break into vacant buildings to live in.

We are trying to push out of simply surviving, and into real life, but we are poor and workers, so in doing so, we become criminals. But, we are not bad people for doing this, nor are we simply criminals; we are people who are forced into a position where such acts are in our interest. These actions are a small way of resisting a world that seeks to destroy us and our lives; to turn the meaning of our existence simply as cogs in the machine of those of a higher class. Any talk by anyone, be they union officials, liberal do gooders, or right-wing bureaucrats, against such actions, is simply the same logic of the bosses, reverberated back to us from different mouths.

But shoplifting, squatting, sabotage, graffiti...these are little victories; they do not win us control over our lives, simply more breathing room. Everyone takes from the rich when no one is looking; but what do you do when you are faced with social situations in which it becomes possible to fight back with others? It is in these situations that people often become either cowards or courageous, snitches or comrades. We need to cultivate a culture that shuns the cowards and snitches in our society; a culture that frowns on those that would cooperate with the government and the police and instead put more stock in their neighborhoods

and other poor and working people around them. All of us can think of many situations on the job, renting a house, and on the street, where people faced with the opportunity to fight or turn coward, has gone down.

At work, people resist all the time. They either refuse work, evade it, argue or fight with the bosses, sabotage machinery, steal from work, and go on strike and beyond. For those of us that have engaged in these activities, we know that cowards, snitches and friends of the bosses, are always our biggest enemies. Several years ago, I had a horrible job. In the middle of the summer I would wake up at 5:30 AM every morning to go and work in a cabinet shop as a delivery person. It was owned by a rich family, which meant that bosses connected to that family were scattered throughout the facility. The work was hard and it was very hot, we (myself and several other people) hauled cabinets out to various construction sites. We resisted in ways that we could: taking breaks whenever possible, driving the truck different places and resting, smoking in the truck, etc. It was bad enough that racism between white, Latino, and black workers kept us divided, but we also had to worry about those workers who were friends of the bosses snitching on us. Once, when myself and another worker were talking about how we could take the boss to labor court over some violations, another worker snitched on us and told the boss of our plans. He scolded us and even later threatened to fire one of us. Because of this coward we almost lost our job; I was laid off soon after.

At another job site, a friend was busy stealing as much food as possible from their job with their co-workers. The boss owned a health food store that sold medicine and vegan products, yet paid his workers horribly and did not give them benefits. Soon, the workers in the store that were friends began taking whole items home for dinner, then lunch, then medicine, and then for their friends and families. "Fuck this rich asshole," they said. But then, a friend of the boss became hired and soon video cameras started to dot the store, and many became afraid of them snitching. A friend of the bosses cannot be a friend of other workers, because the interests of workers and bosses are opposed. It takes bravery to risk being fired by your boss to save you and your family money - and it is a coward who sides with the rich and not their fellow workers.

Several years ago, I moved into a new place in town. I was excited about the move, as I had grown up in the neighborhood and worked for several years at a place around the corner and knew the area well. I moved in with some friends



from high school and I thought everything was going to go well. Quickly a problem developed however, as one of my roommates was the child of the landlord. While at first I thought this would make renting easy, quickly it became clear that I had two landlords: one that collected my rent check, and the other that complained and told me what to do. I became angry at the situation of the house, which was in complete disarray, but when I raised too much of a stink about it, the landlord's child complained about me to them. I came home from work one day to find an eviction notice on my door.

What is sad about this situation, is that the other people in the house decided not to even tell me of my coming eviction, which would have given me time to find another place to live. They felt more of a closeness to their friend; someone who's parent had bought them a house to live in, than other renters who were in the same situation. Recently, I heard that one of those people became so angry at the (still) horrible conditions of the house, that they decided to possibly go on rent strike until the landlord fixed what was wrong with the house. They ultimately didn't however, because they still had to contend with the landlord's child living in the house with them.

Recently, people in Modesto (as regular readers of this magazine will know) became alarmed at the spreading epidemic of Hepatitis C and HIV through the sharing of needles from drug use. After the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors shot down the suggestion of a grand jury to form a needle exchange program, people organized an autonomous needle exchange to do the work that the government refused to do. For several months, the needle exchange program was a great success and operated out of a park known for high amounts of drug use, getting dirty needles off the streets and disposing of them safely. Quickly however, a "community activist" in the local area, Robert Stanford, became alarmed that people were taking initiative themselves and confronting problems in their communities on their own terms. He worked with the Sheriff's Department, which launched a sting operation that shut the program down and issued misdemeanor charges to two volunteers.

Now, those volunteers face possible jail time and the park is still awash in dirty needles. In a recent clean up, volunteers found up to 60 dirty and discarded needles in the same park that the program started in. With the exchange now non-existent, the park is once again home to a sea of possibly infectious syringes. Robert Stanford is the classic example of a coward: someone who was willing to side

with the police and not the community that he claimed to "fight" for. All this was done while he were running for a seat on the Modesto City Council, and his collaboration with the police was a talking point in his quest for power.

We can learn much from all of these instances. What would have happened if all of these people in these various examples would have decided to side with other working and poor people instead of bosses and the police? What would have happened at my work if other workers would have teamed up to resist their conditions as a group instead of running to lick the boots of some rich piece of shit? What would have happened if renters of a house would have banded together to demand better conditions instead of siding with their landlord? What would have happened if "community activists" would have tried to work with autonomous projects instead of working with the pigs?

Obviously, people would have been in a way better position then they are now, and people would not be facing jail time. At work, on the streets, in our neighborhoods, snitches and cowards are everywhere. But, then again, so are people who are willing to stand up and not collaborate. Instead, they stand with other people like them who have the same interests and realize that they run counter to those that own, control, and dominate our lives. It is not just the bosses and their dogs we need to fight, but also all those among us who side with them. Whatever happens, *don't be a coward, stand together.*







**by lil prole**

*“Graffiti is a freedom crime, beautiful and revolutionary, suitable for revolutionaries. On that road seldom traveled by the multitude, remember this when the cops come to fuck with you...”*

- Looptroop Rockers

Graffiti is seen by those that control the city as a gateway crime. It is the broken window that supposedly blights and destroys communities. In Modesto, any sort of graffiti crime over \$200 is considered a felony, and many find themselves caught up by the cops or locked in a prison cell for the crime of changing the color of a surface.

Why do we love and write graffiti? For one, it is a culture and an art form that comes from us. From the urban poor. The working class. The criminal element. It is an activity that we do because we enjoy it. It is something that we have made ourselves, and despite every attempt to commercialize it, it stays illegal and autonomous from corporations and the rich. But, in order to become a graffiti writer, you need to act. To engage with the streets. To be up and stay up. Graffiti is not something you can be based on what you say, how you dress, or how you talk - it is only in action that you can be respected or be a part of anything.

Graffiti does not ask for space; it takes space. It is the same as when skaters take over an area to skate board. When people occupy a park to hold a party. When people take over a vacant building to live in. When you shoplift in order to feed yourself. When you steal from your boss at

work. Graffiti is not about dialog with those who run the city. It is about taking without asking from those who are not of the working and lower classes. It is about imposing what you need on a system that wants you to simply be a silent worker, a passive consumer, and subservient to the whims of the police, bosses, and politicians.

Graffiti is about feeling good in spaces that often make us feel bad. We live in environments policed by our enemies. Designed by upper class bosses, politicians, planners, and capitalists. We are bombarded with advertisements for everything from politics to skin cream. Graffiti is about rupture against this spectacle. It is about leaving something behind that we enjoy. It is about communication in a world that thrives on silence. It is about what we want, what we find beautiful, what we enjoy.

Graffiti is about not being afraid to attack what is ugly in this city. It is about not being afraid of the pigs. To go out and write. To engage with our environment instead of just letting it effect us in ways that it wants to. Graffiti will never be stopped because you can't stop the passion to live. To destroy. To create. Get up, stay up.

***“Graffiti is about feeling good in spaces that often make us feel bad.”***



# Snitches Get Nothin', Friends Get it All.

Several months ago, a group of friends were rolling deep: about 8 people in total. When they passed, walls came alive with posters covered in wheatpaste (a tough adhesive). The posters decried the rich and the elites and called for unity and action between various workers. After about an hour, the group decided to leave. However, during their jaunt, someone had seen them and called the police. As the group was about to leave the area, the police stopped the group. For two hours they detained them, talking to each person individually. They wanted to know several things. Who's idea was it to put up posters? Who was the leader? What they wanted was a snitch. Who was going to be the weakest link in the chain? Who was going to turn on their friends and tell the cops what they wanted to know in order to get off?

But, sadly for the police, everyone had the same story. They didn't put up any of the posters, nor did they know who did. They were just out for a walk with buddies, nothing illegal there, right? No one would snitch. No one would budge. The police didn't know what to do. They scratched their heads and looked at the ground. This group was organized and they also had their story in line. No one was going to budge, no one was going to snitch. Finally, after several hours, they lined the friends up and gave them a ticket which said that they couldn't come back into the area for 7 days. "Fine by us," the friends said. The tickets were given, the friends left. The police tried to scare them by stating that the DA would press charges against them, but none ever were. There was no evidence, because no one snitched; no one was a coward. When we have each other's backs, we are more powerful than we are alone.

*Eric McDavid is a political prisoner, currently serving a 20 year sentence in federal prison for "thought crime." He was arrested in January 2006 (as part of the government's ongoing "Green Scare" campaign against environmental and animal rights activists) after being targeted by an undercover informant who formulated a crime and entrapped Eric in it. Eric was targeted by the state for his political beliefs, and his case is important for everyone who dares to stand up. He is currently appealing his conviction and his sentencing.*  
<http://www.supporteric.org/>

# Links and Resources

## News

[anarchistnews.org](http://anarchistnews.org)  
[news.infoshop.org](http://news.infoshop.org)  
[libcom.org](http://libcom.org)  
[indybay.org](http://indybay.org)

## Theory

[prole.info](http://prole.info)  
[zinelibrary.info](http://zinelibrary.info)  
[crimethinc.com](http://crimethinc.com)

## Friends

[rhr.wordpress.com](http://rhr.wordpress.com)  
[925arrow.blogspot.com](http://925arrow.blogspot.com)  
[occupyca.wordpress.com](http://occupyca.wordpress.com)  
[firetotheprisons.com](http://firetotheprisons.com)  
[firesneverextinguished.blogspot.com](http://firesneverextinguished.blogspot.com)  
[copwatchla.org](http://copwatchla.org)  
[homesnotjailssf.org](http://homesnotjailssf.org)  
[seattlesolidarity.net](http://seattlesolidarity.net)  
[notmygovernment.com](http://notmygovernment.com)  
[supporteric.org](http://supporteric.org)

**To distribute free copies of Modesto Anarcho in your school, workplace, or on the street, get in touch with us; we'll hook you up!**

**We meet pretty regularly at Firehouse 51, our social center in downtown Modesto. Ask a friend or get in touch with us if you're interested in coming out!**

**Modesto Anarcho is distributed free to prisoners all over California, along with other publications we like. If you'd like to donate to support this project and ensure that it continues, send well-concealed cash to our PO Box, or go to [modestoanarcho.org](http://modestoanarcho.org) to donate via pay-pal.**

***"The youth immersed in poison - turn the tide, counter attack."***



The background image is a high-contrast, orange and black illustration of a street scene. It depicts several figures, some appearing to be in uniform, standing in a street. A large, bright fire or explosion is visible in the center, casting a strong glow. The overall style is reminiscent of a stencil or a high-contrast photograph.

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**Hella Class War**  
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