

Take the Rich Off Life Support

*Victory to the Strikers
Produced by Modesto Anarcho Crew*



The class that will win the class war is the class that is the best organized, not willing to compromise, and willing to take action to back up their interests. *You already know what side of the picket line you're on, the question is: what are we going to do about the other side?*

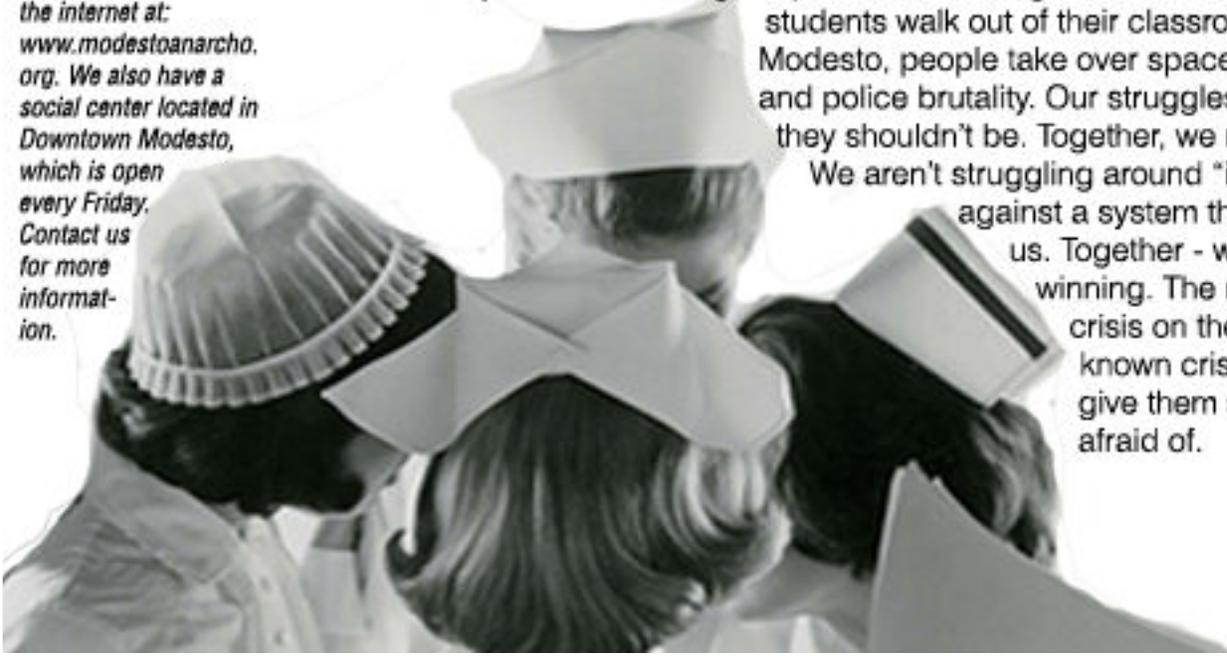
On Friday, October 30th, nurses across California are going on strike over working conditions. In the Central Valley, hospitals in Merced and Stockton will face walk-out strikes - showing the power that workers hold when they refuse their labor to the bosses. In the valley, we are facing the brunt of a social war waged on us, day in, day out. Jobs are being lost; Modesto now has an unemployment rate second only to Detroit. We are leading the nation in properties in foreclosure and under the ownership of banks. Basic services like shelters, women's services, and programs like Healthy Families are all being cut and gutted. Education across the state is being slashed, all the while, money floods in to open more prisons and increase repression across the border. Each day we see the headlines in the newspaper and things look more and more disgusting. What are we going to do about the crisis that is our everyday lives?

We are those who live pay check to pay check. Who don't own enough in this society to have people work for us because we don't own property and we are not rich. It doesn't matter if you are an undocumented farm worker, unemployed and out of work, or a state worker facing furlough lay off days - together, we collectively are the working class in this society. Our enemies are the class who seeks to manage and direct us and those who own and control the means of existence and control the police forces.

Against these odds, things can look grim, but across the Central Valley and California resistance is brewing. Nurses walk out of their jobs and go on strike. People in Livingston march into city council meetings to protest the raising of water and sewage rates. In Fresno, students walk out of their classrooms against fee hikes. In Modesto, people take over space against gang injunctions and police brutality. Our struggles are not isolated; at least, they shouldn't be. Together, we need to find each other.

We aren't struggling around "issues," we're fighting against a system that exploits and abuses us. Together - we stand a chance at winning. The rich think they have a crisis on their hands. But we've known crisis our entire lives. Let's give them something to be truly afraid of.

Modesto Anacho Crew is a street based group of revolutionaries based in the Central Valley. We produce a journal entitled Modesto Anacho. For more copies of this handout or for more info, email us at: anacho209@yahoo.com. Check us out on the internet at: www.modesteanacho.org. We also have a social center located in Downtown Modesto, which is open every Friday. Contact us for more information.



Strike, Occupy

Across California and the world, the ruling class has made one thing clear: we must pay for their crisis. Obama and the rest of the rich continue to bailout the banks and corporations, all the while cutting basic services such as women's shelters, elder care, and education. Despite all the talk of universal health care, the government has cut funding to the Healthy Families program, which gives cheap and free care to low income children. Soon, the state "will have to begin terminating coverage for more than 60,000 children on Oct. 1. Nearly 670,000 children could be dropped..." according to the *LA Times*. As lessening access to wages, jobs, and cuts to work hours continue, more and more people are having trouble paying for their homes. Again, according to the *LA Times*, "A mortgage trade group reported... that more than 13% of the nation's mortgage holders were delinquent on their mortgages or in the process of having their homes repossessed during the second quarter of this year." But of course, the rich have found a way to capitalize off of this, according to the *Associate Press*, "U.S. productivity surged in the spring by the largest amount in almost six years while labour costs plunged at the fastest pace in nine years." What this means, is that capitalism is working just as it always has: paying us less while making us work harder and harder.

The amount of brutality we face at the hands of this system is a result of the low level of struggle that we can dish out against it. But what of the so-called, 'loyal opposition?' The managers and bosses of the trade unions would like nothing more than to capitalize on this crisis as well. During this time, they are hoping to build up their business - the unions themselves. This gains them more power and influence, as well as more money through union dues. They are hoping to control and direct any sort of conflict between the people and the bosses and the exploitation that they represent. Thus, the union bosses and the capitalists "negotiate" while hundreds of workers have their voices ignored and their lives impoverished. In the Central Valley, unions have repeatedly worked with management in order to cut hours, jobs, and implement furlough days, meaning workers are temporarily laid off,

and then return to work with a larger workload. In this way, capitalism is making us work harder for less pay. Thus, any fight against this system will also have to be a struggle to self-organize and control our own struggles. Not only against capitalism, but also a struggle that is autonomous from the organizations which seek to contain true working class power. But the question remains - how do we do this?

Like the current struggle being waged by nurses in California, ongoing mass strikes and workplace occupations across the world have shown that there is still power in the mass refusal of workers to sell their labor. These strikes need to spread to all workers - becoming a mass strike of all working people in order to better our own conditions. The occupations at the Republic Windows and Glass factory in Chicago, at the Vestas plant in the UK, and most recently in Ssangyong, South Korea show that not only by striking, but also by taking over workplaces we gain power; not only over our own struggles but also our lives. In France, workers have even kidnapped their bosses in order to gain concessions! Students in Santa Cruz have also occupied their university against cuts and fee increases; fending off police and holding their ground. These occupations and strikes can also move beyond just the confines of the workplace, and become genuine social strikes: People refuse to pay transportation fees in the city and workers refuse to collect. Neighborhoods organize mass appropriations of food and other goods and redistribute them in their communities. The homeless take over vacant homes and live in them. In short, we turn this crisis around on the rich - we push for rupture with all capitalist relations. When one group of workers goes into struggle, we must all show solidarity. This means much more than honoring picket lines; it means engaging in a struggle against the system that exploits and controls us all.

For more information on workplace occupations and mass strikes, go to: www.libcom.org.

TAKEOVER

Occupy California

The following text was released by students at UC Santa Cruz who occupied their school against fee increases and budget cuts. Learn more at: <http://occupyca.wordpress.com/>

Across the state, people are losing their jobs and getting evicted, while social services are slashed. California's leaders from state officials to university presidents have demonstrated how they will deal with this crisis: everything and everyone is subordinated to the budget. They insulate themselves from the consequences of their own fiscal mismanagement, while those who can least afford it are left shouldering the burden. Every solution on offer only accelerates the decay of the State of California. It remains for the people to seize what is theirs.

The current attack on public education – under the guise of a fiscal emergency – is merely the culmination of a long-term trend. California's regressive tax structure has undermined the 1960 Master Plan for free education. In this climate, the quality of K-12 education and the performance of its students have declined by every metric. Due to cuts to classes in Community Colleges, over 50,000 California youth have been turned away from the doors of higher education. California State University will reduce its enrollment by 40,000 students system wide for 2010-2011. We stand in solidarity with students across the state because the same things are happening to us. At the University of California, the administration will raise student fees to an unprecedented \$10,300, a 32 percent increase in one year. Graduate students and lecturers return from summer vacation to find that their jobs have been cut; faculty and staff are forced to take furloughs. Entire departments are being gutted. Classes for undergraduates and graduates are harder to get into while students pay more. The university is being run like a corporation.

Let's be frank: the promise of a financially secure life at the end of a university education is fast becoming an illusion. The jobs we are working toward will be no better than the jobs we already have to pay our way through school. Close to three-quarters of students work, many full-time. Even with these jobs, student loan volume rose 800 percent from 1977 to 2003. There is a direct connection between these deteriorating conditions and those impacting workers and families throughout California. Two million people are now unemployed across the state. 1.5 million more are underemployed out of a workforce of twenty million. As formerly secure, middle-class workers lose their homes to foreclosure, Depression-era shantytowns are cropping up across the state. The crisis is severe and widespread, yet the proposed solutions – the governor and state assembly organizing a bake sale to close the budget gap – are completely absurd.

We must face the fact that the time for pointless negotiations is over. Appeals to the UC administration and Sacramento are futile; instead, we appeal to each other, to the people with whom we are struggling, and not to those whom we struggle against. A single day of action at the university is not enough because we cannot afford to return to business as usual. We seek to form a unified movement with the people of California. Time and again, factional demands are turned against us by our leaders and used to divide social workers against teachers, nurses against students, librarians against park rangers, in a competition for resources they tell us are increasingly scarce. This crisis is general, and the revolt must be generalized. Escalation is absolutely necessary. We have no other option.

Occupation is a tactic for escalating struggles, a tactic recently used at the Chicago Windows and Doors factory and at the New School in New York City. It can happen throughout California too. As undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff, we call on everyone at the UC to support this occupation by continuing the walkouts and strikes into tomorrow, the next day, and for the indefinite future. We call on the people of California to occupy and escalate.