

MARCH 22ND: People gathered on the anniversary of Alex Nieto's death in the Mission District, watching the new film, "Amor for Alex." Later, a large procession of low-rider cars took to the streets in the Mission District and people discussed the links between police violence and gentrification in a large forum.

MARCH 23RD: Santa Clara police shot and killed a "suspect."

MARCH 23RD: People blocked streets, a tech-bus, and the gates to the Valencia Street Police substation in the Mission District of San Francisco. People took to the streets against the latest police murder of Amilcar Perez-Lopez, and most recently, Alice Brown. Supporters of Alex Nieto also joined the demonstration, marking the one-year anniversary of his death.

MARCH 23RD: Vallejo police shot a man in a shopping center. Over the past year, protests have sprung up in response to a wave of police shootings and killings in the area.

MARCH 24TH: Striking oil workers in Martinez and across the country faced a concessionary contract from union bureaucrats who hoped to impose major attacks on the workers. One report online stated: "From the beginning, the USW called out only a fraction of the 30,000 workers it organizes in the industry, and then worked with management to starve striking workers into submission. The union offered no cash benefits from its \$350 million strike fund, and forced workers to beg the union to pay bills, or to apply for welfare. The major concern of the USW was to prevent the strike from escalating into a political confrontation with the Obama administration, with which the USW is closely allied. One worker stated, "I voted against this contract. We are unhappy, but after seven weeks on the picket line, with the union not paying benefits, a lot of guys were frustrated and just wanted to get back to work. They kind of feel like we were striking for nothing." Workers have to fight not only the bosses but those behind control of the union itself – shutting down production across the entire industry in a general strike.

MARCH 25TH: Angry over the recent murder of Alice



Brown in San Francisco, angry protesters disrupted and partially shut down a "community forum" put on by the SFPD. As in all recent police shootings, police hold these meetings to try and contain and manage rage over their murders. We should shut these meetings down and show the police resistance – not dialog.

MARCH 26TH: People protested at People's Park in Berkeley against the cutting down of trees in what many claimed was an attempt by the University to attack People's Park. In Oakland, people held back a bulldozer at the Afrikatown community garden.

MARCH 26TH: Private security in downtown Berkeley, known as "community ambassadors, savagely beat two homeless people. This attack came several days after the City Council announced that it would further criminalize people sleeping outside. The next day people connected to the ongoing encampment outside of the Berkeley Post Office gathered and protested.

MARCH 27TH: People gathered in Knowland Park, near the Oakland Zoo in East Oakland. The Zoo wants to expand into the park, which is home to a wide community of plants and animals. People held signs and banners and passed out flyers in a protest against the expansion.

MARCH 27TH: Lawyers with the San Francisco public defender's office announced that have been forcing inmates to fight at the county jail while sheriff deputies bet on those fighting. This allegation comes hot on the heels of the outing of several officers (already under investigation for corruption) for sending racist texts to each other, referring to black people as the "N" word and saying that they "should all hang."

March 28th: In Monterey, anti-police brutality activists shut down Highway 1 against police brutality in the Salinas area and across the US. 8 people were arrested.

qilombo.org
thelonghaul.org
omnicommons.org
fireworksbayarea.com
eastsideartsalliance.com
boundtogetherbooks.wordpress.com

EASTWEST

APRIL 2015
eastwest@riseup.net

an anarchist newspaper

ALWAYS FREE
37° 48' 43" N, 122° 17' 42" W



On Saturday, March 7th, 2014, a group of people came together to paint a mural on the exterior wall of Qilombo, a radical social center on West Grand and San Pablo in Oakland. Over the next several days, the mural was completed by a variety of artists. During this time, people began to congregate in Qilombo's garden every day. A dozen garden beds are now bursting with food and people are always there. This place is now called Afrikatown, and Qilombo is at the center of it.

On March 26th, landscapers hired by the owner of the lot arrived with a bulldozer and began to open the fence around the Afrikatown garden but were stopped before they could drive in. A group of people stood in front of the bulldozer and eventually the police arrived. Ultimately, the lot owner backed down and promised to return on Friday, April 3rd. Undercover law enforcement have been seen observing Afrikatown from unmarked cars, as well as two white males in a white van and a silver pick-up truck. The latter are probably contractors.

The entire Afrikatown territory is within one of the "op-

portunity areas" of the West Oakland Specific Plan (WOSP). Because of this, the block that houses Qilombo and several low-income apartment buildings is now under increased threat of eviction. Just six blocks from Afrikatown is the old Sear's building, now being called "Uptown Station," which is slated to be filled with a luxury food court, BART access, and tech offices. In between, a small park that had been the site of a long-standing homeless camp was recently fenced off. This fence was briefly torn down, like St Andrews further north on San Pablo, but has now returned. The forces of capitalism are gathering around San Pablo - but so is the resistance.

Afrikatown is a militant example of land struggle, aimed at uplifting the black population of West Oakland. The capitalists first tore apart West Oakland, and now they are trying to cleanse of it any undesirables. Efforts like Afrikatown should spread to every neighborhood fighting gentrification. It is only by fighting that any of us will survive the attacks of the city and the police.

INTERVIEW WITH LINDA GRANT

ON THE STRUGGLE FOR AFRIKTOWN

FW: What is Afrikatown? Can you describe it for us? The mural, garden, the signs, etc.

Linda Grant: AFRIKATOWN is an autonomous zone for Afrikans to come and gather, share resources and organize the community against gentrification. We are also creating a counter-culture against capitalism and colonization. The mural over the garden represents unity and collectiveness of Afrikan culture, and pays respects to the indigenous land that we occupy. We use the garden to teach the community about sustainable resources, healthy alternatives, and empowerment from growing your own goods. The signs around Afrikatown help Afrikans identify that we are Afrikan, not American.

FW: What was the inspiration for creating it?

LG: We as Afrikans have lost a sense of self due to displacement in our communities, both presently and historically. Afrikatown was created to combat gentrification and keep long-time residents of Oakland in their own communities.

FW: When did people start defending it? What happened that led to people holding the space?

LG: We have been defending Afrikatown since about a year ago when we found out that the owner wanted to sell the lot after we put in all of the work to clean it and make it a useful space for the people in the area. We have been under constant threat by the realtor and the owner who previously failed to keep up the public maintenance of the lot.

FW: What is happening in the neighborhood in regards to gentrification and the police that will give people a bit of context for the defense of Afrikatown?

LG: There is a plan called the West Oakland Specific Plan

that is in effect all across West Oakland that is being fueled by the city to spread gentrification more throughout our communities. We have been going to West Oakland neighborhood meetings and finding out more about the planning to displace Afrikan people throughout Oakland, and letting people know that they need to fight back and defend their homes and spaces. The police play a major role for gentrification because the new people moving into our neighborhoods are feeling uncomfortable with being around the people that they have pushed out.

FW: What has been the response from the neighborhood? What do people in the surrounding area think about Afrikatown?

LG: The response in the neighborhood around Afrikatown has been amazing. The community members and business owners have come to us and told us that they support us 100% and they are glad that we are doing the best we can to change the community.

FW: What does the future hold for Afrikatown? How can people support what is happening there?

LG: The future for Afrikatown is still very bright in spite of the constant repression that we are facing. We hope that the space inspires

more Afrikatowns, as it builds a sustainable community and takes ownership of OUR future for self-determination. People can help support Afrikatown by coming through to Qilombo any day this week and plugging in, also bringing food, resources and ideas are welcome.

You can contact us at qilombo.org or check out our twitter @Afrikatown

Or contact Sekou at (510) 849-7810 or Linda at (510) 228-5915 or Danae at (510)302-9033.



of San Diego before eventually finding Occupy. In this popular movement, Dante was able to meet hundreds of people energized at the prospect of over-throwing the reign of the bankers and real-estate speculators. A large caravan from Occupy San Diego left for Oakland in an attempt to occupy the empty Henry J. Kaiser convention center on January 28th, 2012. The riot police prevented this from occurring by firing tear gas and rubber bullets at the crowd, and Dante was arrested with over 400 people later that night. After his arrest, Dante remained in his birthplace, the Bay Area.

Phil Tagami, on the other hand, patrolled the Rotunda building with his shotgun during Occupy demonstrations. Since those auspicious circumstances, Tagami has pressed onward with his scheme to revamp the Oakland Army Base logistics center. Approved by the City Council in 2012, Tagami's plans to redevelop the old West Oakland army base include dozens of warehouses and new train yards to handle cargo to and from the Port of Oakland. Construction officially began on November 1st, 2013 and currently the old army base is demolished, the site leveled, and the first structures will soon begin to rise. This new logistics site will allow for more capital to enter the port and be shipped quicker than ever before, cutting out truckers and instead opting for rail transportation. Oakland will become even more important to the global capitalist economy. Riding high off the success of his new project, Tagami still has time to scheme about putting Dante in jail.

Dante is yet to be convicted of the crime of smashing the Rotunda windows, but if he is, Tagami has a direct line to Nancy O'Malley and can recommend punishment. Many of his peers have publicly encouraged Tagami to make an example out of Dante. It makes sense why these scumbag developers would feel so threatened by a poor rebel like Dante. Dante has no interest in allowing them to carry out their development plots without resistance. Dante only wants to help the poor people around him who are exploited, jailed, and killed by the reigning economic system. He cares nothing for the lines, numbers, and sums of the developers. In 2014, Dante Cano made

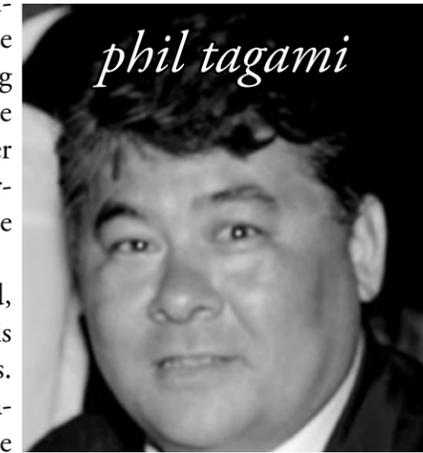
headlines by jumping on the dais of Oakland City Council during a meeting on the West Oakland Specific Plan, scaring Noel Gallo out of his seat. His rebellious spirit comes for a genuine place and Dante has little stomach for the injustices and deceptions of the reigning capitalist nightmare.

It is no surprise that Phil Tagami was one of the main backers of the West Oakland Specific Plan (WOSP), which was denounced by many as a way to further gentrify West Oakland and the surrounding area. As an article on indybay.org by Lynda Carlson stated: "Millionaire Phillip Tagami, and wealthy Wall Street investors Hamid Moghadam, Douglas D. Abbey, and T. Robert Burke have teamed up together for the massive gentrification projects. These are the wealthy investors who are the movers and shakers in the combined redevelopment schemes to gentrify... West Oakland. Once WOSP becomes the law of the land, the plan is to target the Opportunity Sites for redevelopment and maximum exploitation by wealthy developers. WOSP will be used as a marketing tool to attract developers to the Opportunity Sites. Low-income people need not apply, and have been abandoned to fend for themselves once this gentrification scheme gains traction."

Tagami makes tens of millions of dollars by displacing communities of color and the poor and working class more broadly. Tagami lives in a mansion in the Oakland Hills that overlooks Lake Merritt and is right next to Governor Jerry Brown's house. From atop his tower of wealth and power, Tagami gazes down at the city he is helping to rapidly change. His vision of development ends with a city drastically divided along lines of race and class. People like Dante aren't the enemy; they're heroes that stand up against the rich and powerful.

Dante's next court date is on Thursday, April 16th, 2014, at 9AM in Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, located at 1225 Fallon Street, Department 12. Come show support for one of the Bay Area's young rebels. The capitalist overlords are poised to make an example of him.

Let's show them why we call solidarity a weapon.



Oakland's port plan, by the numbers

The Port of Oakland and the city are building a 330-acre development at the former Oakland Army Base, with updated warehouses and improved rail lines to vastly expand the port's capacity and efficiency. Here are some project statistics:

Cost	\$500 million (half federal, state and city funds, half from private developers)
Construction jobs	1,121 (so far)
Permits	137
Public meetings	140
Regulatory agencies	22
Master plan	1,700 pages
Demolished buildings	320,000 square feet
Salvaged wood	800,000 board feet
Recycled concrete and asphalt	25,000 tons
Recycled metal	383 tons
Estimated Oakland rent income	\$2 million per year
Decrease in local truck trips	112,000 per year
Increase in annual port volume	200,000 containers



DANTE'S INFERNO

or THE TWISTED SAGA of DANTE CANO vs. PHIL TAGAMI

On February 13th, Dante Cano was arrested in front of the Rotunda Building in Downtown Oakland during a protest against police violence. He was mobbed by several OPD officers, tackled to the ground, and then hauled off to Santa Rita Jail. In a statement posted online while he was in jail, Cano wrote: "I was violently attacked for supposedly breaking a Men's Warehouse window. I was tackled and beaten by OPD, then put in a van and taken four to five blocks away. I was then asked if a bat and a black bag was mine. I said, "Fuck no." Police beat me once more in the van and then took me to jail."

Cano is accused of breaking not just any windows, but busting out two \$5,000 windows of the Rotunda Building, owned by a developer named Phil Tagami. Dante Cano, who stated in court that he worked as a dish washer, has hardly any money to his name. Phil Tagami is a multi-millionaire, and his investment company, California Capital and Investment Group, CCIG, owns countless buildings around the Bay Area. Tagami spearheaded the gentrification and development of Downtown Oakland and Uptown and now has pushed through the West Oakland Specific Plan (WOSP), which will further accelerate the gentrification of West Oakland. And, for some reason, Phil Tagami has taken a personal interest in Dante Cano.

On his personal Facebook account, Phil Tagami wrote the following: "The man arrested for breaking the windows at the Rotunda last week was Dante Cano of San Francisco. He is 21 years old... Well what can we do to address the cost recovery, fair restitution for his act of property destruction? What is the responsible course of action to be taken? Should we

1) let it slide, 2) work out a payment or work arrangement, or 3. press the DA to make an example of him? please advise ...I have an open mind that is closing fast...read the thread below this is not his first rodeo and he is a repeat mind you repeat offender [sic]."



After making this request of his Facebook network, a whole range of folks, from the District Attorney, local developers, pro-gentrification 'activists,' and Oakland well-to-dos began to chime in. District Attorney Nancy O'Malley herself commented in on the Facebook thread to update Phil Tagami on Dante's progress through the judicial system. It seems that a few broken windows is enough to merit the attention of the head of the District Attorney's office. Alongside her comments were dozens of others that encouraged Phil Tagami to "throw the book at 'em." Some even had the nerve to call Dante Cano a "trust-fund baby."

Dante Cano is the son of Duran Ruiz, a longtime sex-worker activist from San Francisco who died in 2007. In her own words, "I have accumulated 14 years total in prison and I'm only 38. I don't do bad things. I've never stolen. I'm a prostitute because it's honest and I'm honest." She was in prison while she was pregnant with Dante in 1994. After giving birth, her son was taken away and put up for adoption. His foster father, a well-known gay-rights activist, placed him inside a group home in San Francisco at the age of 7. Inside various group homes, Dante was often forcibly administered psychiatric drugs and physically restrained for his acts of rebellion. Dante often attempted to escape and fight the guards in these institutions until his escape from a San Diego group home at the age of 16.

By 2011, Dante had learned to live on the streets

OAKLAND LOOKS FOR TECH INVESTMENT AS ANTI-TECH SENTIMENT RISES

Just blocks away from Afrikatown, the latest development scheme is emerging on the horizon: **Uptown Station**. Owned by development group Lane Partners, the building is being redesigned by architecture firm Gensler, who have projects like Facebook's Menlo Park headquarters under their belt, not to mention international airports and skyscrapers. Previously home to Sears, it was recently announced that Newberry Market & Deli will act as a massive food hall anchoring the ground floor of the building. Newberry is the latest venture of entrepreneur Ann Thai, who runs multiple businesses in the Jack London area, including a high-end salon. Much of the building is office space and the local elite continue to encourage Silicon Valley tech companies to move in. This will only accelerate the

obscene gentrification that the "Uptown" neighborhood has seen over the last several years.

But not everyone is as excited for the influx of tech money to the city's economy. While the blockades of tech buses last year captured national headlines, in the past few weeks, some people in Oakland have escalated the struggle against the symbols of gentrification. On the morning of March 16th, a Facebook bus was blockaded for fifteen minutes at MacArthur BART Station where it had its tires punctured. A few days later, a Google bus was attacked with paint during the morning commute in Temescal. Both actions were followed by communiques expressing their opposition towards the tech industry and the gentrification it brings, as well as the intention to continue resistance.



BASED ON THE OBSERVATIONS OF SEVERAL DOZEN PEOPLE WHO LIVE OR COMMUTE IN THIS AREA, WE HAVE DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING:

From 7:30 to 9:45 AM there are multiple Google and Facebook shuttle busses that stop along 40th Street underneath the 24 freeway. They usually carry 1-30 tech employees at a time. The Google bus travels north on Telegraph, takes a left on 42nd, a right on MLK, and then onto 24. The Facebook bus takes a right on Telegraph and proceeds to West Grand.

Google



7:45 AM
8:15 AM
8:45 AM
9:15 AM
9:45 AM

7:30 AM
8:00 AM
8:30 AM
9:00 AM
9:30 AM

BAY AREA NEWS ROUNDUP:

A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

MARCH 2ND: During the first week of March, students across California mobilized for “96 Hours of Action” by organizing demonstrations to shut down campuses across the UC system against tuition hikes and an increasingly militarized police force. According to a statement released by students in Santa Cruz, “The same people benefiting from racial oppression are the same people benefiting from education debts. The state of California is failing its people by investing in police and prisons instead of public education. It’s time to reject this assault on our communities and stand together for education and the end of police violence.”

MARCH 5TH: The Oakland City Attorney brought an abrupt end to the controversial Oakland gang injunctions. The injunctions criminalized various young men of color who the police deemed gang members and restricted who they could associate with and what spaces they could be in. Many denounced the injunctions for being placed within neighborhoods what were rapidly gentrifying, helping to facilitate an air of displacement and repression in the Town.

MARCH 9TH: Jabari Shaw, a long time black liberation and anti-police brutality activist in Oakland and the greater Bay Area was violently rammed by unmarked police cars. Jabari, the person driving the car along with Jabari’s children were all seriously injured.

A report online wrote: “According to East Bay Express and eyewitness testimony, U.S. Marshals were surveilling a home in East Oakland when community organizer Jabari Shaw exited the building with his four-year-old daughter. Shaw and his daughter entered the car, driven by close friend Mary Valencourt. Federal officers, dressed in plainclothes, approached the car with weapons drawn but failed to identify themselves clearly as law enforcement. Unsure of their identity and fearing for her life, Valencourt accelerated away from the scene, prompting several unmarked cars to pursue them. When officers identified themselves as law enforcement by flashing their lights, Valencourt attempted to stop at a red light, but the car was rammed from behind by pursuing officers, propelling the vehicle through the intersection and into the back of a Paratransit van. Eyewitnesses confirmed that officers rammed the car with their vehicle, causing a collision that severely injured

Shaw, Valencourt and Shaw’s young daughter. Shaw’s four-year-old daughter broke her leg in the collision, and Valencourt was seriously injured with the potential for permanent disability.”

Jabari wrote: “I’m no stranger to police oppression and repression. Law enforcement efforts to suppress activism are documented. Since I’ve been in this movement these things have been happening to me - harassment, surveillance, intimidation by police. We’ll probably never know the whole truth of what happened to my family yesterday, but I have a hard time believing this attack wasn’t related to my position as a community leader on police accountability.”

MARCH 9TH: In Palo Alto, residents of a trailer park rallied and protested at city hall against their threatened eviction. The mobile home park provides affordable housing for 100 families.

MARCH 14TH: In response to the destruction of a small forested area next to the Gill Tract farm, farmers and neighbors of the historic Gill Tract turned out in large numbers to disrupt business as usual and eventually shutdown a local Sprouts supermarket.

A crowd of 100-150 protesters, including a brass band, “Occupy the Farm” activists, and a large delegation of workers from the Fast Food Workers Union converged on a normally quiet Sprouts Supermarket in suburban Walnut Creek. Protesters held a sit-in to block the main entrance to the store, rallying around a 600 pound stump they had set down in the entranceway. The stump came from an approximately hundred year old Gill Tract tree that had been recently cut down by contractors preparing to pave the Gill Tract for the construction of the Sprouts store. Meanwhile, at the other set of doors, protesters bearing branches from felled Gill Tract trees held a robust picket line turning away many would be customers. Speeches were made and people made their way into the store. Unfortunately, several arrests

were made after a large force of CHP showed up.

MARCH 16TH: People blocked a Facebook tech bus at the MacArthur BART station. A flyer handed out stated:

*“F*** the Zuck Bus: This bus brings Facebook employees from where they live to where they work and back again. Though this may seem harmless on the surface, shuttles like this one and the others used by Google, Apple, and other tech corporations are an insidious driving force behind gentrification in Bay Area neighborhoods. A free, easy ride to work—something none of the rest of us get—is an incentive for mostly white, mostly male high-income tech works to move into “up-and-coming” Oakland neighborhoods.*

To make way for the new neighbors, landlords raise rents and evict vulnerable low-income residents whenever possible, especially the elderly and poor black and brown people. Decades-old community support networks have been destroyed throughout the city thanks to displacement spurred on by techie egomania.

The story is similar in cities throughout the United States where urban living is becoming increasingly popular for white middle and upper class people who have flooded the places white populations fled in the 60s and 70s. This new urban wealth has driven up the cost of living. Police departments, in collusion with local business and political elites, have made policing the growing gentrified areas a priority, harassing, arresting, and even murdering “undesirables” for petty crimes like selling cigarettes (Eric Garner in NYC), shop-lifting (Yvette Henderson in Emeryville and Mike Brown in Ferguson), trying to get your own stuff back from a thief (Amilcar Perez-Lopez in the Mission), and relaxing while brown (Alex Nieto). It seems that wherever condos go up, so does police violence against poor people and people of color. Facebook, through its gentrification-spreading employee shuttle bus, is directly complicit in all of this.”

MARCH 17TH: In Berkeley, people rallied and marched

against a set of proposed ordinances that would further criminalize homeless people in the downtown area.

MARCH 17TH: In Richmond, people gathered and marched against the police murder of Richard “Pedie” Perez by police in 2014.

MARCH 18TH: San Francisco police shot and killed a woman, Alice Brown, who was fleeing from plain clothes police. Family members and witnesses dispute the version of events presented by police.

MARCH 20TH: A tech bus was attacked in Oakland. A communique posted on indybay.org reads: “A google bus was paint bombed in the Temescal district during the morning commute. The bus was full of googles. Google, Facebook, and the other tech companies were told to leave. They did not. They were told why they should leave. They did not care. So now we don’t care. Expect more of this until the tech companies discontinue their free shuttle services. Our streets are filling with apolitical people glued to their smartphones. They are driving up the rents. We cannot pay our rents. We are being evicted. We are being displaced. They are living the high life. Every time they walk down the street, we see their wealth, their privilege, their comfort. Behind them, we see homelessness, addiction, violence, and despair. They care only for themselves. We care for the people. To the union bus drivers, we mean no harm to you, but do not stand between us and the ruling class. You have more in common with us than with them. Act like it.”

MARCH 21ST: A unit behind the AK Press, 25 year plus anarchist publisher caught fire leading to the tragic death of two people. The fire spread to the AK Press warehouse damaging the publishing house along with the 1984 printing press. Currently, AK Press is collecting funds to help them out on their feet again. At the time of this writing, the building is red-tagged. As one AK Press collective member stated: “If this building is gone, it’s not just the building, it’s the ideas of the people who live in the building.”

MARCH 22ND: Richmond police shot a man who was fleeing from officers.

