

FREE

JANUARY  
2000-CRIME

THE REBEL  
AN ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN PERIODICAL

## Some Notes on this Project

Welcome to 2000-Crime! We start this year with a call out to all of the people out there trying to get by. Those who are forced to give money, whether it be through bills, taxes or fines, to rich bastards. Bastards who make their profit off of those selling their days for scraps. This is to all of you out there that want more, and who are willing to take more. This is a journal printed and written in the North-West, specifically the Puget Sound area. It is our intention to offer a critical look into the inner workings of our society, deconstructing such things as religion, violence, economics, schooling, gender, race, homelessness and class. We will be offering analysis often left out of mainstream political and social discourse, contributing to dialogue surrounding ideas such as freedom, liberty, crime, autonomy and anarchism.

We wish to see a world absent of bosses, of police, of judges and of law. Instead of these things being that which leads us through this miserable existence of work, bills, awful relationships, work, sleepless nights, and more work, we believe that we are more than capable of organizing ourselves. We can organize ourselves as communities and individuals with out law and without government; that is to say, in a way that allows all of us to take an equal part in the creation of our

"The world does not belong to us. If it has a master who is stupid enough to want it the way it is, let him have it. Let him count the ruins in place of buildings, graveyards in the place of cities, the mud in the place of rivers and the putrid sludge instead of seas."

- Alfredo M. Bonanno, *Armed Joy*

lives and expands our power. Our desire for absolute freedom and the politician's, the lawmaker's and the bureaucrat's obsession for absolute power over others are irreconcilable. This is why we call ourselves anarchists.

This project is supported and made possible by local folk donating time and money in order to keep critical thinking and analysis alive within our communities. If you appreciate this journal show your support. Discuss the contents with friends and family, send a letter, submit a story about your day to day experiences, share the journal with complete strangers, start a reading group and engage in dialogue and debate, and act on your thoughts and feelings. If you are financially able and wish to help support our printing costs just send us an e-mail. Remember, these ideas and sentiments do no good just living on paper, they must outstretch to all aspects of our every day lives. You may contact us through E-mail: [TheRebel@Riseup.net](mailto:TheRebel@Riseup.net). You may also visit us on the internet: [Myspace.com/RebelPeriodical](http://Myspace.com/RebelPeriodical).

-Police Murderers Met with Force .....	pg 2-4
-Police and Social Control - by V.L .....	pg 5-6
-For a Reconsideration of Happiness .....	pg 6
-Excerpt: The Revolution of Everyday Life .....	pg 7
-What Did You Know? - by R.B .....	pg 8-9
-There Is No Model Majority in a Militarized Zone - by S.R .....	pg 10-11
-Texas I.C.E Detention Prison Riot - by V.L .....	pg 12-13
-Half of Greek Prison Population to be Released After Hunger Strike .....	pg 13-14
-Prison Put On Lockdown - by V.L .....	pg 14-15
-Detention of Life - by T.S .....	pg 15-16
-The Banality of Sameness - by V.L .....	pg 16-17
-Some Thoughts on Individuality - by T.S .....	pg 17
-Art in Tacoma .....	pg 18
-Greek Erupts into Riots after Police Murder Young Anarchist.....	pg 18-21
-Next Time You Find Yourself On The Front Line Of The Social War.....	pg 22
-Excerpt: Are You Ready for Social War? .....	pg 22-23
-Crews: A Tactic in the Expansion of Our Power .....	pg 23
-On the Housing Crisis .....	pg 24
-If All Goes Well, I Take the Money .....	pg 25
-La Haine Review .....	pg 26

# Father of Five Slain by Chicago Police

October 2008

Thirty-four year old Larnester Hull was shot in the back of the head, in the west Chicago area, by an off duty police officer. A very vague report of what happened appeared in the local news paper.

"Police say officers were chasing an armed man in the alley behind the 800 -block of North Homan. There was a struggle and an officer shot his gun at the offender, killing him. The suspect is identified at 34-year-old Larnester Hull of Bellwood. Two officers also suffered minor injuries in the incident."

There was no confirmation of Larnester being armed or why he was shot in the back of the head. The police also left the blood stained sidewalk and cardboard in the alley. This was seen by Larnester's family and children. At a protest march one person even carried the cardboard in front of a cop car.

The police claim to be investigating the encounter but some of the comments made by people at the protest shine a different light on the Chicago police.

"Make no mistake about it, The Chicago Police do not like black people. It doesn't matter if they're [the police] white, black or whatever, they're all blue. They're police. This is the USA, and they're still killing black people." -Mark Carter, one of the protest leaders.

"They blew my daddy away 38 years ago, in 1969, they say this isn't going on anymore. If we don't organize, we commit suicide. No one's going to save us but us."- Chairman Fred Hampton, Jr. of the Prisoners Of Conscience Committee, son of the Black Panther Party leader who was murdered in his sleep by Chicago Police.

Holding one of Hull's young children, his older brother Wallace Lagrone yelled at police, "Will you be in this community now to take care of this child? Are you going to take care of his kids?"

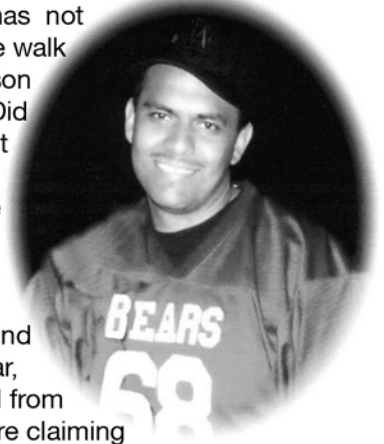
# Jose Ramirez Murdered by Olympia, Wa Police

November 16th, 2008

On the morning of November 16th, around five-forty-five in the morning, twenty-four year old Jose Ramirez had his life taken from him by three Olympia police officers in Washington State. Ramirez was shot once in the neck and once in the back. The police attempted to stop him because the black Honda Del Sol he was driving matched the description of a vehicle whose driver was suspected to have shot a man almost five hours earlier.

Although several others who drive black Honda Del Sols were also pulled over that morning, Ramirez was the only one who had his life stolen from him. Still the police have not been clear as to why it is they took this mans life away from him. After a woman was "removed" the police claim they gave orders to Jose to surrender.

What "removed" means has not been made clear. Did the police walk up to the car and take this person out before ending Jose's life? Did they order the passenger to exit the vehicle? After the order for surrender, three Olympia police officers opened fire murdering Jose Ramirez. As Ramirez lay there dead the police searched the car. Police say that they found a gun in the back seat of the car, though there has been no word from the police as to whether they are claiming his gun was the one used in the shooting earlier in the morning. The police never stated that a weapon of any kind was aimed at them during the incident.



# Riots in Georgia Over Fatal Police Killing

December 13th, 2008

Richmond County Sheriffs shot and killed 23 year old Justin Elmore on Monday in the Cherry Tree Crossing Housing Projects. The Cops, claiming that Justin had stolen the SUV, surrounded him and opened fire. Bullets flew everywhere. Local apartments had windows shot out and a little boy was almost shot in the Head. On Tuesday, the community held a vigil in response to the shooting. After an occupying force of 90 police descended on the neighborhood the people fought back. Locals threw rocks and bottles at both the Police and the Corporate Media. People also set fires to dumpsters and at least one car. Corporate media reports at least 30 shots had been fired during the riot.

This is the kind of resistance that creates community control. We can no longer watch the control over our own lives drift away like some action movie. The only way we will see results is if we take action to make things happen. In order to gain ground we must create space, space that police do not feel safe entering which makes us feel more safe in our own neighborhoods.

# Police Fatally Shoot Man at Oakland BART Station

January 1st, 2009 - New years day

On Thursday a young man named Oscar Grant was murdered by a BART ( Bay Area Rapid Transit ) police officer. After an argument broke out between several people on BART, police responded aggressively. Grant approached the police and was listening to them. He was soon sat against a wall next to another person involved.

Mario Pangelina Jr., a 23-year-old Hayward man whose sister, Sophina Mesa, was Grant's girlfriend and the mother of his child, said he saw some of what led to the shooting. He said officers had Grant against a wall on the platform. Mario said he saw one officer briefly choked Grant, and someone pointed a Taser at him as well. Pangelina quoted Grant as saying, "Please don't tase me, please don't shoot me, I have a daughter."



Police then began to force him to his stomach, and videos show that he did as he was told. As Oscar was on the ground, with two cops on top of him handcuffing him BART police officer Johannes Mehserle unholstered his weapon pointed it at Oscars back and fired. The bullet went through Oscars back ricocheting off the ground and entering into his chest killing him. Mehserle has since resigned after being put on paid leave. The group of people on the crowded train started to throw things at the officers. Oscar was taken from his 4 year old daughter and his girlfriend. The BART spokesperson has maintained the officers innocence even though several videos show the obvious murder of yet another young black man by officers in Oakland.

BART's police chief asked for patience from the public on Sunday after the video footage surfaced showing one of his officers fatally shooting Oscar, who was on the ground, unarmed

Chief Gary Gee said he, too, had seen video images of the shooting of Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old supermarket worker from Hayward. But Gee said he found the footage to be inconclusive, and he said his investigators still needed to interview a key witness - the officer himself.

The one of the Corporate news stations decided to show a picture of Oscar, although he was holding his four year old daughter in the original picture, the one the news showed had his daughter taken out of it.

I cannot stress enough how disgusting the actions of law enforcement are. Oscar is gone forever and he is not coming back. On his belt was pepper spray, TASER, handcuffs. He CHOSE the gun. This officer made a calm and calculated choice to end a mans life. There are some who are trying to say that this officer thought that he had grabbed his taser. This seems to be nothing more than utter bullshit.

According to a experienced Cop Watcher, Drew Hendricks from Olympia Cop Watch, "The [claims] that the officer mistook his handgun for his TASER is ignorant of two important facts: The TASER model X26 already has a significantly modified grip,

and has been out for three or four years now, for exactly this reason. That departments have held onto older models despite the improvement is true, but in Olympia WA the warranty turnover for the older M26 was almost 11% annually the last I looked at it - in 2005! I'm amazed anyone still fields any weapon with such poor reliability. BART is thus negligent as an agency quite apart from the cop, who used a "TASER" (oops! a handgun!) from a standing position over a prone man. That's not justified force even if it HAD been a TASER. The cop's reaction is normal for officers who

**meant** to shoot someone to death. I've reviewed video from shootings and it's quite common. It takes a while to become numb to murder when you can smell the blood and see the wounds - this is why most US combat is trained to be at longer range. It reduces the mental effects on the soldier somewhat (and it's safer for the soldier).

Second, the nonlethal option is ALWAYS holstered differently from the lethal option - not to prevent a lethal response to a nonlethal situation, but to prevent the opposite: what if the officer tries to shoot someone 30 feet away with a TASER that is ineffective at that range? He'll get himself shot, and that's what Police Departments train to avoid. Suspects safety is simply not as important. Cops sue departments more successfully more often than the families of their victims. Rise up - the rights you have are the ones you'll defend; no fewer, no greater."

---

"...thats why we gonna be, Burnin and a-lootin tonight; say we gonna burn and loot,Burnin and a-lootin tonight; one more thing, Burnin all pollution tonight; oh, yeah, yeah, Burnin all illusion tonight. Oh, stop them!" - Bob Marley, Burnin' & Lootin'

---

This is more proof than the Oakland community will ever need that the Police do not have their best interest at heart. This fucking piece of shit is now on PAID ADIMINISTRATIVE LEAVE. He has yet to face any repercussions

and if past events are any indication, he won't. I sincerely hope this murderers identity is found out and that justice is delivered in the darkness of an alleyway.

Update: The Officer has since put in his resignation and went into hiding.

On the 7th of January, nearly one thousand people took to the streets of Oakland to voice their opposition to the police. Manifestations of their rage where shown in a physical way by building barricades in the street and setting them on fire. A fire was lit in a dumpster on wheels that was rolled into the middle of the street and the crowd swarmed a police car that was nearly tipped over as they beat on the vehicle with sticks and rocked it violently back and forth. They threw stones at the police and attacked the vehicles they where driving. There was a confrontation with a police car and a burning dumpster was shoved into it as people shook and jumped on the car. Police then moved in, shooting tear gas into the crowd.

This sizable group began to move closer to the wealthy area of Oakland where many cars had their windows smashed, some of them being set aflame, and corporate restaurants and places of business had their buildings attacked. Corporate media was also attacked as they tried to video tape peoples faces. The rage continued into the night as dozens of people took over and blocked the intersection of 14th and Broadway for over an hour with several people lying on the ground to show how Oscar was lying when he was shot.

A line of hundreds of riot police then moved in and pushed the crowd up 14th. The crowd pushed back and dozens of car windows were broken and a minivan was set on fire. The police then charged, and as people dispersed, windows were broken at a McDonald's, and at least two more cars were set on fire. People in the street chant "We are all Oscar! Grant"

The rebellion continues into the night as this is being written....

Video of Oscar Grants Murder

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2009/01/06/18559091.php>

## Two Messages from Greek Comrades Strugling Against the Police State

Greetings comrades.

I just happened to see the video of this young black male getting shot by the hands of the state and its protectors and i have to admit that I am shocked. Five weeks before, in an area of Athens, Exarheia, a cop shot a friend of mine, Alex Grigoropoulos. Five weeks later, the Revolt is still going on here, with squats, riots, propaganda, attacks with gas bombs and molotovs in banks/police dept/goverment buildings and even urban gorillas shooting

**"A riot is the beginning of a dialogue. This explosion, which could possibly spark off others, is the first, negative, sound of the word free, the first requirement before any qualitative change. Today, without revolt, no public discussion is possible; there is only the monotonous monologue of those who govern the existent."**  
- Nights of Rage

some riot police cops with AK's. I surely know that its hard for the US standarts to do as we did, because, for us to do so, we have put work for many years. I mean, before all that, we went out like this

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrFu2xXP91g> or [this](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RH401yPQw24&feature=related)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WO3heT3uXEs&feature=related>

ated

And thats how you becoming a political power with respect in a society/state. You have to put out your word and your actions both. And its a painfull way, trust me. You may get arrested, or beat up. This, for us here, is something that we expect. But we don't give up, and



we have one of the worlds most effective and powerfull anarchist movements. So, what I have to say to you, is FIGHT! Never stop, never surrender. If you know who you are, and why you are fighting, there is no fear!

REVOLUTION WORLDWIDE! SOLIDARITY-RESISTANCE - SELFRESPECT!

**From Another Greek Anarchist**

Greetings and solidarity to all of you fighting against police brutality. Comrades of Oakland and other U.S. cities. We are wholeheartedly with you to your fight. Oscar's blood joins the hot blood of 16 years old Alexis. You have our solidarity From all anarchist Greek movement. Destroy the decline of urban life and from the capitalism's ashes, all together will make a new world without bosses, Gods, states. **POLICE EVERYWHERE JUSTICE NOWHERE. THEY ARE FEW, WE ARE MILLIONS**

# Police & Social Control

by Victor L.

Police have historically played an integral role in maintaining social order, maintaining the way of things. They have always enforced laws whose necessary functions are that of furthering the power of the rich, the property owners, big business and the politicians (the politicians often times falling into one or both of the prior categories). Back in the days of subversive union organizing, rebel workers were met with state repression manifesting itself in the form of police and national guard violence. In the fight against racial prejudice – a fight far from finished – dissent and disobedient voices were met with water cannons and dogs and much like the unions, police beatings and assassinations. And now at every political demonstration in this country police armed with chemical weapons, live ammo and armor will be there to watch very closely those who seek a different world, ready to engage in what the police call “crowd control”. They, with the law behind them and armed in such a way as to resemble a paramilitary force, have continued this function to this day using coercive violence such as the threat of imprisonment, the fear of bankrupting fines and the empty dread one feels in their stomach when their own life is aligned with the barrel of a pigs gun. This coercive violence is present every day as it is used to dissuade the re-appropriation of unused land, abandoned property, surplus food that is being thrown away and public space that has been so incessantly policed it is now nothing more than dead, empty and motionless. The police will continue as they have in the past. Acting as a tool of furthering the disenfranchisement of the already disinherited. Walking the streets as a legalized gang, with guns, armored vehicles, city funding and most importantly the law, to take the place any sort of good intentions.

The obvious conflict between those attempting to find some place to call their own, to find some sense of normalcy, and those who serve law, occurs every day when the police creep through back alleys or look into the windows of seemingly empty buildings, looking for those who may have set up a temporary camp to take shelter from the cold; to make a space for themselves to feel safe. They are looking for the “undesirables”, those unwanted by the wealthy politicians, bureaucrats, and the city planners. Those who are houseless have been deemed unwanted people who are now considered an eye sore and a blight, not just to the city officials themselves but to their entire concept of social progress; social progress being the idea that today society is better than it was yesterday, that the leaders learned from their mistakes and made adjustments accordingly to benefit all people. The idea that they have come too far to be dealing with such taboo issues as homelessness, poverty and seemingly criminal youths. If these issues do seem to exist, they must be self inflicted, a product of an ungrateful attitude. Not to be confused or misinterpreted as social inequality, prejudice, or heaven forbid, an underlying

hatred of the perceived lower class and the poor.

These individuals, the homeless; the squatter; the transient; the graffiti writer; the youth; the migrant worker, are the constant reminder that things are in fact not okay and that there is indeed much room for needed change. And I am speaking about actual *material* change not the faux “change” the politicians speak of so regularly nowadays. The police see these undesirables as a problem that must be dealt with. Something to be gotten rid of. For if they remained, they would be evidence enough to put all city officials and administration on trial for incompetence, the law merely acts as a tool



for the police to execute the will of the wealthy. So it is here that, in order to further the facade of social progress, the police play their role as enforcers of the law. The law that has been constructed to tighten the grip of the rich over the poor and to build a wall between those who have and those who have not. Evictions of camps or evictions of homes, either way the law enforcers play a similar role. You are not to live, sleep and breath in this society with any bit of comfort without the money to foot the bill. Regardless of circumstances, if you are “loitering” in an abandoned building or a foreclosed house or a highway overpass or even public space it makes no difference at all in the eyes and logic of the law. You are to leave quietly and submissively or be forced with physical violence and possibly jailed if you fail to comply. It should be noted that we may see glimpses of these public spaces being used from time to time of course, but only when it is heavily regulated and is obviously to the cities benefit financially. You must produce permits credentials and papers to prove that you are in fact given permission by the city to do what it is you want to do with the “public” space. These things cost money of course, money that is already hard to come by as it is.

If you are a young person, try walking around the streets of your neighborhood or downtown. When a squad car drives past you what does it tend to do? Does it slow down maybe to get a good look at you, or at least make you feel as if you are being watched? Has an officer ever just stopped you and your friends, demanded identification and told you that you are going to have to be searched? Does the B.I.A (a downtown Tacoma private security group) hassle you about supposed graffiti – graffiti that may or may not even actually exist – then say if you refuse a search they will call the police so the police can search you? Do they ask you “where the pot is?” or “who's got the weed?” in a disgusting attempt to shake you down for something incriminating? Of course this is done always with their blinding lights in your eyes so you can not really see who is around or how many of them there are. Does it make you feel as if you can not even leave your damn house without having to have some bullshit conversation with some

asshole with a badge and a gun that thinks your stoned, drunk and selling drugs? There is nowhere to go that is safe from police harassment unless you have the money to go out to dinner, a bar, a movie, or any other place that requires deep pockets. How often do we see the yuppies at their clubs or their steak houses being searched for seemingly no reason. Do police just walk through crowds of rich people shining their flashlights in their eyes looking for those under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The police act as a force to remove those who do not wish, or have any intention to, spend money or contribute to any exchange of commerce. They reinforce the unspoken law that in order to be *allowed* to enjoy yourself you must have the funds; therefore young broke kids should stay out of sight. I am in no way trying to convince you that this type of disgusting activity happens, I am merely pointing out that which is already evident to so much of the youth today, that they are prime suspects in crimes that have not yet even occurred when they walk the streets with their friends late at night. This is a reaffirmation to already existing conflicts, an acknowledgment of sorts. The criminalization of the poor youth like all of those seen as undesirables, happens nightly in Tacoma and all around this country.

The local police, in complete cooperation with I.C.E (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) carry out armed raids of homes and workplaces daily in this country. They participate in road checkpoints where people are stopped and asked for identification and proof of citizenship. They raid quinceñetas then interrogate children about the legal status of their loved ones, they wait for kids to get out of school or call them into the office in an attempt to lure their parents in for questioning about their citizenship, they lock entire families up to wait for their trials that may take months if not more. Of course the question of why it is that people feel they need to leave their

families and homes to go work in a foreign country is never addressed. Law does not take into account free trade, capitalism and the unavoidably negative effects of production on the workers and farmers of other countries, as well as workers and farmers in this country. There is no dialog within these court hearings about necessity. Only talks of legality and order. It is never a question of why, it is merely a question of how; how it is that this problem is to be *dealt* with.

It should be of no surprise at all that those who wish to make money off of the development of this city, its gentrification and yuppification are going to support laws that will further their own control over the social situation. This is to say they want to further their ability to decide what goes on here in Tacoma, WA., specifically regarding anything that may effect the amount of money the city is pulling in. And when I say “the city” I am not talking of its working class inhabitants nor am I talking about its houseless, unemployed or artist inhabitants. I am explicitly referring to its wealthy elite. The high class of parasites that leach off of those who are forced to do their dirty work. Those who I would rather do without. They, the developers, the big business and the politicians that are in the pockets of the rich, wish to live in a world where they have no need to worry about conflict, no worries about the inherent tension amongst themselves and the poor. This is what they call peace: an absolute removal of all that which stands between them and their will to control, or an absolute pacification of those of us who, in any sane state of mind, would attack them for every bit of hardship that the cities code enforcers, their cops, and their judges have put us, our friends and our families through. They see us as merely a problem to be *dealt* with, a potential wild fire that they must preemptively contain and control. This is the role of the police: a systemic problem. One that can *not* be reformed or voted away.

## For a Reconsideration of Happiness:

Endless drives to and from school, parties, the job, the mall, truly a kind of counterfeit reality, a theft, a deferred sentence or unacknowledged punishment. Can life really be as sad as it seems? I sit in line at the temp agency, I go to high school and then community college, I live in a house or an apartment, I have a car or ride the bus or sometimes a bike, I go out to eat, I have some friends, I smoke sometimes, and drink, I’m passing so quickly through the world that I can’t get a good look at anyone or anything – and yet the weight of everything is so great I often feel that, faced with the abstract and the immediate, the deaths, police, pollution, disappointments, extinctions, regrets which make hollow every triumph, even Atlas would collapse. That we can even make it through the day feels like a kind of humiliation.

Each day I find myself in a world which makes even the most sublime joys into packaged experiences, where my passions are just so much money in the bank, where my hopes and memories feel like they are turning to dust faster than I can begin to realize them. The worst part of it all, however, the most terrible of the beast’s faces, is that this society has a million purchasable solutions for the kind of sadness I feel and none of them work. *I did not create this problem* – the whole social order necessitates the kind of pain that everyone I know feels. There are an endless number of people or peoples said to be to blame for various messes, every kind of calculated cynicism and profitable conflict, every type of wrangling over this or that system - **but in the end, as always, the question of whether or not the whole world as it is should be abandoned never comes up.**

# An Excerpt from *The Revolution of Everyday Life*

by Raoul Vaneigem

It was as if they were in a cage whose door was wide open without their being able to escape. Nothing outside the cage had any importance, because nothing else existed any more. They stayed in the cage, estranged from everything except the cage, without even a flicker of desire for anything outside the bars. It would have been abnormal -- impossible in fact -- to escape into something which had neither reality nor importance. Absolutely impossible. For inside this cage, in which they had been born and in which they would die, the only tolerable framework of experience was the Real, which was simply an irresistible instinct to act so that things should have importance. Only if things had some importance could one breathe, and suffer. It seemed that there was an understanding between them and the silent dead that it should be so, for the habit of acting so that things had some importance had become a human instinct, and one which was apparently eternal. Life was the important thing, and the Real was part of the instinct which gave life a little meaning. The instinct didn't try to imagine what might lie beyond the Real, because there was nothing beyond it. Nothing important. The door remained open and the cage became more and more painful in its Reality which was so important for countless reasons and in countless ways.

We have never emerged from the times of the slavers.

On the public transport which throws them against one another with statistical indifference, people wear an untenable expression of disillusion, pride and contempt, like the natural effect of death on a toothless mouth. The atmosphere of false communication makes everyone the policeman of his own encounters. The instincts of flight and aggression trail the knights of wage-labour, who must now rely on subways and suburban trains for their pitiful wanderings. If men were transformed into scorpions who sting themselves and one another, isn't it really because nothing has happened, and human beings with empty eyes and flabby brains have 'mysteriously' become mere shadows of men, ghosts of men, and in some ways are no longer men except in name?

We have nothing in common except the illusion of being together. Certainly the seeds of an authentic collective life are lying dormant within the illusion itself -- there is no illusion without a real basis -- but real community remains to be created. The power of the lie sometimes manages to erase the bitter reality of isolation from men's minds. In a crowded street we can occasionally forget that suffering and separation are still present. And, since it is only the lie's power which makes us forget, suffering and separation are reinforced; but in the end the lie itself comes to grief through relying on this support. For a moment comes when no illusion can measure up to our distress.

Malaise invades me as the crowds around me grows. The compromises I have made with stupidity under the pressure of circumstances rush to meet me, swimming towards me in hallucinating waves of faceless heads. Edvard Munch's famous

painting, *The Cry*, evokes for me something I feel ten times a day. A man carried along by a crowd, which only he can see, suddenly screams out in an attempt to break the spell, to call himself back to himself, to get back inside his own skin. The tacit acknowledgments, fixed smiles, lifeless words, listlessness and humiliation sprinkled in his path suddenly surge into him, driving him out of his desires and his dreams and exploding the illusion of 'being together'. People touch without meeting; isolation accumulates but is never realized; emptiness overcomes us as the density of the crowd grows. The crowd drags me out of myself and installs thousands of little sacrifices in my empty presence.

Everywhere neon signs are flashing out the dictum of Plotinus: *All beings are together though each remains separate*. But we only need to hold out our hands and touch one another, to raise our eyes and meet one another, and everything comes into focus, as if by magic.

Like crowds, drugs, and love, alcohol can befuddle the most lucid mind. Alcohol turns the concrete wall of isolation into a paper screen which the actors can tear according to their fancy, for it arranges everything on the stage of an intimate theatre. A generous illusion, and thus still more deadly.

In a gloomy bar where everyone is bored to death, a drunken young man breaks his glass, then picks up a bottle and smashes it against the wall. Nobody gets excited; the disappointed young man lets himself be thrown out. Yet everyone there could have done exactly the same thing. He alone made the thought concrete, crossing the first radioactive belt of isolation: interior isolation, the introverted separation between self and outside world. Nobody responded to a sign which he thought was explicit. He remained alone like the hooligan who burns down a church or kills a policeman, at one with himself but condemned to exile as long as other people remain exiled from their own existence. He has not escaped from the magnetic field of isolation; he is suspended in a zone of zero gravity. All the same, the indifference which greets him allows him to hear the sound of his own cry; even if this revelation tortures him, he knows that he will have to start again in another register, more loudly; with more coherence.

# What did you know? What did you care?

by Rachel B.

I hate thinking, writing and talking about politics and politicians. It bores me to tears and feels like an exercise in futility. I find myself sitting down to write this and it's mostly about politics and a particular politician. I'm writing this not because I give a damn about either, but because something that I care very much about is on the line.

An issue that is very near and dear to many hearts at the moment is immigration. Since 9/11, immigrants have been overtly criminalized in this country. It only takes a little propaganda and a huge portion of our population is demonized based on the color of their skin and country of origin. This is not something that Americans should be proud of. In this country there is a dark history of vilifying people that come here to work. The crazy right wing reactionary conspiracy theorists that swear up and down that they aren't racists have a monopoly at the moment on the popular opinion on the subject. That cannot be good. As a matter of fact, just looking at the major proponents of this anti-immigrant nonsense should make people want take a better look at what is really going on.

Recently, we all learned that Obama's Kenyan aunt is living here on an expired visa. When this was discovered, his campaign was forced to return the small sum of money that she had given because it is illegal for political campaigns to take money from non-US citizens. This woman is older, poor and works as a volunteer. According to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a branch of the Homeland Security Department created after 9/11) she is here illegally (therefore a criminal) and if she is treated like all the other people living here under the same circumstances she will be imprisoned in an Immigration Detention Center and deported without any real legal representation. Lets face it, there is no way that that is going to happen to the president elect's aunty.

Some friends and I were discussing all of this, which prompted us to check out Obama's plans for Immigration Reform. It didn't take me long to start yelling. He is saying the same things that Bush Jr. was trying to push nearly four years ago, only in a different order and a few words changed! He wants to punish immigrant workers, asylum seekers and their families for coming here (first step) then make them pay back taxes if they owe them (little factoid, ninety something percent of the undocumented population works and pays their taxes just like everyone else, if you don't believe me just look it up) then ask them work here legally but not in order to gain citizenship. OH, and he wants to make the countries that these people are coming from make sure that they have jobs for them there so they don't have to come here to work, escape war, torture, famine, rape, murder, slavery, unending poverty and certain early death thanks to the US's foreign policies and free trade agreements. This is, by the way, never ever mentioned by politicians but is the crux of the whole bloody situation. They honestly never bring up the reason that this goes on, check **any** politician's line about immigration, **any** reports or articles on the subject from corporate media and they never bring up **why** and if they are asked they skirt the issue entirely.

(I am very pointedly reminded at this moment why I avoid the subject of politics and politicians. They are so full of shit, all of them, that it defies all boundaries of sanity.)

Let me just say it again. The U.S. has so many undocumented people here because of the government's foreign policy, globalization, the WTO and free trade. It is because a U.S. company can go into Mexico, deplete natural resources, shut down local businesses, eradicate any possibility of continuing any self-sustaining enterprise and undersell local farmers and industry. It is because the military goes into other countries and gets involved in coups and plots and wars if the U.S government thinks that there might be some profit. If you don't believe that, you don't remember the '80s.

Here is a concrete example to illustrate my point: Corn. Number one crop in Mexico as far as production and profit and number one staple food. Everyone there needs corn. So what does the US do? The US sells Mexico CORN (this is an example of the wonders of NAFTA which is the North American Free Trade Agreement). Grown here in the US and at a very competitive price. Corn growers in Mexico are fucked. Mexican people have no choice but to buy US corn because they cannot afford local corn because local growers cannot afford to undersell the US corn. Mexican farmers are no longer farmers because they cannot maintain a living wage now. They have to find work because they have to feed themselves and their families some fucking how. Unfortunately, there aren't many jobs to be had in Mexico because it isn't just US corn going down there and underselling, its US companies like Kmart, Wal-Mart etc. going down there and doing the same thing that we hate them so much for doing here in small towns to our own local merchants and small business owners. Ask yourself, what would you do to keep yourself and your family alive? Find a job in a place that you stand some chance of making enough to secure a good life. So they come up here and get taken advantage of. Then, in some sick twist of irony, they are made out to be criminals by the same people that make the decisions and pull the strings that brought them here in the first place.

Obama and Bush Jr know that the U.S. actually has to have an immigrant workforce. This country was built by immigrant workers. They are brought over, taken advantage of and then criminalized. It has happened to the Italians, the Irish, the Chinese, the Japanese and lets not forget the most blatant of all of these cases, slavery. Large U.S. companies have to have people from

outside the country do the grunt work though. This is an incapable fact. Even if every U.S. citizen were employed they would still need to bring people in from outside in order to maintain the level of consumption.

So Obama is going to do some immigration reform. He says that he is going to make businesses that hire undocumented people pay for breaking the law. There are two kinds of businesses here that do that. There are the evil bastards that hire undocumented workers because they can pay them next to nothing, not pay taxes on them, not pay out for benefits and threaten them with deportation if they attempt to demand fair wages and treatment. The other kind of business that hires undocumented people are the small owner, the self employed or small local business person that hires who they can when they can and pays them what they can. These are not bad people; they are often struggling too and often genuinely want to help. Both are breaking the law if you want to be literal. However, the one that suffers recrimination is as usual, the small business owner. Good idea, Obama. That'll show 'em. Actually what will happen is the companies that don't give a damn and have plenty of money to shell out will continue to hire undocumented workers and because it will have become so criminalized the workers will be treated even worse and have even less recourse because they will have no way to ask for help without turning themselves in. This has already begun to be the case.

Obama is also saying that he wants to batten down the hatches at the borders with technology and security forces. That's another wonderful idea. This won't stop people from coming over here to work; it will merely make it even more dangerous and expensive than it already is. People who make a profit on trafficking humans will be very pleased and don't give a damn if they bring them over alive as long as they already paid. More people will die of dehydration in the desert. More racist gun toting psychos will be employed to hunt down and kill innocent people. Sounds good. All the while corporations and companies can do whatever they want in Mexico and make lots of money without a worry in the world about the border. Capital has no borders. Just people.

He wants to make the people that are already here jump through some hoops so that they can be here legally. As I mentioned before, we need the labor force. Does this mean that ICE will stop raiding workplaces and homes? Not sure. Doubt it. What it means is that people will have to petition for citizenship if they have the money to do so (they will of course be sent "to the back of the line" as Obama put it) and if not they have to sign up for indentured servitude. This is a plan that Bush Jr was trying to get approved back in 2005, but no one could agree on anything. Obama is going to try and get it done though. It's called a guest worker program and it gives people 6 years to come over here, work for under minimum wage with no benefits, no legal protection and no hope of permanent legal citizenship. Then they are sent back for a new batch. Everyone is happy. No laws are broken. The victims can continue to be victimized and no one can complain.

The thing I loved most that I mentioned briefly already is that he said he was going to make the people petitioning for citizenship pay back taxes if they owed them but said nothing

about ensuring that they would receive the taxes or benefits that the government owes **them** for paying while they were here working ...**illegally**. Something like 90% of undocumented workers pay taxes with their paychecks and when they buy things just like everyone else but **they will never see a fucking penny of it again**. I am talking billions of dollars here. No social security for them. No way.

This country keeps going around in circles with this immigration stuff. It's happened over and over and it's always the same stupid racist unrealistic crap. While that debate is raging people are dying. People are being torn from their families. People are being put into cages. People are being persecuted on all sides and literally have no-where to turn. We all have a responsibility as human beings to fight this kind of nonsense. We all have a responsibility to do whatever we have to do in order to force an end to this blatant disregard for human life. Capital is not more important. Money is not more important. These are human beings that we are talking about. These are real lives, not some abstracted image of an illegal. The very notion of an illegal person is nonsensical. It serves the same purpose that all of the other horrible racist terms that we've come up with, it dehumanizes; it makes it so easy for us to not see a person. It makes it so easy for us not to look deeper, not to ask questions.

I suppose that I am guilty of feeling the same flood of hope that so many people in this country felt and still feel when Obama won the election. I cannot ignore the feeling that it is a very big deal, having said that I also cannot ignore the feeling that he could have been purple with blue freckles and the democratic party would still have won the "election". Well, I like many thousands of Americans started to think things like "maybe things will really change" and "we might have a chance to really get our voices heard with this one, he might actually listen to us!" etc. I know, its silly. What I consider to be only right and logical for him to do is repeal the Patriot Act, shut down half of Homeland Security (the half that allows the government to spy on its citizens, carry out McCarthy'esque witch-hunts, criminalize political dissent, imprison and deport undocumented workers and asylum seekers, etc.) and return those Civil Liberties that were taken away in exchange for the Government's sense of well being and control.

These are the kinds of things that a person with Obama's background should be ultra sensitive to. Lets face it, if all of those things didn't happen here and couldn't happen here, he would not even be here let alone be the President Elect. I want to believe that no one is capable of that much hypocrisy. The thing is, no matter what he is still a politician and by virtue of who he is he is a politician that will have to play it safe and not appear to rock the boat too much. Point being, none of us can rely on him or any politician to make changes. Neither he nor the government is going to make decisions or changes that don't bolster the capitalist agenda.

If you feel like I do about this, let it move you to action. When it comes down to it, the one thing that we have going for us here is that the people really are in control of what happens and it is up to us to step up, get out, let our voices be heard.

# There is No Model Majority in a Militarized Zone

by J. Solano Romanowski

→ "People seem to complain about cultural differences only when economic and political turbulence [leave] them feeling powerless. Politicians then invoked race and culture as a way to shift attention away from their failures to address the root causes of instability."

Arguably the most de-stabilizing event of our time was the commercial airline hijackings on September 11, 2001. In the months afterwards, the Bush administration steered popular outrage away from its failure to prevent the attacks by offering as a scapegoat the nation's foreign-born residents. They deftly spun the criticism of their lack of preparedness into an excuse to tighten control by reducing civil liberties in general, and targeting Muslims in particular. The fact that the State Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Border Patrol, Customs, FBI, and CIA could not answer the question "How many foreign nationals are in the United States on student visas right now?" was parlayed into the justification for the detainment of a sizable portion of the Muslim (im)migrant male population. In the months afterwards, the U.S. government took advantage of loose guidelines for detaining undocumented (im)migrants to cast its net wide. As Edward Alden reports in *The Closing of the American Borders: Terrorism, Immigration, and Security Since 9/11*: "By early November, the FBI and INS had arrested more than 1,200 individuals... while the FBI decided whether they had some connection to terrorism... Of the 762 people detained in the months after 9/11 on immigration violations, more than 200 would spend from 51 to 100 days in jail, while another 175 would spend up to 150 days in jail. More than 125 would be held longer, some for a year or more. And not a single one of the detainees was ever charged with terrorism, or a terrorist-related offense."

Following the government's lead, and fueled by news reports profiling Muslims, hate crimes skyrocketed in the weeks following the attacks, and has held steady well above pre-9/11.2001 rates in the years since. The American public's malice was generalized to anyone with dark skin, including American citizens, non-Muslim Arabs, and Sikhs (who wear turbans). In the eyes of America, (im)migrants now constituted a "threat," though who was actually threatening who?

Fear of terrorism within our borders has been used to justify immeasurable repression in the United States. Citizens and non-citizens alike are routinely asked to comply with many inconveniences and invasions of our privacy in order to help the government "protect and defend" us. What 9/11 demonstrated was that these intrusions are for the most part unjustified. We should be critical of any further incursions into privacy and collection of personal information by a government that cannot make good use of the information it already has.

Take the most recent example of border checkpoints in Washington State. Terrorism has been used as an excuse by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to install 53 roadblocks ("tactical traffic checkpoints") at three locations: the Anacortes ferry terminal, on state Route 20 near Newhalem,

and on U.S. Highway 101 on the Olympic Peninsula. In almost every news report on the checkpoints, the case of Ahmed Ressay is mentioned. Ressay, an Algerian who was convicted of plotting to bomb Los Angeles International Airport on or around January 1, 2000, was captured at the Port Angeles, WA border entry point in December, 1999. How can a border control success be used as a reason to increase border security?

The answer is that the real target of the border checkpoints in Washington State is not terrorists at the border; it is people from Mexico, Central America, and Asia who are inside the U.S. without legal permission. Many of the estimated 700,000 non-status people who reside in the state are employed by farms, doing seasonal work picking salal, strawberries, and apples, or in the timber industry. Very rarely do they travel to Washington via Canada. The statistics are good evidence of the real purpose of the roadblocks: of the 24,524 vehicles carrying 41,912 passengers that have been checked, 81 undocumented (im)migrants have been taken into custody and 19 people have been turned over to other agencies for state crimes. News reports often note how many of the detained undocumented (im)migrants have criminal histories, but these histories can be for things like minor traffic violations. None of these detainees have yet to be linked with terrorism in any way.

Targeting (im)migrants with border checkpoints in an agricultural state is an example of how the government is playing both hands when it comes to immigration. While the Bush administration classifies illegal immigration as a "threat" on par with terrorism and drug-trafficking, it also depends on it to provide the cheap, expendable labor necessary for many domestic industries to turn a profit. According to National Public Radio, 5% of the labor force in the United States is composed of unauthorized (im)migrants. The result of the administration's duality has been a marked reduction in rights and services for the nation's 13 million non-status (im)migrants, increasingly militarized borders, and more government raids of (im)migrant workplaces and communities. However, the impoverished conditions resulting from liberalized trade policies and the promise of American dollars remain the same. So more (im)migrants are risking their lives (515,000 a year, a 37% increase over figures from 2000) and paying more to traffickers (from \$300 in 1999 to \$1500 in 2007 to cross the border with Mexico) to work in more dangerous conditions. Five years after the congressional call for "comprehensive immigration reform" there is still no process for those who have crossed into the United States illegally to obtain legal documents. Meanwhile, in another example of government hypocrisy, the employers who profit from this imperiled (im)migrant workforce are rarely punished. According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) figures, in fiscal 2007, there were

nearly 4,900 arrests involving undocumented workers, fake document providers and others, while only about 90 owners, supervisors or hiring officials were arrested.

Another ominous role of the Washington state border checkpoints is to accustom the local population to invasive police behavior. The United States Code gives the Department of Homeland Security, which now includes ICE and the Border Patrol, the authority to establish border checkpoints anywhere within 100 miles of a border. Such checkpoints are termed “fourth amendment free zones” by the ACLU because at them, ICE or Coast Guard officials can search all persons and property passing through the checkpoint without probable cause, individual suspicion, or a warrant. The inspectors are instructed to rely on “professional experience and intuition.” Even though the fourth amendment protects us from racial profiling in general, at border checkpoints detaining and searching someone based solely on race or ethnicity is not unconstitutional. Furthermore, though neither Border Patrol nor ICE has the authority to actively search for state law violations, they can and do cooperate with local law enforcement agencies to investigate any crime that may be discovered at a checkpoint. For tactical reasons these checkpoints are unannounced and are located at high-traffic areas where there are no alternate routes. Essentially, the half of Washington State that lies within 100 miles of the border has now become a militarized zone.

Historically, borders were geological divides that separated two regions. These buffer zones were porous and neutral. As trade developed, more defined borders formed along overland trade routes and waterways, so that neither side had ownership over the means of trade. Rigid borders evolved to demarcate economies, political entities were developed to control those economies, and legal systems were formulated to control people. As nation-states expanded to include disparate geopolitical regions, national identities became useful tools to unify the people inhabiting those lands. The contradiction inherent in defining a population based on what it isn't remains unresolved.

Like the geographical features that first defined borders, the racial makeup of the U.S. is a shifting entity. National identity tends to be a rigid framework that makes it easy to evaluate those who don't fit in. Since this identity tends to be based on colonialist ideals, there is no “mainstream” for (im)migrants. As Fox News' Michelle Malkin commented, the Kesbeh's, a Houston-based family of 9 who had been deported to Palestine after 10 years of non-status residency, “demonstrated their contempt for our immigration system by illegally settling into the American mainstream, establishing a retail business (selling American flags, of all things), obtaining Social Security cards and driver's licenses, and enrolling their kids in local schools.” If the hypocrisy isn't obvious in Malkin's statement, consider that the deportation order was given for 8 of the 9 Kesbeh family members. The youngest had been born in Houston and was therefore an American citizen. How can one family member be embraced simply

because she was born here, while the other 8, who have been pursuing the American dream for a decade, be forced out?

Mainstream or not, the fact is that non-status (im)migrants are part of the reality of contemporary American society that includes native-born citizens, indigenous peoples, naturalized citizens, as well as status-holding migrant workers, students, and visitors. But while contemporary American business community has embraced non-status (im)migrants as a source of cheap, docile labor, the society at large ignores or condemns them. The criminalization of non-status (im)migrants reinforces this separation. Immigration law reinforces the fallacy of a Model Minority. It precludes that only some (im)migrants deserve legal status, like protection from deportation for those who are married to a citizen or those with families based here. Additionally, because of the pressure to assimilate to the colonial ideal, older established (im)migrant communities tend to distance themselves from newer ones. The result is that residents, whether status-holding or not, are forced to live under radar, either due to internalized xenophobia, or because of fears of deportation. These newcomers are unable to network with other (im)migrants or other oppressed peoples struggling for legitimacy and space in the social fabric.

Two Forks, WA teenage residents who were stopped by ICE during a recent checkpoint operation are now facing deportation. One, Edgar Ayala, who graduated with honors from Forks High School last June, was arrested a mile from where he has lived since infancy. When local residents gathered to respond to the deportations, one protester's experience highlighted how colonialism and racism are linked in this issue. Tanya Ward, a member of the Hoh tribe, said, “We had a few people yell at us to go back to where we came from. I'm Native American. I hear that comment all the time.”

**“The border between two nations is always indicated by broken but definite lines, to indicate that it is not quite real in any physical sense, but very real in a metaphysical sense: so nature surrenders to politics.”**

**– Joyce Carol Oates**



# Prison Riot in Texas

## Immigration Detention Center

by Victor L.



On December 12th, 2008 1,300 inmates imprisoned in a privately run I.C.E ( Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detention center in Pecos, Texas revolted against prison officials in response to a death of an inmate who the authorities claim died of natural causes. Like the detention center in Tacoma, Washington, the detention center in Pecos, Texas is run by GEO Group. GEO Group is a private prison corporation based in Boca Raton, Florida under contract with the federal government. This facility imprisons 2,400 people.

The conflict began when the body of a fellow inmate was removed from the detention center. A recreation room was set on fire by inmates as rage about the death spread through the facility. Prison officials evacuated inmates into the yard. In the yard inmates took two prison recreation workers hostage demanding for better medical treatment for all held captive there.

Their demands for healthier conditions were met with about thirty agents from the Border Patrol's Marfa Sector fully equipped with an assortment of less-than-lethal weapons, an armored vehicle and support from a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air & Marine Huey helicopter. CBP used the helicopter to allow a prison official to conduct aerial surveillance of the compound. This was used to help the incident commanders develop strategies to putting down the rebellion. Firefighters extinguished bonfires inmates had set during the night to keep warm.

Though the border agents had surrounded the prison with an armored vehicle, government agents and a military helicopter, they did not make a move to enter. This brave stand off lasted seventeen hours and ended in the release of the two hostages on the morning of December 13th. Though no officers were hurt in the stand off an undisclosed amount of "minor injuries" did occur.

Well over sixty people have lost their lives in these detention centers within the last four years. Medical neglect has been a very common practice in these detention centers. A Rhode Island detention center failed to give proper medical attention to a thirty-four year old Chinese New Yorker, Hiu Lui Ng, who died August 6th in I.C.E custody. Hiu Lui Ng's lawyers and relatives said that when he was racked with pain and too weak to walk, detention officials refused him a wheelchair. They failed to take him to scheduled appointments for an M.R.I. exam or a CT scan, and instead took him in shackles to Hartford (an Immigration Court) where he was pressured to withdraw his appeals and accept deportation. That inmate was

was suffering from a fractured spine and extensive cancer that had gone undiagnosed until five days before his death. Cornell Corrections of Rhode Island (one of the defendants in a lawsuit against that facility) which ran the center at the time covered by the suit, denied any wrongdoing.

Victoria Arellano, a transgender Mexican immigrant, died in a San Pedro, California detention center in July of 2007 after I.C.E officials denied her repeated requests for AIDS medications. Although Arellano identified and lived as a woman, ICE placed her in a male unit. But it was these male detainees that would plead with the guards that she was ill. They demonstrated and chanted to get her

treatment, and organized a petition that demanded that she be taken to a hospital. Eighty detainees protested the denial of her treatment, chanting "Hospital" and ignoring an order to get in line for the night's head count. Her fellow inmates took turns helping her to the bathroom and getting her wet towels in attempts to help the fever she had developed. She was transported to a hospital in San Pedro only to

be returned to the facility within twenty-four hours. She was debilitated by vomiting and diarrhea and again transported to the hospital, this time the intensive care unit. There she was handcuffed to her bunk and her door was guarded by two I.C.E agents who ignored her mothers pleas to unchain her sick daughter. She died within a few days. Her fellow inmates sent her mother \$245. Many of the detainees who supported Arellano were transferred to other detention centers.

Those who have rebelled against the misery of life locked up, in Texas, in California and around the world, deserve support and solidarity from all of those who have felt the same rage, the same disdain and contempt for the detention centers and prisons of this society. The rich bastards have always been getting organized, always in such a way as to maintain their position of wealth and power. GEO Group makes \$100 a day off of each inmate in the I.C.E detention facility in Tacoma. They make their profit off of the pain and imprisonment of others. Even with all of that money they still fail to give even mediocre health care to those they imprison. I suppose it should be of no surprise that GEO Group, I.C.E and the CBP could give a shit for those whose lives they ruin, those who's lives they watch deteriorate and end in front of their eyes. Likewise why should any one care for them, for their facilities or for their workers. They have waged a silent war on so many people who's only alleged crime was that of being here with out papers. They have and will continue to tear apart families, ripping people from their beds at night with guns drawn.

**"The Marfa Sector Special Response Team was activated and responded to the prison with a variety of specialized skills and equipment...[This] incident was a demonstration of Marfa Sector's ability to deploy rapidly and forcefully in support of local and state agencies and to assist them in their efforts to maintain peace and suppress criminal activity in area communities."**  
**-From the CBP website.**

This act was one of courage. And I can only hope that it continues to spread to other facilities and other aspects of this society. But these people need support from the outside just as we need support from each other in our own individual struggles for freedom. If we wish to show support to those who revolt, we only need join in the practice of revolt ourselves.

## Half of Greek Prison Population to be Released After Hunger Strike

December 2008

After 18 days 7,000 prisoners in Greece stop their hunger strike after the ministry of justice concedes to a series of their demands, promising to release half the country's prison population by April 2009.

On Thursday the 20th of November more than 7,000 hunger strikers in Greek prisons demanding a comprehensive 45-point program of prison reform have decided to stop their hunger strike, already on its 18th day, after the Ministry of Justice responded to their struggle and to the widening solidarity movement which in the last weeks has held several mass protest marches in the Greek cities by declaring that by next April the number of prisoners in Greek jails will be reduced to 6,815 from the present 12,315, thus effectively releasing half of the country's prison population.

The Ministry's declaration in detail states that:

- 1) All persons convicted to a sentence up to five years for any offense including drug related crimes can transform their sentence into a monetary penalty. This will not be allowed in the case the jury decides that the payment is not enough to deter the convict from committing punishable acts in the future.
- 2) The minimum sum for transforming one day of prison sentence to monetary penalty is reduced from 10 euros to 3, with the provision of being reduced to 1 euro by decision of the jury.
- 3) All people who have served 1/5 of their prison sentence for 2 year sentences and 1/3 for sentences longer than 2 years are to be released, with no exceptions.
- 4) The minimum limit of served sentence is reduced to 3/5 for conditional release and for convicts for drug related crimes. Those condemned under conditions of law N. 3459/2006 (articles 23; 23A) are exempted.
- 5) The maximum limit of pre-trial imprisonment is reduced

from 18 to 12 months, with the exemption of crimes punished by life or 20 year sentence.

6) The annual time of days-off prison is increased by one day. Tougher conditions for days-off are limited for those convicted for drug related crimes under 3459/2006.

7) Disciplinary penalties are to be integrated.

8) Integration after 4 years into national law of the European Council decision of drug trafficking (2004/757).

9) Expansion of implementation of conditional release of convicts suffering from AIDS, kidney failure, persistent TB, and tetraplegics.

What the Ministry failed to answer with regard to the prisoners' demands include:

- 1) Monetary exchange of prison sentences longer than 5 years, especially for 6,700 prisoners presently convicted for non-criminal offenses.
- 2) Abolition of juvenile prisons
- 3) Abolition of accumulative disciplinary penalties
- 4) Abolition of 18 months pre-trial imprisonment for a large number of offenses.
- 5) Satisfactory expansion of days off, despite the fact that the application of present liberties has been tested as successful during the last 18 years.
- 6) Immediate improvement of relocation conditions of convicts.
- 7) Holding a meeting between the minister of justice and the prisoners' committee.

Thus in a press release, the Prisoners' Committee announced that:

"The amendment submitted to the Parliament by the Ministry of Justice tackles but a few of our demands. The minister ought to materialize his promises for the immediate release of the suggested number of prisoners announced, and at the same time implement concrete measures regarding the totality of our demands. We the prisoners treat this amendment as a first step, a result of our struggle and of the solidarity shown by society. Yet it fails to covers us, it fails to solve our problems. With our struggle, we have first of all fought for our dignity. And this dignity we cannot offer as a present to no minister, to no screw. We shall tolerate no arbitrary acts, no vengeful relocation, no terrorizing disciplinary act. We are standing and we shall stay standing. We demand from the Parliament to move towards a complete abolition of the limit of 4/5 of served sentence, the abolition of accumulated time for disciplinary penalties, and the expansion of beneficial arrangements regarding days-off, and conditional releases for all categories of prisoners. Moreover, we demand the immediate legislation on the presently vague promises of the minister of justice regarding the improvement of prison conditions (abolition of juvenile prisons, foundation of therapeutic centers for drug dependents, implementation of social labour in exchange for prison sentence, upgrading of hospital care of prisoners, incorporation of European legislation favorable to the prisoners in the Greek law etc.). Finally, we offer our thanks to the solidarity movement, to every component, party, medium, and militant who stood by us with all and any means of his or her choice, and we declare that our struggle against these human refuse dumps and for the victory of all our demands continues".

Prisoners' Committee 20/11/08.

Department of Corrections administrator **Earl Wright** supervises several prisons including McNeil.

## McNeil Island Prison put on lockdown for illicit cell phones

by Victor L.

Over the weekend of November 8th and 9th 2008 McNeil Island, a prison in Steilacoom Washington, was on lockdown while forty-four officers from other prisons conducted a massive search. The item they claim caused the lockdown was a cell phone that allegedly had been connected to an attempted suicide of an inmate in September of that year. Of course the prison officials are saying that cell phones are dangerous behind bars because they allow inmates to have unmonitored communication with the outside world. Unlike calls made from prison phones they can not be recorded or screened. It is the intention of the prison officials to put a block on anything that they themselves can not control or regulate. Anything that can remind prisoners of what freedom feels like is to be stopped at any cost. Therefore feelings of freedom – more importantly, rebellious inclinations – are to be broken quickly, being replaced with feelings of powerlessness. These massive searches are very rare based on the heavy cost of bringing in so many officers from outside the prison. Even Jocelyn "J" Hofe, who heads the Department of Corrections' (DOC) emergency operations statewide said "It's a serious thing to inconvenience a whole facility like this." The prison has all the reason to conduct such an expensive search. It does not matter the price, to them maintaining order is always worth the hassle.

Throughout this weekend long search, people were strip searched and had all of their belongings torn through by prison officers, but no cell phones were found. McNeil Superintendent Ron Van Boening said that he believes that inmates knew the search was occurring and that they were going to great lengths to hide them. Tattoo guns and some tobacco

was confiscated from prisoners' cells and a local news paper said that some drugs were also found, though they did not get into specifics.

This lockdown had less to do with actually finding cell phones and much more to do with sending a clear message to every single person behind bars. That if any one of them even thinks that they can find a way around the rules every single one of them will be subject to humiliating strip searches and have all of their cells turned upside down. Anything of theirs that the prison officials claim is contraband will be taken from them. This acts as a way to dissuade people from trying to get even an inch of freedom back. Also it perpetuates a state of distrust amongst prisoners. Now, not only are you worried about being caught yourself, but you also need to worry about another fellow inmate ratting you out in an attempt to avoid what the prison official will do to the entire block, or even the entire prison if you are not turned in. This is the intention of the officials: to stir up distrust and create tension amongst those whose position within the prison walls are identical - the prisoners. This draws away from the inherent adversarial relationship between those imprisoned and those with the keys - the officers and the officials. Chad Lewis, the DOC spokesperson, said that state Department of Corrections is now weighing administrative and legislative approaches to increasing the penalties for being caught with a cell phone.

Although the prison officials say that these 'illicit' cell phones allow prisoners to keep in contact with gang and drug connections, it is much more likely that inmates use these

phones to keep in contact with family due to the absurdly high phone call costs in prison. While prison officials say that maintaining community and family is important for an inmates success upon release, inmates and their families pay far more money to talk to one another than the general public. Washington's rates remain among the highest in the country, according to a prisoner rights advocacy group. This group ranked Washington 9th highest out of 46 states where data was available.

Phone rates for prisoners can be as much as 22 times higher than the five cents a minute many people living in the puget sound pay for long distance calls. Out of state calls cost \$4.95 plus \$.89 per minute, or \$22.75 for a twenty minute call. In the year between September 2007 and September 2008, inmates at Washington's 17 prisons and their families paid \$8.7 million in phone calls according to a local news paper. The average state prisoner makes about \$1.15 an hour.

Where you are imprisoned does not have to coincide with where your loved ones reside. This puts a very strong incentive on finding an alternative means of communicating with the outside world for those individuals separated from the people they love and miss, those they hold dear to their hearts. I am not personally advocating the reforming of the prison system and its inner workings at all. These institutions, among others, are exploitive. The US Department of Justice reports that "30 to 40 percent of all current prison admissions involve crimes that have no direct or obvious victim other than the perpetrator". Violence to them is often defined as harm done to individuals or property. If you take "violence" done to property out of the equation you are looking at upwards of around seventy to eighty percent of people in prison having done no physical harm to anyone at all. Prison is a place where some of the poorest people in this country are sent to get paid shit wages for what the lawmakers consider criminal.



## Detention of Life

by Tony S.



"Write What I Tell You To Write."

They might as well call it prison, because every time I'm there I feel that we are forced to go. It is as if we are being brainwashed into thinking that everything is alright, thinking this is a part of life and that this is something we must do to become successful. This small description is what we know as school. I am one of the handful of kids in life that

understand that there are other ways to live. Living your life does not have to revolve around school and work. For example, the average person in life will grow up, go to school, go to college, work at a stressful job for about 40 years, retire, and eventually die.

You are taught that you have to go to school, you have to work, otherwise you will end up alone, homeless, and poor. In my opinion this is completely untrue. I'm a freshman right now I've been trying to persuade my mom into allowing me to get my G.E.D. I am getting my G.E.D. because I can't stay in this detention of life any longer, because when I go to school it is a whole different world. I get all this fucking work and when I get home I have more work. My mind struggles through this work that is piled on me. This has been happening since 7th grade and I'm done. I can't stay here any longer.

I read a study online that stated "The most stress in teenage life is school." I want to be able to have fun with my life the way I want, not this shit. I want to be able to be free to write, read, and skateboard. I can't though because when I'm home all I think about is this work and the consequences of not doing the work.

The last topic I would like to talk about is when teachers, parents, or any other authority say "The Real World." I have heard this all my life, we got to school to get ready for "The Real World." This Real World seems so fake because of the way people act throughout their life. Have you ever realized what you want to do with your life, what your fighting for, or even if you're fighting for anything. People will grow up off of what there parents tell them. For example: everyone feels they have to do this or that to become successful. You have to go to school to get a good job. You

to get great pay to raise a family and live in a house. Parents feel this is the life they want for their child, that there helping them become a better person by doing what they feel is the way your supposed to live. Because of people and their strong convictions that this is right and this is the only way you can live to have a wonderful life, everyone feels powerless.

It seems like the most people I see don't know what their doing with their lives, not knowing if they really want to live the way the live. Everyone feels so worthless. People have to stop working like worms at a meaningless jobs, and start to do what you feel is the way you want to grow up and live. You know what, Fuck the "Real World", destroy what destroys you. If you feel meaningless just growing up to get a job think about what good it is this doing you? This is not the way people should feel to live a well life. What do you feel is your "Real World" because I don't want to be living the way they want me to live. What if I don't want to live in the "Real World."

That's a small part of why I am an Anarchist.

## The Banality of Sameness

by Victor L.

It is our time, and we will never get back. It is spent working for bastards that couldn't give a damn about us, working for companies that are so emotionless, so void of life. Then after that long day, we go home to rest – more appropriately called recuperation – and maybe enjoy a few hours of sleep before we must wake to that sickening sound of the alarm clock. That piercing sound that demands of us everything, and in return, we get more demands. Then with fuzzy vision and a brain that feel like it in the grips of a vice, we get up, eat quick, if at all, and do it all over again the next day. Beginning each morning hoping that it were already ending, as if we are trying to wake ourselves from a dreadful recurring nightmare.

Are any of us surprised we feel this way? Have we forgotten how tiring and powerless we felt the day before, only to walk right back into the **same** school, the **same** convenient store, the **same** grocery store, the **same** factory, the **same** retail job, the **same** marriage, the same cubical, the **same** church; as if we had no clue that it would in fact be the **same** routine we had been going through, the **same** motions?

And of course we find comfort in the little things: the empty smiles, the fake laughs, the handful of people whose company we may actually enjoy, if we are lucky. Then there are always the possible minor perks such as discounts and coupons; free sports tickets or free lunches. Attempts at charity by bosses who make theirs off of the time and indentured servitude of others. Time that will never be returned, that will never be re-paid in any amount of money equal to that which we have lost.

We feign enjoyment; that is to say, we play pretend. Living in an unreal world where everything is "just the way it is" and where our lives are expected to be nothing more than a mere reflection of those wonderful looking lives we see on the television, or read about in books. Smiling, laughing, enjoying their life of success and adventure. I suppose we try and mimic the fairy tale we see daily. Our happiness – utilitarian in nature – has become nothing more than an accessory to our own misery. It has become an excuse to not ask for more, to not expect more out of life. It has become party to our own self-deprecation, our own slow emotional and physical suicide.

And what is it that everyone seems to do about these feelings of discontent? We eat, we drink, we listen to music, we search the web for the perfect person, we masturbate, we pray, we take pain killers, we watch tv, we vote. Seemingly prescribed motions to cope in a world that simply offers nothing of substantial value, so people search for the next best thing. A mere reflection. Hollow as it is lifeless.

And what can anyone hope to come out of this repetition? Must we just wait for some one else to come save us? Some messiah or some hero? Just another person that we can watch from the sidelines and read about in the paper. Repetition is that which we have become comfortable with. It is repetition and predictability that drown us with dreams for a fuller and truly free life. A life not so predictable. A powerful life. We have no need for a messiah, and we need no heroes. These icons are a pressure release valve for our despair. This posturing of happiness only acts as an opiate for our mind. Something that inhibits our ability to demand what we have always been led to believe is impossible. The ability to have absolute agency over our lives.

We have went on every day walking on streets that promises us the world. Telling us that as long as we work hard, as long as we never let up, we will one day "make it". Let's not be fooled. Is it too much to demand more? To demand much more? Dare I say it, I feel as if we have not been demanding enough. Maybe even to demand will not suffice. Just because we demand does not mean a thing in this world. We must take from those who have taken everything from us. The politicians, the courts, the judges and all others who serve only money and profit. Whether it be food, clothes, money or housing, we may as well take it with no hesitation. They surely never hesitate when fining us, when taxing us, or when jailing us.

We have been dragged through a culture that teaches us servitude, that teaches us guilt and how to beg for forgiveness. But we don't have to continue this cycle. We are not truly hopeless. We do not have to teach the world to our youth by showing them what it is to fake fulfillment, what it means to lie to ourselves. We can teach them what it means to have power over ones own life, and we can show this by example. We can talk about our days with not expecting blind enjoyment, but expecting honesty.

Being honest with ourselves may very well be the first step in the demand for the impossible. From this point of honesty we can work out what it is that needs to be done. Through this we can find what commonalities we share. It is our commonalities that give us power. It gives us something to work from, it gives us a source.

We need not turn to gods to make us feel better about our existence. We need not purchase new clothes, new cars or fancy jewelry to fill the void in our lives. If you feel the emptiness in all of this, scream it! If you feel the weight of financial burden on you when you are at the grocery store or when you are looking for clothes for you or your loved ones, steal it! We need more actual living in our lives and the leaders of this world are giving us nothing more than mere existence. Dead as the dreams we had when we were children. So let it be known that there are so many of us out here in traffic, on the job, and on the streets that want more. There are us out here who don't give a damn about the rule of law; those of us who are truly fighting for our lives.

We demand quality.  
We demand power.  
We demand freedom.  
We demand a life worth living.  
We demand the impossible.

*And we will take it.*

## Some Thoughts on Individuality

by Tony S.

Individualism isn't expressed by your appearance, it's the action and outlook on your life and the way in which you live. The problem I have in school that I think most kids can relate to is the desire to be "cool" or "in the in crowd". This is where kids feel out of place, unless they have certain clothes or attitudes. This is what kids usually go through in public schools. It seems to me like the environment that I'm surrounded by in school creates a desire to have to become something your not to "fit in". So say some fuck wants to be punk and create some snobby attitude towards something that they dislike, they first say "I have to shop at fucking Hot Topic." Otherwise essentially they aren't punk or can't have their say in certain situations. This is how school can create these fucked up people that aren't essentially doing anything other than looking like an idiot. You know just because you have a purposefully ripped Against Me! Shirt doesn't mean your punk or whatever you're trying to be. You know, by talking shit about how "preppy" girls/guys buy Abercrombie and Fitch doesn't make you look any better. Overall its the same shit that mall companies are making money off of teenagers because of this drama that school perpetuates.

To the people in school who are having these problems: don't waste your time buying stupid shit just to fit in. You know, I did and seriously I regret a lot of it. When you fall into those patterns you become no more than the prep or the jock. That's why anarchism shows so much will power and strength in people. The passion that anarchists strive for really does show that anyone is capable accomplishing so much. It shows the individual in all people when you can create such an environment throughout anarchism.

I hope that the people that feel the same way don't feel that they have to become an anarchist just to be an individual, I just feel that a lot of my own and others passion comes through anarchism which is what makes me feel like I can create or do something without feeling like a slave. Be what you want to be not what they want you to be. In my opinion, I feel that anything is possible if people stop talking and start acting. Anytime someone smashes a window or even starts a rally up in the street, it gives people that feeling that anything is possible, that you control your own lives and have power to do anything you want. Individualism is what you make it, don't create something your not, show them your not afraid.



# Art in Tacoma

Save an artist! Eat a condo! What use are the museums to me? What do the downtown gallery's offer the community? An opportunity to glare into the separation that defines our lives? What is gallery art but a manifestation of our own alienation. We do not live our lives, we live a representation of life. A life spent spectating, glaring into the screen. We spend more time gazing into a screen of the machine then making eye contact with other beings. Art becomes something other than our lives. Our communities are degraded and our neighbors, then ourselves, are evicted.

What happens when art is removed from its source, the communities that create it? What happens when you put art on display behind glass, when it is fed to us, handed down from the top? We can no longer see ourselves in it, art becomes a sideshow mirror distorting our self image until we are something else.

This is the hallow vapidty that is modernity. What can these window shop amusement parks offer our communities? Something tangible right now? What good does a steel blue statue of nothing, marking the movement of gentrification like some piercing barrier separating hilltop from downtown,

offer to the community that houses it? To what should an artist feel obligated? Perhaps the place in which they reside. Artists do not exist in a vacuum, as much as they would like to think so. We exist in a real tangible earth within this city, living in this place. This is where I work. This is where I sleep. This is where I shop. This is where I eat. We don't need their corporate gloomy art obstructing our gaze. It is how a work of art improves the quality of our lives that defines its worth, not some aristocratic aesthetic.

Art is Alive, it is a vital force that surges through the stories of our lives, the stories we tell that define us. Creativity cannot be stifled, nor stuck within the confines of a museum. It animates our communities and fills our lives. When we tap into this surge, this wellspring of life, our dreams become manifest. They become visible in the streets, in the parks, our homes and our churches. The places we love become infested with life, all because of us. Our homes become beautiful, our lives fulfilling and our city warmer. All of this we can create.

But as long as we buy into their metal confines, as long as we listen to the voice of authority internalized that tells us that beauty is something other than what we are, we won't see the world we want. Until our work becomes our play and we no longer slave away our days, the meaning in our lives will be held on display downtown, visible near the bus terminals oncommerce.

## Greek Erupts into Riots after Police Murder Young Anarchist Alexis

Comrades!

Athens is burning!

On the 6th of December 2008, after a police car had rocks thrown at it, fifteen-year old anarchist, Alexandros Grigoropolous was shot by a Greek police officer. He died fifteen minutes later.

This act would not go unpunished.

Soon after the unrest began Anarchists and others took the streets. Outrage over the death of our beloved friend has spread like fire. In almost no time every major city in Greece has been seized by the public.

Fueled by a failing economy and government bailouts of private businesses, the Greek public has had enough and will no longer simply beg for justice, they will take it!

The first reports by the officer said that he had only fired once, he later said it was actually twice and that his partner had reminded him of a third. He claims all of the shots were



into the air, he calls them "warning shots". His lawyer (whose office is now burnt to the ground) said that an unreleased investigation shows that the bullet, that hit Alexandros, was a ricochet. The many eyewitnesses have said this is a lie. They saw this murderer point directly at the fifteen year old.

UPDATE: The report has been release and has led to this statement -

"The Kathimerini newspaper said that the results of forensic tests on the bullet indicated that it had been fired directly at the teenager. Athens Bar Association condemned the policeman's lawyer, Alexis Kougias, for 'desecrating the dead' by claiming that the fifteen year old had been a troublemaker."

Basic gun safety [ yes thats right, we know basic gun safety... ] and training teaches you to never point a firearm at a target that you are not willing to destroy. Also, you do not fire a weapon in an unsecured location, unless you are willing to take responsibility for the death of another person.

The riots continue, but they are not unorganized. Groups of people have begun to set up living quarters for those fighting police. Many of these have taken the shape of occupations at the Universities. In Athens alone most of the banks have been firebombed and destroyed. Most of the big chain stores like Starbucks, Abercrombie, GAP, Old Navy, any of those companies not owned by local people, are now destroyed.

Windows remain shattered. The merchandise was taken by those who, for so so long, were only able to dream about it through 1" inch thick windows.

These stores are not people, this property destruction is not violence, this is not the tragedy. The loss of a fifteen year old is the true tragedy!

This is the true reason to be enraged!

Within the first few days the school children refused to go to school, many of them preferred to fight the police in the streets, with their comrades, their friends. Younger kids have started to seek out the anarchists, asking them to please teach them how to make molotov cocktails. The labor unions planned and executed a general strike, the whole economy of Greece was brought to a standstill. Even the Reformist labor unions allowed the strike, for fear of workers striking without their consent.

Government buildings have been gutted and burned down. Thousands have marched through the streets chanting "Cops, Pigs, Murderers". Government buildings are now occupied by people fighting back. Police have become so desperate that they have started to [work with] Fascists and Nazis, against the people who are resisting. Fascists still exist and so do the Nazis. The police are fighting [side by side] with them, some even say [the police] are providing [the Nazis and Fascists] with tear gas, as the Fascists attempt to attack people who were fighting back with knives.

The most amazing and inspiring part of this resistance is that everyday, average people are heading to the streets to join the resistance.

One article read

"It's not just twenty or thirty people, we're talking about one thousand you people. These are not people who live in the dark, they are the sort you see in the cafes. The criminals and drug addicts turned up later, to loot the stores. The children were very angry that one them had been killed; and they wanted the whole society not to sleep quietly about this, they wanted everyone to feel the same fear they felt. And they were also expressing anger towards society, towards the religion of consumerism, the polarisation of society between the few haves and the many have-nots."

For the [seven days after the murder] each day has brought more and more resistance to the police. The amount of attacks on police have increased. Space is being won.

Many will say that Anarchism or community controlled neighborhoods, based on horizontalism, cannot work. My only response is that we can't say that. We must take the space in order to make these wants and desires real. We do not have the opportunity to simply try this in the United States, because the police and the government would never allow us the FREEDOM to do so.

If we want the chance to control our own communities we must **take** that chance. They will never simply give it to us.



As I write this it is now day eight of the Greek takeover. I sit in California and can't help but feel a sense of urgency, something very important is happening in the world right now, and I think the winds may be shifting.

Without checking I can bet certain people are in the streets of Athens right now. The cops have recently ran out of teargas. Those staying in their homes may be stepping outside, into their streets, seeing their neighbors in a completely new way. They have won space that they can truly do whatever they want with. Eight total days with the government not being able to enforce laws.

In this uprising that looks like chaos, nobody has gone insane and started to murder any of their neighbors. Why would they?

I can also say, without checking but with confidence, that a bank in Greece is on fire right now, as well as a police station.

All of this may either sound wonderful, or dreadful, but the fact is that a fifteen year old boy, full of life, no longer walks the streets. He is dead, and will never come back.

His skateboard still rests in his closet waiting for somebody to use it, his CD's will go unplayed. Never again will he wake up with the sun in his face and realize how wonderful each day is.

Alexandros is gone forever.

He is gone, but his memory is there, and even if this ended tomorrow he has sparked the closest thing to real revolution in the recent history. I'm sure that he would approve of our actions and be thankful to those reading this.

We can only hope that our Greek comrades remain safe, and that this realization of power, by everyday people, happens here as well.

The last time a minor was murdered by police, in Greece, was in 1986, eight years before Alexandros was born. Riots erupted that time, they didn't last nearly as long as these ones, and it has been twenty-two years since then.

Youth on our streets get murdered by police on a regular basis. Maybe the reaction by the Greek people is the right one. When will we fight the police in order to keep our children alive?

This cop had a choice.

Most cops have tasers and pepper spray, but no, this fucking murderer chose the gun, the one action that would silence this child forever.

Actions in solidarity with Alexandros have already take place in Berlin, Italy, London, France, Tacoma Wa, Olympia Wa, New York and [Portland, Or]. There are others as well. We must not let the media isolate this revolt.

If State power is global, then so must be our Resistance. Solidarity must be complete, and stern. Rest in Peace Alexandros. We can never forget you and what you have done. Your dreams are becoming reality. Even though I have never met you, I feel as if you were my Brother.

Goodbye, Comrade.



# What other motivations, besides anger against the police and the economy, do you think are driving people to participate?

- A Question Answered by a Greek Anarchist

[ This is an answer to a question posed by the Crimethinc collective, an anarchist group here in the US, in the paper *The Insurrection to Come*. It was directed at Greek anarchists. You may find a copy of the entire text posing the initial questions online at [www.crimethinc.com/blog/2008/12/20/greece-and-the-insurrections-to-come/](http://www.crimethinc.com/blog/2008/12/20/greece-and-the-insurrections-to-come/) . You may also read the entire response to those questions, titled *How to Organize an Insurrection* online at [news.infoshop.org/article.php?story=2008crimethinc-insurrection](http://news.infoshop.org/article.php?story=2008crimethinc-insurrection) ]

## ***The Question: What other motivations, besides anger against the police and the economy, do you think are driving people to participate?***

The personal and collective need for adventure; the need to participate in making history; the chaotic negation of any kind of politics, political parties, and “serious” political ideas; the cultural gap of hating any kind of TV star, sociologist, or expert who claims to analyze you as a social phenomenon, the need to exist and be heard as you are; the enthusiasm of fighting against the authorities and ridiculing the riot police, the power in your heart and the fire in your hands, the amazing experience of throwing molotovs and stones against the cops in front of the parliament, in the expensive shopping districts, or in your small silent town, in your village, in the square of your neighborhood.

Other motivations include the collective feeling of planning an action with your best friends, making it come true, and later hearing people tell you about this action as an incredible story that they heard from someone else; the enthusiasm of reading about some action that you did with your friends in a newspaper or TV program from the other side of the planet; the feeling of responsibility that you have to create stories, actions, and plans that will become global examples for the future struggles. It is also the great celebrative fun of smashing the shops, taking the products and then burning them, seeing the false promises and dreams of capitalism burned in the streets; the hatred for all authorities, the need to take part in the collective ceremony of revenge for the death of a person that could have been you, the personal vendetta of feeling that the police have to pay for the death of Alexis across the whole country; the need to send a powerful message to the government that if police violence increases, we have the power to fight back and society will explode



***—the need to send a direct message to society that everyone has to wake up, and a message to the authorities that they have to take us seriously because we are everywhere and we are coming to change everything.***

## Next Time You Find Yourself On The Front Line Of The Social War: Some Helpful Hints

Run with a group of people you know, people who wouldn't snitch on you.

Use Something to cover your face. A t-shirt can easily be made into a mask by putting your face in the neck hole and tying back the sleeves around your head.

Newspaper boxes and dumpsters can be moved into the street to stop vehicles from chasing you. Be careful! If you grab from the bottom the sheet metal can cut your hands. If one is too heavy don't be afraid to nudge a comrade to help you pick it up.

Cop cars that the pigs have stupidly left unoccupied can have their windows bashed out. Do not punch them out, your hands can get severely cut. Covered elbows can work, so can newspaper stands, metal barricades, bottles and tons of other things.

It normally takes around 8-12 people to flip a cop car. They are generally heavier than regular cars.

If Cops are massed in one area, go where they aren't.

All forms of capital are fair game. Use your head. If the store is owned by a small family you probably shouldn't attack it. Don't be scared about taking out Old Navy, Banks, Cops Cars, Police Stations, McDonalds or rich ass yuppie cars.

A bandanna around your face with vinegar on it can help protect against tear gas and pepper spray.

If you are facing massive teargas burning things that produce thick smoke can push tear gas away from the crowd. Rioters used this to great effectiveness in Greece recently.

Dumpsters and other things can be set on fire to create barricades, cars can also be used.

Barricades can be used to create space between you and the cops. In this space a rigid front line can be formed that can be furthered or abandoned at a moments notice. You can use this separation to collect rocks, bottles or whatever you would like to throw.

Multiple plans can be voiced. One plan can suggest holding the barricades, the other can suggest that if police are closing in, to split off and begin to attack large businesses or other targets.

Moving in a group is a good way to guarantee that you can form another barricade and create the front line on your own terms.

## Are You Ready for Social War? from Modesto Anarcho

This article appears in its entirety in Modesto Anarcho #9, which can be downloaded for free here:  
<http://news.infoshop.org/article.php?story=20081002171514979>

For those of us who wish to see the end of this great beast that they call capitalism, we should be aware that interesting times are ahead. It appears that the economy is going to keep getting worse and the wars in the middle east will continue to rage on. Furthermore, whoever wins the election will be left with an economy in shambles and no plan on getting the US out of Iraq and Afghanistan. Thus, here are several points of "intervention", or direct participation, within this time in history.

1.) Don't vote and encourage people not to vote as well. The elections are distracting us from the bigger and more important task at hand of getting rid of capitalism and the government and creating a world in which regular people have control over their day to day lives, communities, and means of sustaining themselves. **Boycott the elections - encourage direct action.**

2.) Start discussion groups with co-workers, friends, cell-mates, fellow students, and neighbors about what is going on. Discuss how we can support ourselves in the growing crisis and how we can build autonomy from the government and the capitalist system. Start food sharing programs and gardens, squat building to avoid paying rent, and start pooling resources as a community. Discuss what you should do if the police and/or military should enter your community. Share publications like *Modesto Anarcho* [or *The Rebel* if you like] with friends and check websites like news.infoshop.org often to learn what is going on. If possible, set up large meetings ('general assemblies') of people in your area to talk about these issues. **Discuss what is happening and share information - organize with your community.**

3.) Form an 'affinity group' [see article on Crews] of people that you can engage in actions with. This should be a group of people who all know each other and includes no one who could be a snitch or pig. If you hear about some sort of unrest going on; either a strike, building occupation, prison uprising, school walkout, riot, large demonstration, etc, get your crew together and attempt to aid and expand that struggle. Denounce those who would channel these struggles back into the system. Struggles must be controlled by those who start and organize them. Any attempt by those who want our struggles to elect the next leader or bureaucrat must be met with resistance. **Form action groups to expand, support, and aid social struggles - resist bureaucrats and reformers.**

4.) In the event of large scale rioting and social unrest, we will have several tasks. The first is to create autonomous zones out of the rioting. These must be places where the people will have power and the police, snitches, government, and military will not be allowed to enter. We must push the political nature of these actions. Through our affinity groups, we must create flyer's and publications that support the uprising and call for greater mass action. We must write graffiti and put up posters with similar messages. We must encourage the looting of corporate businesses and the 'communalization' of resources. We must en-

courage the taking back of housing and land. We must take out the infrastructure of the police, prisons, military, and government within our communities so they are not able to launch counter attacks. We must be on guard against anti-social elements such as drug cartels, rapists, and murderers within our communities. We must be on guard against racist elements within our ranks and we must generalize rebellion among the poor and working classes as a whole. Lastly, we must link up with other communities who will hopefully also be rising up. **Push revolt into revolution - create autonomous power for poor and working people.**

## The Formation of Crews: A Tactic in the Expansion of Our Strength and Our Autonomy

How is it that we expect to defend ourselves against police and state violence? Well, we stop whining about how bad things are and how we have no power over our own lives and we organize crews. Crews are any collection of close friends that trust one another to the fullest extent. Friends that trust one another with their own safety and lives. Some people refer to these as affinity groups, but in the attempt to not confuse the difference between activists actions and the actions of those who choose social war as their only option, I use the word crew.

A crew is a group whose aim is the expansion of their own power as individuals and collections of people. The building of community control and autonomy being their goal. As others realize their own power as individuals and as communities, the power of the police and the courts weaken. This is what happens in any community garden, and any riot. People see that they can grow their own food, and help others do the same, they then see what can be done with only eight people. Those eight turn into twenty-one, which turn into fifty-five, then a hundred-thirty-nine. Crews can form any where. In school, on the street, and at the job.

When more people realize their true capabilities to rule their own lives, they, along with others, become a true material force. One of a physical nature, unlike the voting polls that only act as a means to confuse where our true power lies – in our own hands. Not one man's, not one woman's, not one government's. But in our own physical hands. Those who wish to play puppet master know this. The people who fancy themselves our rulers and keepers – politicians, business owners, police, judges and many others – long ago organized themselves into a material physical force that can in actuality change things, move things, and control things. Crews act as a counter-force to those whose goal is to be slave masters.

Crews then serve a role in protecting ourselves from those who would like to see us continue to be mistreated at work.

Those who would like us to continue working for scraps, those who would like us to continue to lie to ourselves. Saying that we are working all this time so our family and our kids get a better life than us. Crews steal from big business, pass out free food and clothes. They take money from those who have it and give it to community centers, free community education programs, and free housing projects. Crews form to act as a force against those who would rather see us behind bars or dead based on the color of our skin or the amount of money in our pockets.

Crews form to approach the police when they are hassling someone for having a beer outside. They approach police for rummaging through their neighbors trash. They stand side by side against code enforcers who are trying to ticket people in the community. They stop the repo man that is stealing their next door neighbor's car. They help build their communities up in such a way that the police don't even want to follow someone into a neighborhood to give

**“...there are those who get indignant and those who take note, those who denounce and those who get organised. We are among those who get organised.” - Call**

them a ticket for expired plates.

Crews do not steal from one another, they do not slight one another. They steal from those who have and give to those who do not. They realize that their main enemy are those who wish to rule over others and make slaves out of us and our loved ones. That is the police, the prisons, the rich, the bureaucrats, the courts and the judges.

We do not do these things because we believe we occupy some imagined moral high ground. We do not wish to create some sort of new morality or new set of “rights” and “wrongs”. We do these things to gain control over our lives and to further our own power as well as the power of those who have always been dispossessed in this society.

**The world we have inherited spares no expense making us feel powerless.**

# The Housing Crisis

from The Antioch Arrow, Antioch C.A

The current housing crisis has left so many of us in shambles. Houses are getting foreclosed on at rates that leave many real estate agents in absolute shock. A quick internet search brings you to a listing of foreclosed and pre-foreclosed homes. Pre-foreclosure just means you are on a grace period to either pay your debt or sell your house.

The web site [www.Foreclosuredeals.com](http://www.Foreclosuredeals.com) says that it has 279 houses as foreclosures and 1,647 as pre-foreclosures. Yahoo real estate lists 3,700 foreclosures. This situation has been in the making for sometime now. In the late 90's we saw a sudden boom in residential buildings in Antioch, Oakley and Brentwood. Houses, that all resembled each other, were built at lightning speeds, with little thought and shoddy carpentry. The assembly line home building. Since 2000 we have seen over a 10% increase in population. People began buying homes and times seemed decent. Then in 2007 all of it came to a screeching halt. Predatory lending by greedy bankers led to all of this. Washington Mutual and Century were big culprits. Banks began to hand out sub-prime mortgages and loans to anyone who applied.

These loans and mortgages are specifically for people with bad credit and low income. The deal was that you get a loan with a reasonable interest rate on it, but the way the loans were written also made it so that if you missed a payment your interest rate would double and even triple. The problem seems so obvious in this concept, if people are low income, or have bad credit, it is likely that they will miss a payment. The banks knew this, but only saw the money. House prices were skyrocketing, but wages were staying the same, they fed off of working people's desire to own a home and have what the upper classes have, security.

They stepped on all of our backs to get money. We trusted them and now the major companies are getting bailed out by the federal government with our tax money. First they stepped on our backs and now they are here to fatten themselves off of our corpses. In Mountain House, near Tracy, they built huge houses that they sold for well over 500,000 dollars. Now 90% of the people there owe more on their houses than the houses are worth. If anything this proves that there is an upper class, and all of us who were comfortable, and now live paycheck to paycheck, or always have lived that way, are not a part of it. There are people behind the scenes controlling the markets and hustling us out of everything we have. We call for a class war, a war to hold those responsible for this crisis accountable for their actions.

Once the market started to fail they began selling off people's debt to other companies. Debt trading became a market in its self, a totally unregulated market where nobody was held accountable.

Empty houses now litter neighborhoods, people are forced out of homes, the collapsed market, ruined by banks, de-

stroyed our economy so now jobs are impossible to find.

This is the perfect storm, the merging of fire and gasoline.

It seems many people's pain has been subsided and put off with the new hope of Barack Obama. What we should remember is that Obama is a Capitalist. Capitalism is a system where there is an elite upper class who makes money by getting people to work for them and then paying them as little as possible. It's a system that is only concerned with maximizing profits, and religion who only worships the dollar. As a capitalist, Obama has personal interest in keeping that system alive.

I've asked a real estate agent the very question "Do you think a stimulus plan by the Obama Administration would keep poor and working class people in their homes?" The answer was an almost laughing "Absolutely not."

We are out of money. Free and affordable health care cannot happen if we bail out corrupt banks and mortgage institutions, and yes we did bail them out for one trillion dollars in taxpayer money. It's the same as if every person in the US gave the banks 4,000 dollars. Now Obama is talking about giving the auto industry 30 billion to bail them out. It's government assistance and Socialism for the rich companies and ruling class, but it's capitalism for us. If we ask for money to be provided to us we're "lazy", "welfare junkies" even "unamerican", but if you're a multi billion dollar company it's fine.

**It's time we end this.**



# If All Goes Well, I Take the Money...

Tacoma, and the surrounding areas, has seen a huge burst in bank robberies, among other creative means of expropriation. Money is tight these days and jobs are scarce. When the will is to survive and provide for your family, at any cost, some people turn to other ways to bring home the bacon. It makes sense, banks have money, banks aren't people, your job might of just gotten outsourced so some greedy boss could save some money. So as we suffer from the decisions of some rich pigs, they are sitting around silver platters of smoked salmon, thankful that their stock didn't drop (they can still take the kids to Cancun this year). Meanwhile we have our houses foreclosed on, we find our fridges empty and we find our lives that much harder. Remember in most of these cases a weapon wasn't even produced, and if it was nobody was hurt. The money is taken from the bank, not the people who work there. Oh the joy of people not getting caught.

## **-Sept 8th Puyallup Faces Another Bank Heist**

Key Bank teller was handed a robbery note and it demanded cash. The money was placed in an envelope and the robber walked out of the bank.

## **-Sept 10th Unarmed Robbery Tacoma**

Union Bank of California robbed in downtown Tacoma. The individual walked into the bank and handed the teller a robbery note that demanded cash. They did not show a weapon. The individual got away with an undisclosed amount of cash.

**-Sept 26th It's All About The Disguise, Man** - A well-disguised bandit robbed a bank in Lakewood. They walked to the counter and shouted at the teller to give them cash. They indicated they were armed with a weapon. The robber rode a bike away from the heist.

**-Sept 30th Puyallup Bank Got Took!** - The robber entered the 1st Security Bank of Washington, walked to the counter and showed the teller a note that demanded cash. The note also indicated the man had a weapon. The robber got an undisclosed amount of money leaving the bank on foot.

**-Bam Bam Bandit Goes Multiple** - This bandit enters banks and hands the teller a note claiming he has a bomb in his back pack, demanding cash and threatening to detonate the bomb if the tellers don't do as he says. The threat to detonate a bomb earned the robber the Bam Bam Bandit moniker. He is believed to be behind following robberies: Sept. 8 at Union Bank of California in Tacoma, Sept. 12 at Sound Community in Seattle, Sept. 18 at US Bank in Puyallup, Sept. 24 at Heritage Bank in Tacoma, Sept. 28 at Bartells Pharmacy in Seattle, Sept. 30 at Washington Federal Savings in Seattle, Oct. 2 at US Bank in Bellevue, Oct. 11 at Washington Mutual Bank in Seattle

**-Nov 4th Puyallup Bank Jacked** - The US Bank was robbed. The suspect presented a note demanding money. No weapon was seen and no one was injured.

**-Nov 14th Columbia Bank in Tacoma Got Took** - Robber did not show a weapon and no one was injured during the holdup.

**-Nov 26th Orting Bank Robbery** - A bandit walked to a teller at a Key Bank and gave her a note saying he had a weapon and is robbing the bank. The teller gave the man an unknown amount of money. Transaction ended.

**Dec 8th South End Tacoma Bank Take Over** - he bandit entered the Key Bank. The robber pulled out a gun and fired a shot into the ceiling. He ordered everyone to get on the floor, police reported. The robber pointed the gun at a clerk and demanded the cash. He put an undisclosed amount of money in a bag and ran from the bank. He wore a black stocking cap and mask, black hooded sweatshirt and black pants. The robber wore a ski mask during the heist. Officers found the ski mask nearby. No arrest has been reported.

**Dec 9th Wells Fargo Got Gapped** - Bandit handed a teller a note. The note stated the man was armed with a weapon, wanted cash and would shoot the teller if his demands were not met. **(two comments on the online news areticle)** - "Nice to see people are back to work! :D" and "Is it even possible for Pierce County police to catch anybody? Seriously, they **NEVER** catch anyone that doesn't turn themselves in or stumble into a doughnut shop. What a joke."

"The only way to look at the problem is the elementary one: if all goes well, I take the money, if it doesn't I do my time. I have spoken to many robbers and one of the first I met said to me, 'Listen, you who can read and write, take a piece of paper and do some sums. How much can I earn in three years working in a factory?...If I do a robbery and it goes well I take more [than double what could be made working in a factory] If things go wrong I do three years and I'm back where I started. Moreover, if it does go wrong, I'm not working under a boss who drives me crazy for three years, or in Germany, sleeping in Portacabins. I'm in jail and at least I'm respected here. I'm a bank robber and when I go out into the yard I'm seen as a serious person, not a poor sod that lives from his labour.' Frankly, with all my science, I was at a loss for words. What he said didn't sound wrong to me, even at the level of basic economics. And what could I say? 'But, you know, you can't touch property'. He'd have spat in my face!...As Fichte, who knew something about philosophy, or at least he thought so, said **'Whoever has been defrauded of what is due to him on the basis of the social contract has the right to go and take it back.'** And he who said that was certainly not a revolutionary or a progressive."

- Afredo M. Bonanno, *Locked Up*



## La Haine

The film *La Haine*, written in 1995, follows three friends who grew up in the banlieues (the ghettos) of France. The three young men go through the next twenty four hours with a friend in mind, Abdel, who was severely beaten during interrogation by the police after a recent riot. One of the three, Vince, in an attempt to gain respect and seek vengeance, vows to kill a police officer if Abdel dies. Although this was filmed in 1995, it shows the reality

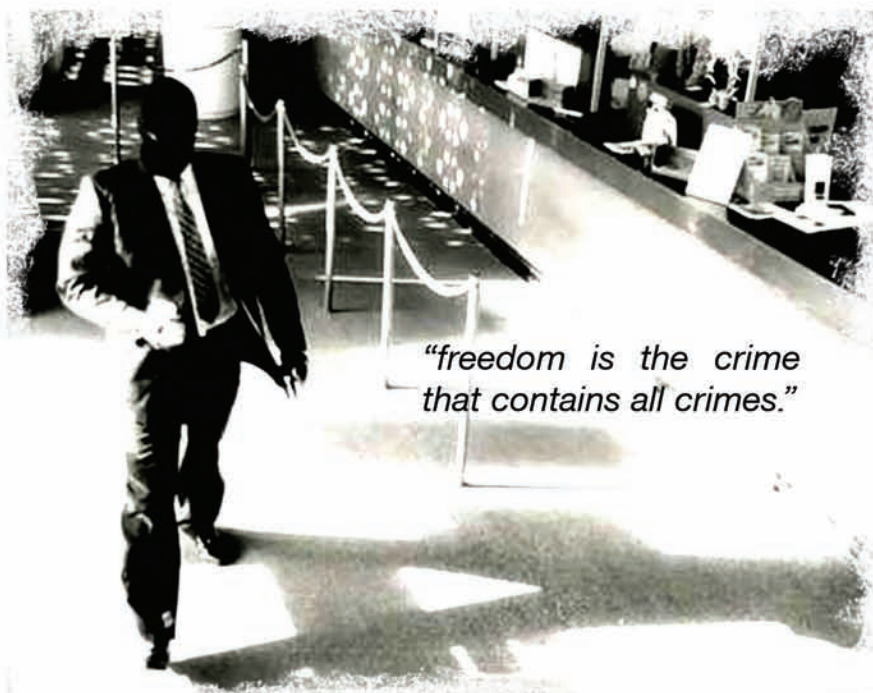
of a constant situation of tension that exists within all elements of society where there are those who have and those who do not; where one needs to gain respect by any means necessary in order to get by in a world that has robbed us of our dignity, played us as pawns and used us for the financial benefits for their prisons and their courts. The fires have yet to die down in the banlieues of France.

Carried by Tout Niquer, Tacoma, Wa

## THE REBEL

### CONTACT:

THEREBEL@RISEUP.NET  
MYSPACE.COM/REBELPERIODICAL



*"freedom is the crime  
that contains all crimes."*

## Comrades & Friends

### → Modesto Anarcho:

Anarchist Project straight out of the Central Valley in California! Check these homies online at MySpace.com/38511064 and at Geocities.com/anarcho209 E-mail: Anarcho209@yahoo.com write them for more information at PO Box 3027, Modesto, Ca 95353

### → Tout Niquer:

An Anarchist pamphlet & book distrobution project out of Tacoma, Wa. Contact them through E-mail and get a catalogue at ToutNiquer@riseup.net Write them for more info at Tout Niquer Box 412, 2522 N Proctor, Tacoma, Wa 98406-5338

### → Olympia Cop Watch:

Cop watchers from Olympia Wa. Do you like the creeping police state that has taken over your country, protecting and serving property at the expense of your liberty and your health? For more information about Olympia Copwatch and how to help, please contact Drew Hendricks at 360-870-3127.

### → InfoShop News

A great source for Anarchist news, both National and International. Also a good Anarchist FAQ. Check it out. www.Infoshop.org

### → Social Rupture:

A blog highlighting on social conflict nationally. socialrupture.blogspot.com

### → Confrontations:

Canadian Anarchist blog. Keep up to date with the struggle with no borders! confrontation.wordpress.com

### → Sub Media:

Get your news from this crazy fucker the Stimulator and watch his online show at Submedia.tv