

The Bluegrass Insurgent

an autonomous lexington newsletter from the *red & anarchist action network* JAN 07 #1

The Wildcat Infoshop Raided and Shut Down in Lexington

Opened November 2006, the Wildcat Infoshop was a small collectively run social space that focused on making radical literature available and hosting all-ages music shows with the goal of "facilitating resistance to capitalism." It was the only active radical bookstore and all-ages venue in Lexington.

On January 12th 2007, the Wildcat was raided by police and fire marshals under the pretext of "zoning violations." That they had a helicopter overheard for hours and over ten people in uniform to conduct the raid - and had sent in an undercover agent days before the raid happened - speaks towards a wider strategy of repression against the space. Indeed, the pigs were far more interested in the literature and posters than the structure and zoning of the building. After the raid a notice was put on the door forbidding occupancy and days later the lease was terminated by the landlord.

This incident demonstrates the complicity of the fire department in State repression, and that even in times of limited struggle the lines of battle are clearly drawn. Any project which attempts to act against the ruling social order will be a target for repression. This should not surprise us.

Responses

There has been no immediate outward response to losing the Infoshop by those who organized or participated in it, but there are possibilities for turning this defeat into an opportunity for attack. This could mean taking action against those responsible for the raid and eviction - the police, fire, and building inspection departments. It could also mean opening more openly confrontational squatted spaces and preparing to defend them. Whatever one chooses to do, running to our enemies (media, state, church) is not an option.

LET US GATHER AND BE DANGEROUS TOGETHER!

Against Environmentalism and Mountaintop Removal - for Wild Resistance!

In Eastern Kentucky, West Virginia, and all of Appalachia, the coal industry is turning the oldest ecosystem in North America into a field of craters and coal dust. Make no mistake - this is a war. Explosives up to 100 times as strong as ones that tore open the Oklahoma City Federal building blast up to 800 feet off mountaintops. Flooding, dust, coal trucks, and water pollution are making the once beautiful hills of Appalachia unlivable. The destruction of Appalachian land is also destroying the people who live there, amounting to genocide against Appalachians to the tune of billions in profit for the coal industry.

In response to this ongoing catastrophe, "radical" and reformist environmental groups (from Earth First! to the Sierra Club), in addition to left/liberal political groups like Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, have launched public campaigns such as Mountain Justice Summer, urging folks to appeal to the State and the coal companies themselves in opposition to mountaintop removal. In some cases, Earth First! activists have organized lock-downs and other acts of nonviolent civil disobedience, such as blockading a coal power plant in Virginia. Mountain Justice Summer explicitly separates itself from any sabotage and NGOs involved in the coalition have attacked anarchists and other radical participants, putting a half on many of their projects.

The story of reformist NGOs taking over any project they are allowed to participate in and sabotaging radical efforts is not new. What is surprising is that those who seek to dismantle this whole system would fall for the poison apple of legality and 'respectability' over and over again.

Appealing to the State or capital only solidifies our powerlessness and defeat. Successful struggle requires creativity and ambition, not compromise

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and self-repression. The environmental NGOs want a place at the negotiating table, a role in managing Appalachia and have only a parasitic, if not directly repressive, relationship to social struggle. The fight against mountaintop removal begins with the rejection of environmentalism.

Let's remember that the exploited and dispossessed in Appalachia are struggling in ways not represented in the media or by activist groups, and we can be complicit in those struggles. As the dictum goes, the earth isn't being destroyed - it's being killed, and those killing it have names and addresses. **Death to king coal!**

A few companies and organizations responsible for mountaintop removal:

Kentucky Coal Association

340 South Broadway
Lexington, KY 40508
Tel: 606-233-4743
Fax: 606-233-4745
Bill K. Caylor, Vice President

Massey Energy

4 North 4th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 888.424.2417, 804.788.1824

Find more around the country -

<http://www.msha.gov/MINELINK/STATES.HTM>

Who Dares Wins!

On Wednesday January 24th Lexington cop Donnie Salmons pulled over a gray minivan after noticing it did not have license plates. As soon as the van was pulled over, the men inside it got out and started quickly walking towards Salmons. He drew his weapon, then holstered it when he thought the situation was under control. He was wrong.

The men came forward again quickly and began attacking him. Salmons tried to pepper spray them, but instead only got himself in the face. He was on the ground for several minutes as the men kicked and punched him in the head. The men then drove away, leaving him lying beside the road.

Unfortunately, no permanent injuries were done to Salmons, and he was back on the street in days. This attack, however, sets a precedent for 2007, and one can only hope it gets better from here. The men who beat this pig are still on the loose.

Attacks on Police in Lexington:

2004 - 48

2005 - 62

2006 - 89

*gettin' better
all the time...*



the injured pig donnie salmons

The Red & Anarchist Action Network:

fucking maniacs hell-bent on destroying civilization

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