



SOCIETY!

How you gonna come? - an editorial

It might not seem like it (especially when contemplating the absurdity of certain threads or the disrespect in others), but @news is a project of infrastructure.

This building of infrastructure for anarchists is a challenging endeavor--not because many anarchists are young and sure of themselves (so much so that they can't imagine any perspective other than their own being valid), but because infrastructure is planted in the now. Planting in the here-and-now means doing it in a barren soil.

When building a tool that is intended to be used as a weapon, the inhospitably of the workplace (competition, assumption of bad faith, hostility) must be expected. That hostility is one of the tests that we face when we work on projects that are, or become, meaningful.

There are many of these tests; sometimes they are quiet, and sometimes they are loud. You may be tested with an arrest, a health issue, or the exposure of parts of your life that you wanted kept private. What is important is not the way in which you are tested but how you deal with the test, and more-so, how you deal with the aftermath (whether you pass or fail). Most of us do not pass our first test. Some of us divulge too much information, some of us are inappropriate with our friends and need to be checked on it, and some of us stay injured for the rest of our lives. The shame of that failure can haunt us. It can chase us away from association with anyone other than coworkers and family. This is a great tragedy.

This withdrawal comes from society's puritanical insistence that each of us act like ultra-capable, appropriate machines of ideological coherence. That insistence is destroying our ability to grow strong together. We are spending hardly any time picking each other up (other than to tear others down). We aren't learning skills

about how to age, to share, or to progress through certain perspectives because instead we are pointing at dark things rather than how much the bright light washes us out, blinds us, flattens us...

When they kick down your front door you have the hardest choice to make, because the weaknesses of all the possible options have become *very clear*. Do you turtle up and wait to fight another day (perhaps in a different situation than drawn guns and bully boots), or do you go down in a (metaphorical) blaze of gunfire, never to be seen again.

List of New Year's Noise Demos

St Louis, Missouri:

On New Year's Eve we gathered with around 35 friends to hold a noise demonstration outside the Hogan Street Regional Youth Center in St. Louis. Just before midnight, a torch lit procession made its way to the former school turned prison where for a brief moment the night was illuminated by fireworks and the exuberant joy of children's smiling faces. Jumping silhouettes behind the dormitory windows echoed our exhilaration in the street below. A resounding cry of "Our passion for freedom is stronger than their prisons!" filled the air as two banners were hung on the fence of the youth detention center - "Every jail is an abuse" and "2011: Year of the breakout."
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13146>

Richmond, Virginia:

We just celebrated by having the Richmond Anarchist Black Cross' first annual noise demo in front of the Richmond City Jail. 7 people attended, which was small, but really fucking loud! We didn't plan very far ahead of time this year- next year

should be a much bigger event. It was still a great way to ring in the New Year and I really hope some of the inmates heard us and got stoked that something was happening.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13165>

Tacoma, Washington:

About 10 anarchists were gathered with a small sound system at the Pierce county Jail in the center of the city. People walking by reacted positively, one person even joining in on taking out some frustration on prison property was as well brought to tears at the whole gesture. Another demanding fist bumps from all present and yelling fuck the police at the prison for a few minutes. Noise demonstrations have happened every month for the past six months at this particular prison normally ending with us on the outside stopping the music and asking those on the inside to make some noise which we can luckily hear and which always fuels our rage at this rotten system.
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13163>

Santa Cruz, California:

We held our first noise demo four months ago in response to Santa Cruz County's cooperation with ICE. On New Year's, we held another. About 25 people showed up, many of whom were punctual. Prisoners in the Blaine Street Women's Facility responded to our drumming by flashing the lights on and off in their cells and pointing their lamps out the windows. One prisoner wrote something on a piece of paper and held it up to the window.
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13189>

New York, New York:

Just an hour before the dawn of the New Year, we gathered outside of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in downtown Manhattan to make some noise and show our disgust for the prison system. We unfurled a banner reading "DESTROY ALL PRISONS" and another with a circled-A while making as much

Anti-Police Protesters March in NE Portland

noise as we could with horns, noisemakers, and our voices. Our temporary goal was met when we saw lights from the prison cells flickering on and off in response to the commotion.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13194>

Laval, Quebec:

On New Year's Eve, we held a noise demo in Laval, Quebec (near Montreal). We visited two federal prisons and an immigration detention centre. Both of the federal prisons we visited were included in the wave of expansions announced by the government this past fall.

This is the third noise demo held at these prisons in the last six months. One noise demo was held in August on Prisoner Justice Day, and another was held in November in response to the cutting of visiting hours at one of the prisons.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13175>

Hamilton, Ontario:

On December 31st 2010, a few dozen people gathered for the second annual New Years Eve noise demo outside Barton Jail in Hamilton, Ontario. Among the fierce chanting, there were fireworks set off for the prisoners on both east and west sides of the jail. A banner with a mailing address painted on it was held to invite prisoners to correspond with us. The wall of the jail was spray-painted with "TEAR THIS SHIT DOWN". A speech was read on both sides of the jail, expressing solidarity with prisoners and explaining reasons for struggling against prison. Solidarity was expressed to the prisoners who were on strike in Georgia, Roger Clement, G20 defendants in custody, and non-status migrants being held at Barton Jail.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13156>

From Portland Indymedia

PORTLAND, Ore. -- Protesters clad in black and chanting anti-police phrases hit the streets of Portland in an apparent response to recent officer-involved shootings.

With their faces covered, the group of 20 to 25 people held anti-police signs as they walked down Northeast Sandy Boulevard at about 9 p.m. Monday.

Members of the group used a rock to crack a glass door at a Wells Fargo bank at Sandy Boulevard and 43rd Avenue. They also spray painted the window with an anarchist symbol.

Officers used speakers to order the group out of the road after some of them started knocking over garbage cans.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13155>

Green Scare Political Prisoner Jonathan Paul Released to Halfway House

Jonathan Paul has been released from prison and is on his way back to Oregon where he will be required to spend some time at a halfway house before returning to his wife and animal children. One more of the non-cooperating heroes freed. Send him your support as he begins the difficult process of putting a life back together after 5 years of hell.

For more information, head to supportjonathan.org

Smashing in Tacoma

Comrades in Portland demonstrated Monday night in response to recent police shootings, defacing and smashing the window of a Wells Fargo bank.

In solidarity, a Wells Fargo bank in Tacoma was attacked, having 3 of it's windows smashed. Wells Fargo is one of the largest shareholders in GEO GROUP, the corporation that runs the Homeland Security Detention Center in the tide flats of Tacoma.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13158>

Actions in Germany

At 3pm about 100 people gathered in front of the detention center for immigrants, which lies in the extreme outskirts of town (in Grünau) and due to the high level of snow is very difficult to reach this days since the train system is working with several interruptions.

With music, chants, slogan, drums and a good spirit which has not been put down by the heavy police presence the comrades broke for a while the isolation where refugees are forced everyday into.

...

Beside this, some actions undertaken from unknown individuals took place during the day as one could read on corporate medias and several website.

In the evening about 20 people paid a visit to the women prison and courthouse located in the district of Pankow.

...

Some of the spraypainted slogans as reported by the press: „for freedom“, „prisons to become hole in the ground“, „criminal is the system“, „revolt“.

Later in the night a police station located in the Brunnenstr., district of Mitte, has been attacked with flares, stones, paintbombs and molotow cocktails by a group which called itself „autonomous groups“.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13180>

RIP Judy Bonds Mountain defender

It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing yesterday evening of Julia "Judy" Bonds, Executive Director of Coal River Mountain Watch. Judy was more than a co-worker, friend, and mentor: she became family. She inspired thousands in the movement to end mountaintop removal and was a driving force in making it what it has become.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13170>

Alex Hundert: Out of Jail

To remain behind bars would have been the obvious choice, even if a hard decision. Previously in October, I had made the decision to refuse my bail which included a media gag and punitive non associations. Staying in jail this time around would also have been relatively easy because I had been doing just fine in there. But at the same time, I was a serious drain on those who have done such wonders in supporting me, helping me stay strong and to feel connected to community. Incarceration is a weapon designed to affect the communities that people are a part of; to suck resources, energy and emotion out of them and not just the individuals held in dungeons.

And while being willing to sacrifice oneself might be noble in theory and sometimes the only right decision to make, in this circumstance I feel it is far more important to be in my community, contributing, giving back, fulfilling my responsibilities. This is who I want to be in the movement right now—a participant, not a symbol.

And what would the point even have been, if I had sat in the cage until after we were able to get our victory in court? The truth is, the only point that can ever be proven in a court is that the courts are a legitimate source of authority in our lives. I would like to deny them that power.

We could have fought them, on their own battle ground, and tried to establish that the OPP's and the Crown's position that what took place on the Ryerson and WLU campuses did not constitute "public demonstrations." I've had a long time to think about it, and I realised that I don't really care how panel discussions are classified by the courts. What I care about is that we are able to defend the spaces in which those free discussions take place and that we do not depend on the state to provide them for us. That defence happens every day, with our unity in the streets, and in those spaces themselves, not in a courtroom.

And if we had won the trial it would merely have established that I had not breached my bail conditions on those particular days. It would not establish that the cops and the Crown would never

be able to treat another campus-based discussion as a "public demonstration." The fight is not whether a panel discussion is a public demonstration, the fight is over the existence of such a bail condition itself and it will hopefully be found "unconstitutional" as a result of a challenge that has been put forward by one of my coaccused.

For those who do prioritise such legal victories, I actually think that we have come closer to establishing that such discussions are not to be legally defined as demonstrations than we would have by winning at trial. The charges for the Laurier event were dropped, and I only plead guilty for one part of the event at Ryerson as contravening my bail condition not to participate in a public demonstration.

In the statement of facts agreed upon at court during the plea hearing, what was specifically defined as constituting a breach was just a single presentation by three Indigenous women at Ryerson. They used props, and the opening line included the statement, "I am not here today as a panellist." In such a twisted world that wants to hold people in jails and put on shows in courtrooms to argue over such semantics, I can accept that such a presentation, in a room full of nearly three hundred people, might need to constitute a "public demonstration." Nothing in my plea suggests that there was anything "unlawful" about that presentation, just that under this regime, it counts as a "public demonstration."

I would like to add though, that I whole-heartedly support every word that those women had to say that night. The content was both poignant and necessary, and also perfectly in line with panel discussions. By no means in itself did the content of the presentation constitute a public demonstration. It was not the Indigenous language, nor the possession of traditional eagle feathers; it was merely the use of plastic handcuffs as props. These props served to demonstrate the ways in which Indigenous people's participation in academic, activist, and broader society has been handcuffed by racist and colonial practices and structures. Also far too often, Indigenous people find themselves

in literal handcuffs as a result of the patterns in this legal system, especially pre-trial incarcerations, over-prosecutions, and unjust convictions. I thank those women for making that presentation that night, and if it makes me "guilty," again, so be it. Nyaweh, miigwetch to them.

I would like to write a new narrative, one other than the tired and damaging narrative of martyrdom whereby one isolated person sits in a jail cell becoming a symbol against injustice. We need to tell a new story—one that does not insist on suffering from those committed to our movements. While this is often necessary, we also need a discourse that speaks to us about commitment as meaning that we are actually part of the daily struggles that strive to build communities and networks that can sustain our visions for better lives and for spaces where real freedom and safety are possible. This is the type of story that I want to be telling.

I don't think that people should be any less outraged now that I am out of jail. The injustice of the system has been laid bare again like so many times before. It is the inherent functioning of an explicitly oppressive system that is designed to perpetuate power and propagate its own order, especially against targeted communities including Indigenous people, people of colour, poor people, queer and trans people. This system cannot be vindicated by courtroom victories. Be outraged and let's struggle on our own terms.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13642>

GAP Arson In Athens

From Athens Indymedia

Responsibility claim for incendiary attack on the "GAP" Athens, 4/1/11

We are at war we are not celebrating... We have hostages and we act... Fire, attack, destruction, this is our choice, this is the side we choose...

Because the masks have fallen, because its the moment where the consumerist smiles are too many, the life of plenty, on credit, collapsed.... Hypocrisy and indifference are from now on a conscious attitude.

And we consciously and decisively from the side of the urban guerilla warfare, moved, on the night of friday 31/12/10, around the streets of Psihiko area, welcoming the new year in the GAP shop, contributing to the fireworks of the changing of the year with 2 incendiary devices. This is our gift to the market and the downfall its taken, something that especially pleases us....

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13176>

Revolt in Keretea

Clashes continued in Keretea outside Athens on Wednesday. Local residents do not want the government to build a large waste disposal site in their town. The Greek government is obliged to build this dump according to EU regulations. Residents have been struggling against the riot police that have been occupying the town for weeks.

On Wednesday, clashes took place on the highway, in the city, and in front of the local police station. Residents from the town with a population of 11,000 are largely in opposition to not only the waste site, but to the presence of the police, which they view as an occupying force.

An appeal by residents of Keretea against the planned construction of a landfill in the district, is to be heard on February 2, a local court ruled yesterday. Until then, all planned construction work is forbidden, the court said.

This is an example of a local struggle that is unifying the town, from Orthodox Christians to hooligans, from parents to anarchists.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13203>

Conspiracy Cells of Fire-Commando Horst Fantazzini

The attack on the Administrative Court is dedicated with all our fire to our brothers (G.Tsakalos, P.Argirou, H.Hajimihelakis) of the prisoner's cell of the members of Conspiracy Cells of Fire. Our comrades and the honest minority of dignified revolutionary Persons political and civil, are not just a piece of our struggle, are not only an aspect of our action, but their choices, attitudes and dignity are the struggle itself as a whole, they are the substance.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13184>

American Presses Attempted Murder Charges Against Delta Police for Beating in Demonstration

This morning in Athens, an American anarchist has pressed attempted murder charges against Delta and Dias motorcycle police, as well as the relevant commanding officers, for a beating she suffered at the intersection of Patision and Stounari streets while demonstrating against the IMF on November 15th, 2010. Meanwhile, over 170 members of the American and European scholarly community, including Noam Chomsky, Judith Butler, and Immanuel Wallerstein, have denounced the behavior of the Delta police towards demonstrations and specifically the beating of the American demonstrator, calling the attack on her "nearly fatal".

The November 15th Beating

On the night of the 15th of November, the 27 year old, 48 kilo protester was rushed bleeding and semi-conscious to the Erythros Stavros emergency room, where she was diagnosed as multiply-injured and having been brutally beaten by S. Marianou, a forensic surgeon. She was released after three days. Among multiple injuries to her head, neck, back, and abdomen, she suffered from a skull fracture, blood hemorrhaging, and permanent damage to her inner ear. She also received stitches on the side of her head where she was injured by the first blow from the police by what surgeons in the

UK: Arson Attacks in Solidarity with Conspiracy of Cells of Fire

From Indymedia UK

Barclays Bank, Dulwich, London got a visit early this morning just after midnight--a gift--can of petrol--left at the entrance--in flames--a small attack on the banking system--in solidarity to the Greek comrades in court today 19 January for the start of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire trial. midnight express

Early hours of saturday morning security and surveillance van set on fire in solidarity with members of conspiracy cells of fire group who face trial in Greece on monday the 17th.

hospital called a "blunt object"- the impact of which had rendered her immediately unconscious.

The demonstration took place on the first day of anniversary celebrations of the historic 1973 Polytechnio uprising, and was attended by thousands of people ranging from base unions to student organizations to left parties and anarchists, protesting the arrival of IMF officials in Athens that day.

Eye-witness say that as the demonstration was coming to end at Polytechnio at approximately 8pm, up to 15 Delta police on motorcycles charged a student block at the back of the demonstration on Patision street, throwing concussion grenades into the crowd and sending people into a panic.

According to eye-witness accounts, one of the Delta police ran towards the American woman and hit her from behind with a blunt object, immediately knocking her unconscious and causing her head to gush blood. Then multiple officers beat her with batons and kicked her before dragging her to an adjacent sidewalk, where she was beaten again by multiple officers.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13552>

Mad Arson Attacks for Conspiracy of Cells of Fire — Athens, Greece

“Saturday night 15/1 and Sunday 16/1 we torched:

- bank of Proton Bank in Vironas area
- Local organization of PASOK (ruling party) in Moshato,
- Two vehicles of a security company in Gizi,
- Personal motorbike of a cop who lives in Exarchia (Asimaki Fotila street).

We dedicate these actions to our imprisoned comrades accused in the case of the “Conspiracy of Cells of Fire” and tried as of today in the political court marshal in Koridallos prison. Three of those have taken the political responsibility for the organization, while the others deny their participation, but keep intact their rebelliousness and dignity. We pledge that we will not leave any imprisoned revolutionary alone. These violent acts of resistance are not only fair, but also the duty of every person who puts themselves against a world where exploitation and injustice reign and money is in charge. The individual agreements and disagreements are to be discussed; what is non-negotiable is: solidarity between individuals and groups who are fighting for freedom in every way and with any means.

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13493>

Update from Greece

Trio of blasts

An incendiary device went off outside a branch of Proton Bank in Vironas, eastern Athens, in the early hours of Saturday, causing minor damage and no injuries. At about the same time, a similar device caused damage to an office formerly used by PASOK in Moschato, southern Athens. Also in a pre-dawn incident on Saturday, a homemade bomb went off outside the offices of a construction company in Halandri, northeastern Athens. Police did not say if the three incidents were linked.

Stoppages on trolleys and buses three times this week

There will be no buses or trolley buses between 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. today (Monday, 17) as the labor unions representing workers on those modes of public transport have decided to protest the government's imminent reforms to the sector. They have also planned to hold identical work stoppages on Wednesday and Thursday. Employees on the Kifissia-Piraeus electric railway (ISAP) will walk off the job tomorrow between noon and 4 p.m. Metro and tram workers have so far decided to refrain from further action, pending talks with the government.

The trial of 13 suspected members of the Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire urban guerrilla group is due to begin under tight security in a courtroom at Korydallos Prison today, after authorities confirmed that four people arrested last week in Athens were planning an attack to mark the beginning of the case.

Six of those going on trial are in custody, three were released on bail and four are still wanted by authorities. The suspects have been charged in connection to a string of bloodless bomb attacks on public buildings and the homes of politicians.

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13324>

Istanbul - Solidarity Action with Conspiracy Cells of Fire

From Istanbul Indymedia

Istanbul, Turkey (16.01.2011) - In the night of 16th of January 2011 at 7 p.m. against the biggest one of the shopping centers in Istanbul, Cevahir AVM, there was an attack with fireworks. The 4 of the exploded 7 fireworks hit the entrance and the windows of shopping center. While fireworks begin to explode, there had been no injury except a little bit panic.

While the banks, shopping centers, fastfoods and other part of the consuming culture reduce imagination and free time to shit and debt, while our planet began to unliveable because of the consumption and commodification, we see a little art-sabotage not inappropriate.

The actions that we took like this is for solidarity with our comrades who are now in hostages in Greece dungeons and with Conspiracy Cells of Fire.

Insurrectionary greetings
 ÖFKE (ANGER)

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13338>

All of the Thessaloniki 4 are Free

From Occupied London

The four comrades, including UK anarchist Simon Chapman, have been found not guilty for all (except one minor charge) in Greek court of the charges going back to the EU Summit protests and riots in Thessaloniki in 2003.

All four of the defendants are free. All the initial charges were dropped apart from “distinguished defiance of authority” which was then reduced to “minor defiance of authority”. This is a misdemeanour, carrying a 6-month suspended sentence, but none of them will be imprisoned unless of course someone is charged again during these six months. This was the best the juries could ever do, since they had to be charged of something, in order to “justify” the six months they had spent in prison back in 2003.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13721>

Statement on the infiltration by Mark 'Marco' Jacobs

People who had been associated with CAN and the other groups he had become a part of in Cardiff, such as No Borders and Gwent Anarchists, tried to make it known within activist circles that the man we knew as Marco was an undercover cop. But without definite proof we were urged not to make unfounded allegations.

It was only when news broke on Mark Kennedy and Lynn Watson that there seemed an opportunity to establish the truth for certain. Following our leads, on the 14th January 2011 the Guardian obtained confirmation that he was indeed a serving police officer. We don't know exactly how this was done, but believe that confirmation came directly from ACPO, the Association of Chief Police Officers. We were not comfortable relying on the mainstream media in this way, but all our previous attempts to properly establish who he was had come to nothing.

Marco worked on us (not with us) for four years. He developed strong personal relationships and some of us feel an enormous personal betrayal. But he also deliberately and systematically set out to damage a movement, and we think it is important that knowledge of what he did, and how he did it, is shared and discussed as widely as possible.

Possibly one of the most damaging things he did was use his CAN 'credentials' to infiltrate the anti-G8 Dissent network in Europe. CAN had been actively involved in Dissent and in the planning of mass blockades at the G8 in Stirling in 2005, and some members of CAN were keen to contribute to a wider European network. But CAN was a small group, and very few amongst us had the time and money to travel to international meetings. Marco of course, had plenty of all of these, so it was easy for him to step up and get involved. In at least one case he attended European planning meetings alongside Mark Kennedy. It is likely that their activities seriously damaged the organisation of protest at the G8 in Germany in 2007.

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13406>

Trial Collapses after Undercover Officer Changes Sides

From BBC

The trial of six green campaigners has collapsed after an undercover policeman who had infiltrated their group offered to give evidence on their behalf.

The six were charged with conspiring to shut down the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottingham in 2009.

The case was due to start on Monday, but was abandoned after Pc Mark Kennedy contacted the defence team to say he would be prepared to help them.

The prosecution subsequently dropped their case.

Mr Kennedy had been intimately involved in the green movement since 2000.

He was known to those within it as Mark "Flash" Stone, having earned the nickname because he always seemed to have more money than the other activists.

Confronted

He lived a double life: as Mark Kennedy of the Metropolitan Police he had a wife and children; but as Mark Stone, green activist, he had an unsuspecting girlfriend in Nottingham.

He would disappear for extended periods, telling his girlfriend he had to visit his "brother" in the United States.

In October 2010, Mr Kennedy was confronted by some of the activists after they found documents which revealed his true identity.

He admitted he had been a Met Police officer and had infiltrated their organisations, before then disappearing.

Danny Chivers, who was one of the six defendants in the failed case, said Mr Kennedy was not just an observer, but an agent provocateur.

"We're not talking about someone sitting at the back of the meeting taking notes - he was in the thick of it."

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13216>

Game Theory & Anarchism: Why Snitches are Snitches, & Why Anarchists are Not Snitches

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If each suspect only cares about minimizing their own jail time, then the prisoner's dilemma forms a non-zero-sum game. (A zero-sum game is one in which the total benefits and total losses of all players equal zero, for instance, if Asimov, Bradbury, and Clarke dumpster a block of tofu and Bradbury takes a larger piece, the others get less, but the total benefits and losses is zero. A non-zero-sum game is one in which the aggregate total gains and losses is not zero, meaning that everyone will either collectively benefit or collectively suffer together.) In game theory, the sole concern of each player is maximizing their own payoff (less jail time), with no concern for the other player's payoff. The curious Nash equilibrium (i.e. rationalized solution) for this game is a Pareto-suboptimal solution, that is, rational choice dictates both players to play defect, even though each player's individual reward would be greater if they both played cooperatively.

As can be seen, each player faces the same choice: 1) 6 months/10 years, or (2) no time/4 years. Clearly, the second choice is better. Which is to say that snitching is better. Which doesn't exactly correspond to actual human behaviour: snitching is the unfortunate exception, not the rule. It just doesn't sit right at all, mathematically, statistically, rationally, logically, or otherwise. But then, this is where things get superrational.

Douglas Hofstadter, in *Metamagical Themas*, proposes that the conception of rationality that leads "rational" players to defect is faulty. Instead, Hofstadter posits an alternative rational behaviour, which he terms "superrational".

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13388>

Safety is an Illusion: Reflections on Accountability

by Angustia Celeste

I was asked by a dear friend to write this piece about accountability within radical communities- offer some insight in light of the years we've spent fighting against rape culture. Except I don't believe in accountability anymore. It should be noted that my anger and hopelessness about the current model is proportional to how invested I've been in the past. Accountability feels like a bitter ex-lover to me and I don't have any of those... the past 10 years I really tried to make the relationship work but you know what?

There is no such thing as accountability within radical communities because there is no such thing as community- not when it comes to sexual assault and abuse. Take an honest survey sometime and you will find that we don't agree. There is no consensus. Community in this context is a mythical, frequently invoked and much misused term. I don't want to be invested in it anymore.

I think its time to abandon these false linguistic games we play and go back to the old model. I miss the days when it was considered reasonable to simply kick the living shit out of people and put them on the next train out of town- at least that exchange was clear and honest. I have spent too much time with both survivors and perpetrators drowning in a deluge of words that didn't lead to healing or even fucking catharsis.

I am sick of the language of accountability being used to create mutually exclusive categories of 'fucked up' and 'wronged.' I find the language of 'survivor' and 'perp' offensive because it does not lay bare all the ways in which abuse is a dynamic between parties. (Though I will use those terms here because its the common tender we have.)

Anarchists are not immune to dynamics of abuse, that much we can all agree on but I have come to realize more and more that we cannot keep each other safe. Teaching models of mutual working consent is a good start- but it will never be enough: socialization of gender, monogamy- the lies of exclusivity and the appeal

Tunisian Insurrection

From Angry News

Curfew. For whom? For the police and the army perhaps who have deserted the streets the night of Thursday, January 14!

Because the protesters are still there, they are watching over the city.

In the euphoria of the intifada, these luminous and precious days, the Tunisians have respect for nothing: neither curfew nor god. They propose an open Tunis, without limits. A club without cockroaches. A place where anything is possible. An amusement park for adults and children. Hay Ettadhamen, khob-sistes district (bread fanatics), the biggest party in the country: a bastille with no centre, no pavements, no cafes, no streets, no dead ends, no intersections, no taxi stands. With crowds and noise. It's like the south of Brazil. Even the sky seems artificial, that first night of curfew not respected. China sky.

The children of the bullet occupy the whole space and adults are learning to go to the adults next door again. A Tunis drawn from doodling. It looks like a pigeon, a hawk or a falcon. One has the feeling of having lived there before even being born. It's carnival. La fiesta. Ezzard. Revolution.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13294>

of "love" as propriety are too strong. People seek out these levels of intensity when the love affair is new, when that obsessive intimacy feels good and then don't know how to negotiate soured affection.

That's the thing about patriarchy its fucking pervasive and that's the thing about being an anarchist, or trying to live free, fierce and without apology- none of it keeps you safe from violence. There is no space we can create in a world as damaged as the one we live in which is absent from violence. That we even think it is possible says more about our privilege than anything else. Our only autonomy lies in how we negotiate and use power and violence ourselves.

Egypt: the people want the regime to fall

From The people want the regime to fall
Reports from the Egyptian uprising,
in English

After 5 days of unprecedented popular dissent in Egypt, protestors are still on the main square in downtown Cairo demanding the resignation of President Mubarak and his entire government, and say they will not settle for anything less. After 30 years of brutal police oppression the people have finally risen and do not seem to be backing down.

Downtown Cairo was an incredible scene tonight. Tahrir Square was filled with 1000s of protestors, some of whom erected tents on the square's grassy central island. Roads leading off the square were filled with people strolling about streets empty of traffic, filled with anti-regime graffiti. The road next to the Interior Ministry was a warzone of burnt out cars and smashed windows. Above all there was a sense of joy, of freedom and the possibility of change.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13705>

I really want to emphasize: there is no such thing as safe space under patriarchy or capitalism in light of all the sexist, hetero-normative, racist, classist (etc) domination that we live under. The more we try and pretend safety can exist at a community level the more disappointed and betrayed our friends, and lovers will be when they experience violence and do not get supported. Right now we've been talking a good game but the results are not adding up.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13205>

Call to Action for the Spring 2011 IMF/WB Meetings

On April 16, 2000 upward of 20,000 anti-globalization protesters descended on Washington, DC to resist the destructive neoliberal policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. On the heels of the stunning victory in Seattle on N30, hopes were high that the A16 demo would shut down the meetings and once again show the world the power of bottom-up, horizontal resistance.

A16 didn't turn out to be another Seattle, but the worldwide struggle against neoliberalism was largely successful nonetheless. The relentless pressure of mass demonstrations at every summit meeting, coupled with ever more militant

resistance from the residents of the affected countries, left the so-called Washington consensus in ruins. IMF capitalization plummeted in the following years as more and more poor nations opted out of the financial straightjacket of exorbitant interest rates and austerity measures demanded of IMF loan recipients.

Today, the tentacles of neoliberalism are encircling previously exempt populations in Europe and the US, as international bankers demand their speculative losses be made good by people already on the verge of destitution.

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This year the IMF and World Bank will once again begin their spring meetings on April 16. The IMF Resistance Network invites all enemies of neoliberal capitalism to join us in the streets of DC to fight for a just and free world.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13590>

Anti-System Attacks in Central California

In the last month, several nighttime vandalisms in Central California have targeted, in turn: private organizations of cops, lawyers that defend cops, and the surveillance system. These actions show that hatred of the police can be expressed not just through attacks on the police themselves, but also through attacks upon those whom the police depend upon to function effectively. They also show that there is an entire social system behind the police that needs to be destroyed.

In Fresno, the Fresno Police Officers Association Headquarters had six windows broken on Christmas Eve. A communique posted by "Santa Claus" (<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2010/12/25/18667503.php>) read: "Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas! Jacky Parks and the FPOA have been very naughty this year. By greedily taking over half of the city budget they are responsible for lost jobs and cut services. I went to fill his stocking with coal but couldn't find the chimney so the coal was delivered through several of the buildings windows. Merry Christmas Fresno!" Corporate news coverage, including a shot of the boarded-up windows, can be found here: <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=7865099>.

Police Officer Associations and the Fraternal Order of Police are organizations of cops that provide large sums of money to cops facing legal charges (such

as former BART pig Johannes Mehserle, who executed Oscar Grant) and lobby on behalf of police departments.

On January 12, a communique was posted to Indybay (<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/01/12/18668936.php>) claiming an attack on a Fresno lawyer known for defending police officers accused of excessive force: "Marshall Hodgkins, a lawyer with a history of getting dirty cops off the hook, had a brick thrown through his office window with a note attached which read "DIRTY COPS DESERVE THE DEATH PENALTY." Recently Hodgkins has been representing Sgt. Manfredi and also officer Plymale regarding an excessive force case from 2006. The case is currently being looked at by State lawyers who are attempting to force Plymale to testify against Manfredi. Hodgkins is fighting this very hard and has boasted that he is an "obstacle" in this case. The Resistance sees him as an obstacle to justice, and as they say in the streets, NO JUSTICE! NO PEACE! The whole damn system is broken and lawyers like Hodgkins make it so that cops know that they can harass, brutalize, and murder at will because they will get away with it with the help of savvy lawyers. It is time for the people to rise up and say ENOUGH! Let's clean out the pig sty and all the vermin which aid these dirty cops. 2011 must be a year of action as we take our communities back from these occu-

pying forces." Every time a cop faces legal charges, which is rare, professional liars make themselves available to defend the filthy pig in court. Lawyers can choose the cases they take, and those who choose to defend cops open themselves up to being held responsible.

On January 18, a communique was posted to Indybay (<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/01/18/18669536.php>) claiming an attack on a surveillance camera installation company in Santa Cruz: "AA Lock and Safe installs CCTV surveillance cameras across Santa Cruz County. We removed both cameras from their roof, slashed tires on both their vehicles, and smashed the plate glass windows of their storefront. Attack surveillance infrastructure! Sabotage social control!" The spread of surveillance technology is encouraged and exploited by police forces around the world, as much for its value in influencing people's behavior through intimidation as for actually acquiring photographic evidence of crimes. The sabotage of surveillance cameras through vandalism and theft, and now the attack upon a company profiting from installing cameras, show that some people do not appreciate being constantly watched.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13633>
