



Best of the Anarchist Tubes

The goal of anarchistnews.org is to provide a non-sectarian source for news about and of concern to anarchists. It is also to provide a location for community moderated discussion about such news.

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Everything has bias.
The bias of anarchistnews.org is to promote an anarchist culture by providing a source of news and commentary about and of interest to anarchists. The goal is not to advocate for a particular anarchist practice but to serve a general anarchist need.

Actual anarchist professor loses job

From The Globe and Mail - by Erin Anderssen

OTTAWA — On the first day of his fourth-year physics class, University of Ottawa professor Denis Rancourt announced to his students that he had already decided their marks: Everybody was getting an A+.

It was not his job, as he explained later, to rank their skills for future employers, or train them to be “information transfer machines,” regurgitating facts on demand. Released from the pressure to ace the test, they would become “scientists, not automaton,” he reasoned.

But by abandoning traditional marks, Prof. Rancourt apparently sealed his own failing grade: In December, the senior physicist was suspended from teaching, locked out of his laboratory and told that the university administration was recommending his dismissal and banning him from campus.

Firing a tenured professor is rare in itself, but two weeks ago the university took an even more extreme step: When Prof. Rancourt went on campus to host a regular meeting of his documentary film society, he was led away in handcuffs by police and charged with trespassing.

...
But the professor is undeterred about those A-pluses: “Grades poison the educational environment,” he insists. “We’re training students to be obedient, and to try to read our minds, rather than being a catalyst for learning.”

much more at
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6339>

Insurgents blockade with flaming barricade in Mexico

anonymous to <http://directaction.info>

“We have blocked a major highway in Mexico State with a barricade made by

the Luddites Against Domestication of Wild Nature. The fire lit up the dark night of peace and tranquility for those people who carry in large trucks ‘raw materials’ extracted directly from the earth. The chaos was again before the eyes of the police who arrived on the scene to put out the incendiary fiesta.

We break their precious social order with our wild, insurgent and radical methods of struggle.”

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6481>

Grtr Pittsburgh Anarchist Collective needs help

Our space:

GPAC is currently working on our physical space on Penn Ave in Garfield. Once finished, it will serve as a center from which we can organize and promote attacks against capitalism and the state. The space will house computers for free internet, a free store, legal graffiti walls, and space for benefits and workshops among other things. We believe physical space is very important for an effective Anarchist movement to grow and attack.

What needs to happen:

We are re-doing the entire interior of a large retail space ourselves. This endeavor has become increasingly difficult as our resources are stretched thin due to our involvement in editing our soon-to-be-released publication, solidarity work with prisoners and graffiti writers, work within the Anti-Racist Action Network, and various other projects.

Put work, school, and personal projects on top of that and it can be difficult to find time! What we are asking for is a team of volunteers who can help us make this dream a reality and finally get this amazing space, which will benefit all of us greatly, finally open!

The plan:

We are holding work days on the following dates in early to mid February. If you can make any and want to pledge your time, please e-mail us at info@gpacattack.org and let us know! We look forward to working with you and finally opening this space!

info@gpacattack.org
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6344>

No Olympics on Native Land

Feb. 12th, 2009. – Protestors in Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph, Kitchener, Stratford and London will mark the one year countdown to the Vancouver Olympics with a series of road side actions and related events. Between 7am and 9am, tens of thousands of commuters on major Ontario highways can expect to see large banners bearing anti-Olympic messages. The protestors – friends and members of Anti-Racist Action – specifically aim to highlight concerns that the Olympics are accelerating development on unceded indigenous territories in British Columbia (BC).

With the Olympics, there is a frenzy of development in BC - the Olympics are the new gold rush – bringing displacement and destruction to indigenous communities and culture. The Province of BC was carved out of land that was never surrendered by the indigenous peoples, and was never part of any treaty. Today, most of the province remains as unceded land. Despite this, the government continues to sell, lease and allow development on Native land for mining, logging, oil & gas, ski resorts, and other industries. The Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC) has gone to great lengths to hide the negative impact that the Olympics will have on indigenous people, by obscuring the facts on their participation in these games. VANOC

would suggest that "participation" means appropriating and marketing indigenous imagery and culture, and also making a series of multi-million dollar business deals that funnel money through Band Councils. Grassroots movements in indigenous communities are saying no to the Olympics. They see their land being irreparably damaged by expanding Olympic developments. Anti-Racist Action supports grassroots, indigenous, protesters, and we unite to say "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land!"

response #1:

I for one have made a decision not to participate in the events of 2010. While I am not going to discourage people from taking to the streets of their respective cities and unleashing a bit (or a lot) of anarchy, the ideological rhetoric of most of the groups organizing for these events is tired and stagnant. "No Olympics on Stolen Land"? How about just NO OLYMPICS PERIOD? And no nation-states? And no global capital? And no New World Order? And no techno-industrial panopticon? The left has this pathological obsession with fragmenting the worlds into "issues" that it can then "campaign" against. This cultural fragmentation, in turn, creates an ethico-moral fragmentation of human beings into valorized and demonized groups of people. Why is this? Because, without this juxtaposition, the left would have no cohesive group of people to "organize." This fetishization of "indigenous people" is the same fetishization that leads leftists to uncritically support groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. I say this not to critique the "violence" of these groups, but to point out that giving uncritical support to "indigenous struggle" usually leads to a bizarre sort of left-wing nationalism.

response #2:

Ha! 2010, the year I graduate from high school (although, I won't actually graduate until May, so the olympics will probably be over by then). Whatever the case, I hope I'll be able to make it there in time. And I agree that leftists and activists have the awful habit of dividing and grouping everything into almost single-issue like problems that must be "organized around" in order to be defeated or abolished. Of course, their plans never work out the way they expected. But really, whose plans ever work out? I'm just going to show up with a backpack full of shit that I think will be useful in some way, and then I'll proceed to get my ass kicked by the pigs and be baptized in chemical weapons!! Sounds fun!

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6460>

7 actions in solidarity of SHAC/SPEAK prisoners

16th Feb - ALF rescued a dog from abuse, in honor of imprisoned activist Mel Broughton, for his work on the SPEAK campaign, a

dedicated campaigner to all animals, Spain.

13th Feb - ALF North Yorkshire rescued abused hens from free range, organic farm, for each of the animal rights prisoners incarcerated in jail, as well as rescuing more hens and smashing thousands of eggs.

12th Feb - ALF Poland gave two customers from Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) some red color on their building in the Netherlands. Inside HLS animals are being tortured and killed in useless experiments. Astellas in Meppel (NL) and Schering-Plough in Houten (NL) were targeted, dedicating the action to the SHAC prisoners in the UK and USA and to all other prisoners.

6th Feb - "Open rescue of 16 hens in support of SHAC prisoners, fuck the jails" - Czech Republic, January 2009

26th Jan - To mark the international day of action against HLS customer Bayer, for the SHAC campaign, activists in Uruguay stained the building with plenty of red paint, also graffitiing phrases on one of its walls; "Freedom for the seven SHAC prisoners and for all the prisoners of the world!!!"

21st Jan - Media reported that the Andover (Hampshire) town center was sealed off for two hours on January 21 following a report of a suspicious package at a Barclays Bank (HLS shareholder). The phone call came just a few hours after the seven SHAC activists were imprisoned for "conspiracy to blackmail", but was not claimed. Barclays in Hampshire and the south have been heavily sabotaged because of their support for Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS).

20th Jan - Berkeley Students for Animal Liberation followed UC Berkeley's Gregory Timmel, the veterinarian in the universities vivisection labs. The students vandalized his shiny new Audi, paid for with blood money, in full dedication and solidarity to the SHAC-UK prisoners.

much more at

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6482>

Children of the Revolution

Ed Vulliamy and Helena Smith for Buzzle

A heavy chain binds the iron gates of the philosophy faculty of the university of Athens, the city where the notions of philosophy and of university were invented in the shadow of the Acropolis. But this does

not mean that the building is empty, or that there is not effervescent discourse in progress; quite the reverse, the place is teeming with people and ideas. It has been - as have thousands of colleges, schools, city halls, offices and every other kind of building across Greece - occupied. Put under occupation by, in this case, the students. So that the walls, inside and out, like every wall in Athens, are lined with the slogans of the insurrection which propelled the most tumultuous and prolonged riots in a European city since 1968, after the killing by police of a 15-year-old, Alexis Grigoropoulos, as he chatted with friends on a street corner on 6 December 2008.

Many of the axioms are reminiscent of 1968, blending humor and mischief: "Merry Crisis and a happy New Fear" and "Kill the cop inside you". Others are merely enraged: "Fascist state, you are deaf - the gallows await you!" Others are relevant to the moment: "Billions for the banks, bullets for the children." And one dismisses that era of revolt by their parents: "May '68 is dead. Fight Now!"

Inside what is properly known as the Faculty of Philosophy, Psychology, Pedagogy, Music and Mathematics, students discuss the origins of the uprising, and its causes. They talk first about the "precarity" of their lives, and the fact that in Greece a quarter of those aged between 17 and 25 are unemployed. One student, Alexis, explains how for two years they have been occupying campuses all over Greece in protest against the government giving formal university status to private colleges (many of which have franchising agreements with British universities). Another student, Chariklia, says, "Half of all women who leave high school are out of work. What is the future for them and what does that say to the school kids who came on to the streets with us?"... Time after time, students and activists pleaded with us not to make cliched references to Ancient Greece, but then a girl named Yianna said: "Don't forget that in Greek myth, chaos was not disorder, it was a vacant space awaiting occupation. Chaos was the space into which the silver egg was laid which hatched Eros." We laughed, because now that cliched reference is unavoidable, and a hint of the complexity and intelligence behind the chaos of December's uprising, and the aftermath it has unleashed, is out in the open.

Much has been written about the ferocity of the attacks on shops, the destruction

of property and its cost to the Greek economy and image (Athens has been less affected by criminal violence than any other capital in Europe). And more will be written in retrospect as it becomes clear that the uprising is not against anything that is uniquely Greek, but against postmodern society and a system of globalised capitalism. There were riots in support of the Greeks outside the country's embassies as far away as Brazil, and as rioting now spreads to Bulgaria, Latvia, Iceland and Russia, the Greek uprising has been called "the first credit-crunch riot". They are certainly the first riots against the "cult of greed" about which we hear so much these days. But, it emerges, they are also about much more than that.

In Greece, the insurgents have been given a collective name, the *koukouloforoi* - the hooded ones, because they hide their faces with balaclavas, gas masks, crash helmets and Palestinian keffiyehs to conceal their identity, but also as protection against the regular soakings with tear gas. But what if the violence of the *koukouloforoi* is not "mindless", as Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis put it, but mindful? What if their contempt for society, politicians and consumerism has a lexicon that is not just revolutionary dogma? And, as the authorities in Bulgaria, Iceland and Latvia failed to ask before the riots came their way, and Britain has so far failed to ask: what if it happens here?

Alexis Grigoropoulos was shot dead at the corner of Messolongiou and Tzavela streets, but the signs above the shrine to the dead boy now call both thoroughfares Alexis Grigoropoulos Street. Football scarves, candles and flowers are laid at the spot, at which people linger in silence. There are thousands of messages and tributes. To quote a few of them is to articulate the mood: "Let beauty bloom from your blood"; "You hold your head up just enough to see the sky"; "And we go on, but we won't go slow, we'll put up such a fight. Keep your head high, kiss your fist, and touch the sky. It is not too late."

The corner is in an alleyway of a quarter of Athens called Exarchia, described by visiting reporters as a "ghetto" of "self-styled anarchists". As a neighbourhood, Exarchia is more complicated than that. It resembles the Lower East Side of Manhattan: a vortex of alternative culture, lifestyle and politics, but with more political edge, peppered by fancy bars and bistros, so that elegant, non-

rioting couples might venture out for a daring date by crossing the triangular square - in which youths huddle around fires and where riot police patrol their quarry - in search of some nice gastro bar.

...

One slogan still painted across the shops ravaged in central Athens during December says simply: "Buy until you die" - it is accompanied by the circled A of the anarchists. Niko has no problem discussing his reasons for smashing shop windows: "It was almost funny to see the faces of the people whose 'right to shop' we had deprived them of, like we had insulted their religion - which we had, I suppose."

...

The conversation continues deep into the night. We discuss the different traditions of and differences within anarchism, and a man called Tassos, branding himself an anarcho-syndicalist, describes his attempts to spread the energy of the uprising into his construction workers' union. We also discuss the United Kingdom and why, according to Valia, a photographer, "You are not able to create the kind of up-



rising in your country that we have created here because the methods of control in your country are far more sophisticated and accomplished. And your people are more subservient."

When we suggest to Ioannou that the anarchists lit the touch paper in December, he replies: "Maybe, but the main ingredient was the school kids. Greek youth saw themselves in the face of this boy, and that is why school kids were the flour in the dough of the insurrection." Not only that, but the school children, of whom Alexis Grigoropoulos was one, tend to be those most eager to give the insurgency political shape, although they had no previous political experience. One of those involved

is Stefanos, aged 15, who has joined a demonstration to try and secure the release of those arrested during December. He notes the fact that they are to be charged under anti-terrorist legislation and says that: "Smashing things up may be a way to relax, but it isn't going to change the future. I never expected to be involved in anything like that, and if they hadn't shot a boy my age I probably wouldn't be. But now that I have been I want it to make a difference, not to end there."

...

The group is facing down columns of riot police who broke up their demo earlier that day and seem to be of a mind to seize back the migrant center. It doesn't happen; this street battle is no pushover for the police.

"When we last met up with those ones wearing blue," says one of them, "down in Pireus, we had their shields and helmets flying all over the place." The police have hardened their tactics of late, but they know that one more stray bullet, one more dead teenager, and Greece will have an all-out insurrection on its hands, with the Black Block - whose numbers in Greece far exceed those anywhere else except perhaps Italy - willing to fight it.

The speaker at the demonstration, a young woman we shall call M, who joins me across the road, knows England well and makes a salient point about Greece by reference to the UK. "We are at one extreme edge of Europe, but not really part of Europe, and you are at the opposite edge, but also not part of Europe. Here, an uprising, there... nothing. Though the violence is the same in your country, in fact it's much worse. But you commit it against each other; knife crime, drunken fights and gangs. Here, we challenge the state and the banks, not each other. This is to do with consumption," she continues. "In 1975, Greece was promised the benefits of capitalism, but never really got to sample them like you did. We never had the delusion of wealth for the masses, of mass consumerism, which is now causing your crisis, but which neutralizes you in a way. Your violence is about consumption: alcohol, drugs, television and clubbing. But we're not drunk or stoned, and we have just been tear-gassed on a demonstration,

not in a nightclub. This is not a gang fight, it is a fight against the state.

"What we have had in Greece is a civil war that never goes away. I am young, from a left-wing family, and some of us who come from left families, educated but constantly persecuted, have grown up with political warfare, the police in our homes, the struggle in our lives. My family has suffered a political murder in every generation since the Nazi occupation."

...
much more at
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6571>

Modesto: Appropriated Food Distributed in Working Class Neighborhood

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2009/02/23/18572788.php>

People of the Valley,

Everywhere the desert of capital expands - we offer an oasis to drink from.

We, the Robin Hoods, take credit for providing the massive amounts of free food that was left in the Airport District park of Modesto California last week, early in the morning. The food we left ranged from rice, beans, and other staples, and was available free of charge to anyone who wished to take it. To make our intentions for the action clear, we left behind a banner at the scene which read, "Resist the Recession! - ROB THE RICH!" The food was appropriated from various capitalists - and was thus free (and very easy) to obtain.

We chose to distribute this food free of charge because the Airport District is one of the neighborhoods hit the worst by the ongoing recession. Our communities are suffering from homelessness and foreclosure, poverty and job layoffs, police brutality and environmental pollution. Let this act be just a note in the chorus of resistance that will soon bring this system down.

We believe that solidarity others means attack against common enemies. We have thus carried out this action not only to attack the capitalists directly and distribute food free of charge to our friends and neighbors, but also to denounce the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, which recently voted down a needle exchange program that would help stop the spread of HIV and Hepatitis and give direct aid to those addicted to various drugs. This deci-

sion directly affects those living in the Airport Neighborhood, as it is an area with a high amount of heroin use. We were also inspired to carry out this action by the recent case of Turlock man, Danny Armenta, 48, who was arrested after attempting to walk out of a store with over \$100 in groceries. They can get one of us, but they can't get all of us. As the recession heats up - so must our resistance. From the ongoing job layoffs in the valley to the recent closing of Teel Middle School in Empire due to budget cuts, if we don't start fighting directly - soon we will have nothing left to fight for.

In solidarity with those from the streets of Greece, China, Iceland, Mexico, the United States and beyond who are fighting this monster we call capitalism.

The Robin Hoods

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6575>

Map of Bloomington, Indiana Security Cameras

<http://www.bloomingtonsecuritycameras.com/map.html>

We're excited to announce the launching of the Bloomington Security Camera Map. It can be found at <http://bloomingtonsecuritycameras.com>. We hope there will be a number of print versions in various locations in Bloomington within in the next couple of weeks.

This project is intended to bring into the public consciousness the level to which we are observed and monitored, to help those who don't want to be seen stay hidden, and to inspire action to dismantle the policing and surveillance mechanisms that are ruining our communities....

Please send any questions, comments, critiques or other such comments to admin@bloomingtonsecuritycameras.com. thanks....

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6581>

A/ELF attacks increase

from Drovers magazine

Attacks on the global food chain from animal-rights and environmental extremists jumped 42 percent - from 155 in 2007 to 220 in 2008 - according to Arlington, Va.-

based Animal Agriculture Alliance. Worse yet, claimed attacks on food retailers in the United States from groups like the Animal Liberation Front exploded 377 percent.

...
The overall level of animal-rights extremist attacks in the United States on businesses that use animals - including medical research, consumer product safety, pets, circuses, rodeos, fur shops, hunting stores, farmers, ranchers, food retailers - surged nearly 40 percent. An even more troubling development is the massive expansion of damages inflicted upon food retailers. Claimed attacks on food retailers in the United States, especially the brand names of McDonald's, Burger King, KFC and Hard-ee's, increased from 9 in 2007 to 34 in 2008, an increase of 377 percent.

Destruction or defacement of property - especially smashing windows, etching windows, and painting (or paint bombing) windows, buildings, vans and billboards - were the techniques most frequently used by extremist groups in their attempts to intimidate food chain businesses to shut down. The groups also adopted a new unsavory technique this year, using sponges to block toilets and urinals to cause expensive flooding and extensive clean-up.

...
"The numbers of attacks against food retailers in hotbeds of extremism like California and New York were noticeably lower, while attacks in other areas not widely associated with animal-rights extremism increased markedly. For instance, the greater Kansas City, Kan., area appears to be the new home of an ALF cell, with two attacks having been claimed in the second half of 2008, one in Lenexa and the other in Overland Park. ...

"The message is loud and clear that the agenda of these groups is focused solely on advancing a vegan agenda through destruction and intimidation," Johnson Smith said. "The fact that extremists are willing to massively increase their attacks on the food chain during a serious economic downturn should cause major alarm for all companies and organizations responsible for feeding people. The exponential escalation of attacks is shocking and disturbing. All companies in the food chain need to be vigilant, enhance their security efforts and be sure to report all incidents to their local police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

more at
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/6589>