Modesto Anarcho the valley's insurrectionary journal of class struggle



What We Believe

We want to live in a self-governing world without any forms of top down organization where all people have access and control over decision making and their lives. A world in which all resources that people need to sustain themselves are cared for in common and in harmony with the Earth. We want freedom - in which groups and communities brought together by mutual aid, solidarity, and cooperation can live lives as they see fit – liberated from domination, repression, coercion, and control. We want to build genuine human relationships in which people can discover their self-worth, realize their potential, and liberate their desires, free from wage-slavery and State violence.

We are against all governments and capitalism.

We are against all governments because they are based upon controlling people through complete and total violence by means of the police, prisons, borders, military, and school systems. Through this system of domination, governments of the world ensure that working class and oppressed people stay in the roles designed for them: subservient workers and passive citizens. We are against capitalism, because it is based upon class society; a world where a few own everything that we need in order to survive and the rest of us are forced to work for them. This is a system of wage slavery - in which we trade our lives for wages and then buy back what we need to survive with those wages. Capitalism deforms and contorts all human relationships by turning everything into a commodity, including the Earth, living things, and our very lives. Capitalism cannot exist without the State - it needs the State's violence to protect the privileged position of those who benefit from it.

Modesto Anarcho is a project to document and expand resistance to class society, specifically in the Central Valley of California. We want to use this publication to focus on local issues and highlight what regular people are doing in this area to confront and combat the misery of working class life. Modesto Anarcho seeks to increase the confidence of working class and oppressed people in regards to our ability to fight back, self-organize, and resist collectively and as individuals. This project is open and participatory—we invite all who share in our ideas to take part in this magazine. If you wish to contribute, please consider giving feedback, sending letters, or submitting articles, poetry, original artwork, and graphics.

We have no demands for this system; we seek only its destruction.

Welcome!

Last issue we were complaining about the lack of class struggle in the last couple of months - how our 'repression' section was starting to dwarf our 'action' section. Well, not in this issue we are happy to report! In this issue things have definitely heated up. From the now annual May Day marches, protests, and rallies, to the wildcat strikes in Stockton by independent truck drivers. From the Stockton streets where people rioted against the police, to the vacant lots of Fresno where homeless people are taking back the land and building homes. Let us not forget as well that projects like this one are still going strong and places like DQ-University in Davis California are still being occupied. Much has been said; much remains to be done. But it is important to note that regular folks across this valley are standing up for themselves in new and combative ways and many are refusing to accept what the rulers have dished out for them.

At a time when the electoral machine is cranking into high gear; where the rich everywhere are constantly using their spectacle to remind us that we need their system to fix their problems and elect their candidates - we find a project like this one very important. This is why we need your help. We need your help not in donations per say (although feel free to shower us with cash - we can always use the money), but by way of letting other people know about this magazine and the ideas that are contained within it. If you pick this up for the first time and like what you read, show it to a friend, give it to a stranger, and share it with co-workers, fellow students, cell mates, and neighbors. Send us letters or emails and let us know if we can send you a bulk order of this magazine - for free! That's right! Help us get Modesto Anarcho out into the streets near you. Just send us your name and address and how many copies you think you can give out. You can also invite us to show up at your next concert, festival, event, demonstration, rally or local drinking establishment, with copies of the magazine and other publications in hand.

This election; like all elections, is a farce. Nothing will change with Obama in office, only the color of the skin of the new master. Millions of poor and people of color will still be in prison, police will still roam the streets beating and killing at will, the environment will still be ravaged for profit, the US will still be engaged in a variety of militarily occupations and operations, and people everywhere will continue to wake up and go to work as they are forced to choose between homelessness, starvation, and survival. And thus, the gears of capitalism will continue to turn regardless of who is in office. Until we learn how to create our own power - by taking theirs away, we will be powerless. Until we learn how to fight and win our own battles, we will forever be losers. We need power on the streets of our communities, not in City Hall or Washington. The time has come to burn their ballots - and their system. The only power we have left to make if our own, in opposition to theirs.

Are you, or do you know someone, currently locked up in a county, state, or federal prison facility in California that would like a copy of this magazine or other like-minded publications? Are you a prisoner who is picking this up for the first time and wants to know more about these ideas? We encourage all prisoners to write to us at our PO Box. We will send you free copies of our magazine as well as other publications for as long as we are able! If you are not in prison, but know someone who is, send us the address.

Are you a student or worker who would like to hand out Modesto Anarcho at school, on the job, or where you live but can't print the magazine out? Write to us to request a bulk order to distribute. Cop-

ies of this issue and others can be downloaded for free on our website.

Send all contributions for Modesto Anarcho #9 to our PO Box or to our email by early September. We take art, articles, poetry, letters, and criticism. Send to:

Modesto Anarcho PO Box 3027 Modesto, CA 95353

> geocities.com/anarcho209 myspace.com/modanarcho anarcho209@yahoo.com

prisoner peedback

Modesto Anarcho,

What a great zene! For the 1st time in my life I've read articles that have EXACTLY the same viewpoints as I myself have. I am greatly impressed.

I am incarcerated by our corrupt government for drugs. To me it is hard to fathom being locked up for that. Hopefully the laws will be abolished soon.

99% of the dudes here should NOT be locked up. It is absolutely WRONG!

THIS IS IT NOW ..

IT'S WAR INNIT.

CLASS WAR!

If you could send your literature it would be greatly appreciated.

I am from Modesto and at this time have no money to contribute but I get out in

me any more of

6 months and will be able to help then.

Thank you!!

-Keith

IT'S NOW OR NEVER WHAT IS THERE

TO GO BACK TO ?!

MATE ... THERE'S

NO GOING BACK!

Modesto Anarcho "The World's Truest Magazine,"

I'm an inmate at C.C.C. Susanville. I just read your #7 issue and really enjoyed what you guys have to say, and what you guys are doing. I am from Stockton CA and its good to know that someone out there is letting the truth be known. I really enjoyed reading, "The front line is Everywhere." I liked the little news articles about what's really happening out there in my area.

Thank you, Frankie



April 27th: In Stockton, according to the *Stockton Record*, people outside of a birthday party rioted after police began harassing party goers. As the *Record* wrote, "Four Stockton men and a 14-year-old boy were arrested Sunday evening after police - responding to complaints of a noisy party - were attacked. A riot ensued." People fought with the police for a glorious 15 to 20 minutes and about 20 officers had to be called out to help "quell the disturbance." While the police claim that the area was a hangout for "known gang members" the people claimed that the police "have nothing better to do than to interrupt a birthday party." While several rioters have been arrested, many others escaped from police hands. Hopefully, this is only the start of things to come!

the Central Valley Independent Media
Center, reports that Fresno's homeless
have started to squat a new area of
land and build homes for themselves.
According to Rhodes, "The new encampment, which is yet to be named, is
on an unused vacant lot and consists
primarily of Mexican immigrants. I
spoke with Francisco and Maria who
live in one of the homes that have
been constructed at this location...
Francisco says they feel safer at
the new encampment, because of

the drugs and violence they say are

at New Jack City, [another homeless

encampment]. The shelters being con-

structed on this vacant lot are much more

don't feel in all homeless encampments. "We look out for each other," Maria said. This sense of community might be a cultural bond that the residents have, since most of them have moved here from Mexico. [Police have stated] that the railroad has been talking to the police about evicting the squatters and that it is likely they will post signs telling the people living there to move on."

We hope that occupations of land like this only continue grown larger and resist existings from the pigs.

lives there. Francisco's house has a sturdy foundation,

framed walls, and they are talking about putting shingles

on the roof. These houses are being built to last. There is

a sense of community in this new encampment that you

similar to the housing built by the poor in

Latin America than what is typical in

other Fresno homeless encampments.

Francisco and Maria invited me into

their house. It has several rooms, a rug on the floor, and a corrugated

walked to where their new house is being built, passing a number of

other structures built out of wood,

As we passed a tent, Maria

with doors, and rain proof roofs.

said they were giving their

current home to the man that

tin roof. They told me they

are building a new house at

the far end of the lot. We

We hope that occupations of land like this only continue, grow larger, and resist evictions from the pigs – as more people in the Central Valley are pushed out of their homes by poverty and foreclosure.

Early May: According to Dan Bacher writing for the Central Valley IMC, indigenous ing enthusiasts, and envipeople, fishactivists from Central ronmental Northern California and and Oregon took part in disruptions of Berkshire Hathaway's annual shareholders meeting in Nebraska. The dis-Omaha,

ruptions are part of a growing movement that seeks to tear down the various dams that are killing the salmon population and harshly impacting the lives of many people who depend on the fish. During the meeting, people demanded that the Berkshire Hathaway Corporation remove the dams and caused disruptions in the process. When Warren Buffett, CEO and top corporate scumbag would speak, "tribal members [would] unfurl a big banner. Each time, security guards removed the banners and evicted those holding them from the meeting..." Industrial capitalism and corporate agriculture is destroying the land, the fish, and devastating communities - to counter this, the struggle against the dams in California needs to grow and spread. Hopefully soon people will be using Buffett for bait! Undam the Klamath! More info at: klamathriver.org/

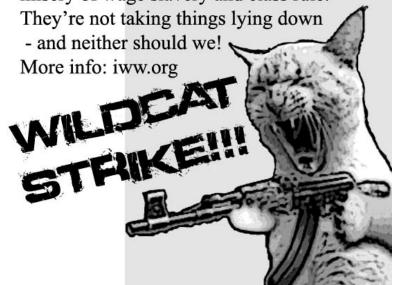
May 2nd: According to J. Pierce and Adam Welch with the radical anti-capitalist union the Industrial Workers of the World, or IWW: "Independent truckers in California's San Joaquin Valley shut down their rigs on Friday, May 2nd [and declared] an openended strike. At \$4.80 a gallon, sky-

rocketing diesel prices top the list of grievances.

"We're fighting for survival." That's how Gerardo Cordoba explains the struggle. Brave strikers don't need to look far for others willing to fight. On the two or three lively picket lines thrown up by the crowds of striking drivers, one converses with Latinos and Chicanos, Punjabi Sikhs and other Indians, Laotians, Cambodians, Filipinos, and a handful of white, Black, and truckers with other backgrounds. Huge pots of food are shared communally and supporters are welcomed as comrades. "The most exciting thing about this strike is the unity amongst the drivers," says Mubarak Kahn, who lives in Stockton.

The two rail yards in Lathrop and Stockton were ghost towns for two weeks...A handful of truckers from a couple companies chose not to strike and crossed the picket lines of their fellow drivers...all to the jeers, foul language, and middle fingers of fed up owner-operators."

The wildcat strikes and militancy shown against the scabs and the bosses by the independent truckers in Stockton is inspiring not only because of their actions, but because they have managed to create and maintain a community of revolt against the misery of wage slavery and class rule. They're not taking things lying down



Mid-May: In Turlock, in almost poetic form, a billboard that proposes neighbors help the pigs criminalize and incarcerate graffiti artists – is vandalized.

May 27th: Several inmates escape from the downtown Stockton courthouse after one of the inmates pretends to suffer a seizure while the others escape.

Late May: Posters appear throughout Modesto reading "Free Homes" and "Don't Delay – Squat Today!" The posters point to a website, www.foreclosure.com, which provides information as to where foreclosed homes (vacant, usually bank owned properties) are throughout the United States. The posters propose that homeless people and those facing foreclosure take over these abandoned properties and squat them (occupy them without renting).

Mid-June: In Modesto, a group calling itself "Amigos de McDavid" hung a banner in solidarity with the political prisoner Eric McDavid (see story in this issue). A post on the Central Valley indymedia site stated:

"In Modesto several days ago, a banner was dropped in solidarity with ecoanarchist political prisoner Eric McDavid. This small act of solidarity with Eric was made to raise spirits and spread knowledge about Eric's case.

We are sickened that Eric has received a sentence of almost 20 years - all for crimes that he did not even commit. Eric is imprisoned because the FBI and US government wanted to dredge the waters and find any person who would dare dream and act against the totality of industrial



capitalism. In their search, aided by a paid informant and snitches, they eventually found Eric, but they also found all of us who would stand behind him.

We find it ironic that the government claims that if Eric's plans would have gone through, then the results would have been akin to the Katrina disaster - when it was the US government's response and the effects of global warming brought on by this industrial death system that caused the deaths and displacement of so many in the first place. The government and their economic system is the terrorist, not Eric.

The Californian central valley is a place where the salmon are being killed by dams. Where thousands die every year due to air pollution. Where environmental racism effects those that live on the 'wrong side of town.' Where pesticide spraying leaves many stricken with breathing problems and cancers. In this place - people like Eric aren't to be feared - they're heroes. They are people that are willing to stand up and face the machine and not only say no, but also attempt to resist.

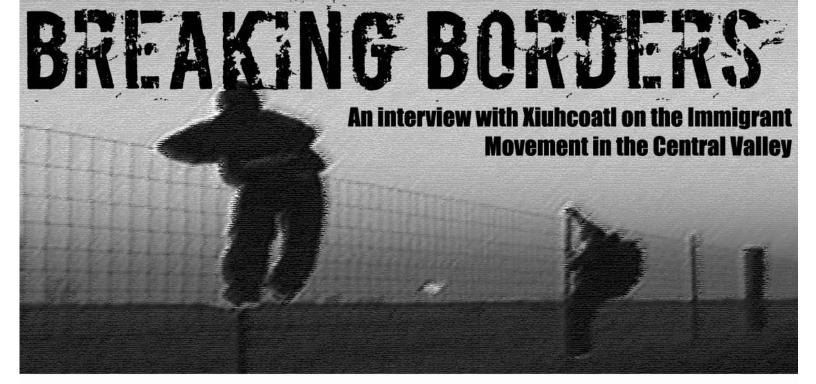
Eric - you are on our minds. You are in our thoughts. And, most importantly, we are acting in solidarity with you.

Free Eric McDavid!

Free all prisoners!

Free the land!

-Amigos de McDavid"



In 2006, Xiuhcoatl was involved with the group Aztlan Rising, which helped to organize for the historic May Day march in Modesto that involved over 10,000 people. The march was the culmination of several months of wildcat walkouts and community protests - organized mainly by youths against anti-immigrant legislation that sought to criminalize working class immigrants and break up families through deportations. The march on May 1st shut down much of downtown Modesto and set the tone for a new wave of class struggle. Here, Xiuhcoatl talks about the future of the immigrant movement and the need for continued action.

MA: What actions in the Modesto area lead up to the events on May 1st, 2006, in which over 10,000 participated?

Before May 1st there were various walkouts and marches throughout the United States, including in the Modesto area. The most memorable pre-May Day protest in the area, in my opinion, was when over 300 students protested with signs at the prison-like gates of Ceres High School.

MA: What were the ways in which kids organized in their schools? How did they make connections with each other?

Kids organized by passing out flyers, word of mouth and through the internet. I think Myspace was the primary outlet used by students to organize. It can be a powerful tool if we use it correctly.

MA: What was the City of Modesto's and schools administrator's view towards these protests?

The City of Modesto wasn't too happy when we took over the streets, but this was to be expected. The leaders of this city have traditionally been conservative, upper and middle class white men who have no interest in the welfare of the people

that live on the "other" side of town. We knew they would react negatively (or not at all) to the march.

From the feedback I received the schools had a similar outtake on the events. They felt that kids were only attending the marches as an excuse to skip school. What they didn't see is that the students probably learned more on May 1st about free speech, the political system, and revolution than they had in their entire school careers.

MA: What happened on May 1st, 2006? Why do you think people took to the streets and shut down downtown Modesto?

On May Day in 2006 the people shut down Modesto from Crows Landing Road to J Street Plaza. They did it because it was necessary. The people were tired of being pushed around by this fascist, racist, oppressive government, and they finally took a stand.

MA: Where the police caught off guard by the actions?

The police were expecting the march, but they never imagined that so many people would take part in it. They were shocked by the turnout. The crowd was very peaceful, so there were no problems during the march. According to some demonstrators, though, the police targeted teenagers who strayed away from the main group.

MA: Why do you think that attendance on May Day 2007 was so low? Was it because of the raids by ICE?

There were many factors that contributed to the smaller turnout of May Day 2007. Fear from the immigrant community after a year of stepped up immigration enforcement was definitely a contributing factor. The media's



lack of attention to the marches also lowered support. But mainly, the movement died down when HR 4437 was defeated. Most people didn't pay attention to what was going on behind the scenes. The federal and state governments have passed several laws with the same intent as HR 4437. So essentially, unless we act we will be in the same position as we would've been with Sensenbrenner's bill, but it'll take us a little longer to get there and it won't incite as much opposition.

MA: How can we get bigger and better than May Day 2006?

We have to attain Critical Mass. We have to bring together all the immigrants, families of immigrants, people of color, poor people, all the victims of government oppression, and fight for true freedom and justice. We have to take a stand not only against the unfair treatment of immigrants, but against the tyrannical actions of this government.



May ray actions

In Modesto, about 300 people rallied on Crows Landing Road. Protestors held signs denoucing racism and the recent raids by I.C.E. (immigration pigs under the direction of Homeland Secruity). A DJ blasted hip hop music and the event ended with several speakers addressing a variety of issues.



In Turlock, about 15 students held a rally and marched around the campus of California State University (CSU) Stanislaus, calling for justice for all immigrants and undocumented people.

In Merced, students and community members marched throughout the city demanding an end to ICE raids and the breaking up of families by deportations.

In Stockton, a rally and march was held in solidarity with immigrant justice events happening throughout the country. Dozens of Stockton port workers also observed a one day strike called by the ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union) and went out in solidarity with the rallies as well as against the war in Iraq. According to the Stockton Record, "[union o]fficials said more than 25,000 workers [took] part, bringing traffic to a halt at ports from Los Angeles to Seattle."

their borders are our prisons



City of Modesto Used GPS Tracker on Union Rep: According to the *Modesto Bee*, City of Modesto administrators placed a satellite tracking device on a truck assigned to a Public Works Department employee four months after he became the leader of the Modesto City Employees Association. GPS (Global Positioning System) technology (see article in *Modesto Anarcho #5*) tracks electronically where people are at any given time. Attempts by the bosses to track our movements and curtail organizing (albeit in limited ways like through bureaucratic trade unions) should be met by nothing but resistance.

Guard Accused of Beating Inmate with Flash Light: In Atwater, according to the *Merced Sun Star*, a federal prison guard has been indicted for beating an inmate with a flashlight. Lt. Eric McEachern, 33, is accused of striking an inmate, then falsely reporting that he saw the inmate ram his own head into a wall. We know that the police will put a lot of heat on any prisoner who dares to speak up and report abuse - we can only hope that the survivor of this brutal beating comes out of this on top! Shortly after this incident went down, tensions between guards and inmates erupted again leading to the stabbing death of one guard.

Industrialism Kills: According to the *Fresno Bee*, officials announced in May that the poor air quality from "airborne soot prematurely kills up to 3,000 San Joaquin Valley residents each year, nearly triple the previous estimate." This poor air quality is a mixture of pesticides from industrial agriculture, smog and pollution from sprawling cities, and methane exhaust from mega-dairies. Capitalism is killing the planetlet's kill it first.

Pregnant Farm Worker Dies While on the Job: In late May, a 17 year old pregnant farm worker died from the heat while working. The young woman was a recent immigrant from Oaxaca Mexico, who risked everything to come to the US to earn money for her widowed mother, according to the *Stockton Record*. On the day she died, the young woman had been

pruning grapevines since 6 a.m. alongside her 20-year-old boyfriend. The drinking water was about 10 minutes away, reported other workers, which took time away from working. "(Supervisors) would grumble at us for drinking water," one worker commented.

Merced Cops Savagely Beat Cop Car Tagger: A young man who bravely vandalized a Merced police car was savagely beaten by police (and later had to be hospitalized) when they caught him in the act. After the young man sprayed the police car, according to the Merced Sun Star, two off duty cops followed him to a nearby park, after which police began beating him. Neighbors were witness to the beating, and Tom Hiser, said he heard the man "scream." Hiser said he yelled at the men to stop three times: "I told him 'that's enough." Hiser said the police responded, "We're police officers," and continued punching the suspect. Both officers were dressed in shorts and T-shirts. Merced pigs later denied any wrong doing in the beating, claiming the incident was standard policy. Another incident of brutality and another atrocity that we allow to go unpunished - when will we face these pieces of shit in the street?

Woodland Police Kill Man with Tasers: According to the Daily Democrat and the Associated Press, Woodland Police murdered a mentally disturbed man after he refused to comply with them. Police received a call from Woodland's Safe Harbor center that a male client had walked out of the facility after being "verbally aggressive." The officers tried to subdue the man, but he became "combative." Police tasered the man, then handcuffed him. Witnesses reported seeing four small tags on the ground where the man collapsed. These tags are known as Anti-Felon Identification tags and are ejected every time a taser is used, according to the Taser International web site. The man was pronounced DOA at the hospital. For more information on repressive and deadly taser technology, see Modesto Anarcho #7.

Modesto Police Plot Gang War as Bikers Unify_Against Repression



On July 1st, motorcycle bike clubs, riders, and supporters in the Modesto and greater Central Valley area made a historic show of solidarity against police harassment towards local club, Most Envied, of West Side Modesto. Hostilities have been brewing for some time between police and the motorcycle club, but according to members of Most Envied, problems stem from continued harassment, intimidation, terror, violence, raids, threats, and what many bikers believe, an attempt by the police to create an all out 'gang war' between local bike crews. But, the united show of support in July at a City Council meeting from the local clubs shows that the bikers of the Central Valley aren't going to take this repression lying down.

At around 5:30 pm, 100 or more bikers gathered outside of Modesto City Hall as they prepared to go before the City Council to demand that the police end the harassment against Most Envied. The scene was inspiring, given the fact that the large turnout was organized in only a day or so. While taking the crowd in, I noticed the different motorcycle groups in attendance who represented their local crew with different back patches and logos. After the crowd of mixed ages, races, and sexes slapped hands and hugs, traded stories and excited looks; the group marched into City Hall. Once inside, several speakers took the floor representing Most Envied and demanded that the Modesto Police Department end their ongoing assault of repression and profiling. One speaker, John Mataka, detailed a list of complaints that included police raids, helicopter fly bys over members homes, attempts to get club members fired from their places of employment, harassment of club members on various holiday outings, intimidating family of club members, and

constant harassment of those within the group. Mataka also noted that members of Most Envied, which is an all Latino biker organization, have been constantly harassed when they attend Mexican holidays and celebrations. Several other speakers spoke as well against the police claim that Most Envied is a criminal street gang. Speakers before the Council stated over and over that they are not a "gang," but a motorcycle club, formed for the joy of riding. The most interesting claim against the police by far however, was the charge that members of other motorcycle crews throughout the area have been continuously questioned and harassed by police in regards to Most Envied. Members of the group went on to state before the Council that police officers have even encouraged members of other local motorcycle crews to "rip off Most Envied patches," thus leading to a 'gang war' between crews. Despite this attempt by the local PD, I'm happy to report that the police have failed miserably in this endeavor. In fact, due to the show of solidarity from the local bike crews towards one of their own, I'd say the opposite is true: the bikers are united.

As Police Chief Roy Wasden looked on, more members of Most Envied took the mike before the City Council. Several stated that those involved in the biker group are hard working people who own their own businesses and have also helped raise money for community projects such as the community pool at Cesar Chavez Park in West Side Modesto. When the last speaker was finished, the bikers and their supporters got up and left the room, taking the majority of the folks outside with them.

Once the large crowd had left the meeting and as

police looked on nervously, one member of another motorcycle club yelled, "They want us to go to war [with Most Envied,] but it's not going to happen!" People then cheered and clapped. The large crowd then moved slowly outside back to their bikes and to the street. Several well armed police officers followed closely behind, some with full SWAT style armor and an array of gadgets. But while these officers were keen to watch the crowd, they also turned away when people attempted to take pictures of them using cameras. As the bikers moved back to the parking lot where their bikes were; the police quickly sprang into action. Officers quickly appeared on a roof across the street and began taking pictures, police cars suddenly were parked on every corner around the bikers, and an unmarked undercover car across the street quietly video taped the motorists as they packed up, said their good-byes, and drove off. In such a budget crises as the one we are now in, where teachers are laid off, libraries are forced to close early, and poor people's meager benefits are cut - it's always nice to see your tax dollars at work.

As the large crowd got on their bikes and drove off, police followed some and continued to swarm the area.

Members of Most Envied were the last to leave; as they bravely decided to make sure that their friends would get home safely without being harassed or pulled over by the police. As members of Most Envied got on their bikes, I headed to my car to follow them to make sure that no problems with the police would go down. As I approached Modesto Junior College, I began to see a series of flashing lights and pulled over bikers and

lengthy detention of another.

lights and pulled over bikers and after making sure that the first group was okay, I continued to follow members of Most Envied. As I turned left off of College Ave., I suddenly saw a member of Most Envied slammed stomach first into an unmarked police car, with an officer right behind him. I then pulled into a parking space and began to watch as two members of Most Envied were taken from their bikes, had their tattoos and bodies photographed, and held by police for close to an hour. Modesto Police Officers were also joined by Stanislaus County Sheriffs as well as several other law enforcement officers armed with various weapons and armor. About 10 police officers and about 5 police cars were used in the arrest of one man who was charged with "assault with a deadly weapon," (allegedly he hit a cop with his bike while riding!), and the

Police and Sheriffs also took time out while during all of this to photograph people who stopped to watch what was going on and support those being arrested. When asked why the police were taking photos of people on the sidewalk, one officer simply did not respond and walked away, while another simply said, "You're on the sidewalk, we can take pictures of you." The daily reality for poor and working people in the Central Valley is one of a police state where agents of the government continuously expand their power into more and more people's lives at the expense of our freedom and safety. The scene outside of Modesto Junior College could have been anywhere -China, South Africa, Mexico; it showed the naked raw power of a police force determined to crush the voices of anyone that dared stand up against them. It was clear to everyone there that the police were well prepared for this action and were determined to remind any biker that dared to stand up against the police that real power in this society lies in the government and it's violence and not in the people - at least for now. As one member of Most Envied said to me after the incident was over, "This is what it's like for us everyday." The attack on members of Most Envied is just the latest in a string of constant assaults on poor and working people. From those shot dead in cold blood, to those youths beaten for the crime of being young and of color - so many people in this city have a reason to resist the brutality of the police. It's time we start finding each other and start fighting back.



Someone yelled:
"They want us to go
to war [with Most
Envied], but it's not
going to happen!"
People cheered and
clapped.

racist resistance to prisoner unity

By Brennan MacLean

Racism in prison. I'm sure you've heard of it. It sucks. I hate it. I hate it probably just as fiercely as those convicts hate each other. I'm an anti-racist agitator disgusted by the present prison predicament. Just imagine seeing thousands of people divided into fascist factions constantly fighting one another. Constantly proving Darwin's 'survival of the fittest' theory everyday in a bloody war-zone. It's relentless. So I was greatly relieved one day last summer to hear that the California Department of Corrections was preparing to obey a mediation agreement from the Supreme Court to desegregate cells. I viewed this as a perfect opportunity for us as convicts to maybe, just maybe, begin breaking some of these foolish barriers. So in the past several months, I've embarked on an intense anti-racist mission, in which I've met massive resistance. Not only from the imprisoned class, but from these officials as well. The latter see integration as an inherently counterproductive strategy; for, when it is implemented it has the power to unite, thus ruining their divided and conquer plan. The former see it as a threat to their pride, their safety, and their supposed supremacy.

The resistance is comprehensive, but still altogether illogical. It keeps people enslaved and oppressed. Hateful and bitter. I believe that the racist resistance on behalf of these fascist officials and oppressed inmates, therefore, needs to be met with anti-racist direct confrontation, agitation, and education in order for it to extinguish and conceivably become extinct.

For starters, I've found confrontation to be an essential component for the simple fact that if I don't outwardly oppose racism how am I supposed to fight it? I can't. I have to face it and question it. At times this has proved to be risky it not down right dangerous. Whatever the case, I still face the challenge. For example, I've recently joined forces with a group of soldiers with similar aims. Known as Modesto Anarcho, they've become one with me in this struggle.

About two months ago, I got the green light from them to go forward with plans to post a flyer promoting their distro right here in the combat zone. Excited, I drew it up and then posted it in our dayroom on our bulletin board. I then waited and watched. Within hours, as I stood behind my cell door,

half believing my eyes half-denying them, I witnessed an individual - not a cop, but an inmate, dismantling the flyer! I quickly responded to this outrageous violation by calling the said individual to my door so that I could ask him just exactly who the hell he thought he was. As he approached my door, flyer in hand, I recognized him as the building clerk. Upon arrival, I questioned his intentions. I demanded an answer in which he responded by saying that the flyer was "garbage." "Why is it garbage," my celly yelled, "because you don't agree with it?" I began to explain to him that the flyer was posted on 'our' bulletin board and not 'his.' That I had a right to post any goddamn thing I wanted to post as long as it didn't infringe on anybody else's right to post.

All said and done, he then reacted by handing me back the flyer before walking away speechless. Minutes later my direct confrontation obviously took hold because he returned requesting the flyer. He went back, surprisingly, and posted it back up like a good boy.

On the flipside, my approach in administering direct confrontation to these officials has come to be expressed in the most blatant of ways: cell me up with another race, period! The brass have recently started interviewing inmates, as they did me, as part of the integration process. Here they ask whether the inmate would be willing to cell up with someone of another race. In my interview, I was not only willing but wanting. And let me be clear by saying that I cannot urge the imprisoned class enough to volunteer as well. The SHV awaits you if you don't. That equates to more time; more oppression; more playing into their hands. Besides, I confronted and spoke to a cop about this issue recently and this is what he had to say: "[T]he more integration there is, the more power [inmates] will have. The less we'll be able to pit ya'll against each other, the less we'll be able to control." They're not looking forward to integration and that's precisely why we should be.

As my second strategy, I've chosen to agitate for a less violent and hateful environment. It's challenging, as I'm sure you can imagine, because I'm surrounded by racist resistance on all sides. The imprisoned class consists of various sets and gangs. These include but are not limited to, Neo-Nazi skinheads, Nortenos and Surenos, Bloods and Crips et al who all believe to some degree in racial division. Although, hate groups are not limited to just prison. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 888 hate groups operating currently in this country. In the State of California 21 skinhead groups have been identified. Out of these 21 groups the majority of members are currently behind bars. On several occasions I have been targeted and invited to prospect for these horribly ignorant and distraught individuals. They tried to agitate manipulate, provoke and lure me and other young recruits into their ranks. For me, though, I always knew that my whiteness wasn't something to exalt or exploit especially if it meant oppressing and hating others in the process. So instead of joining them, I took their strategy of agitating and began using it to my advantage.

Now, I run around talking excitedly and earnestly about anti-racist principles. When I find myself in a group of other

whites and racist speech takes center stage I attempt to stir up the conversation by offering alternatives to racism, like harmony. I ask things like, "Why don't we go over there and play ball with them blacks?" Or, "let's go over and offer those Nortenos a cup of joe and see if they want to play a game of chess." To date, I've gotten written up for mutual combat six times over it. It's no puzzle that my ideals are highly controversial if not downright treasonous in the eyes of many. I've noticed though, that by just putting myself on the line for the sake of instilling different perspectives and inspiring public discussion, I've definitely ignited a spark. There

have been several people thus far that have abandoned their resistance, if just for a second, in order to listen and sometimes embrace what I have to say. In cases like this, where my agitation takes hold, I pounce on the opportunity to offer zines and other literature to the homies who just might stray away from the racist trap.

Which brings me to my third and final strategy of education. I've found this to be one of, if not the most potent weapon to use when attempting to combat racist resistance. Let me begin by saying that there are many insurrectionary distros out there who have played such a pivotal role in contributing to my mission and also in helping me to analyze the world in which we live. Without them I truly believe I'd still be stuck in an ignorant rut. For instance, I used to feel horrible and ever so guilty about being prison. The state dubbed me a violent felon; a dangerous desperado; a piece of shit junkie. I knew these things weren't true, but still I did not have the knowledge to articulate myself or my actions for what they really were. It wasn't until I started creating contacts with collectives like So. Chicago, Shoelacetown

ABC, and Modesto Anarcho that it dawned on me, "wait, my actions and ideals are actually collectively congruent and apart of something much bigger."

As a result, I stopped judging myself by society's standards. I woke the fuck up and started to critique and understand my incarceration, my role in society, and most importantly myself. I found our that these collectives all run a free literature program for prisoners. Which means that convicts are able to educate themselves with zines and other literature that promote things like freedom, mutual aid, collective cooperation, autonomy, and of course anti-racist ideals. I believe that we owe it to ourselves to seek out the truth. And once we find ourselves on the path of truism we owe it to everyone around us to spread the knowledge, collectively, that we have learned. I myself with the aid of the MAC* have been able to effectively and successfully distribute anti-racist literature into the hands of the most needy. The ones that are about to join that skinhead clique, or Mexican set. The ones who are fed up

with existing inside the confining walls of their resistance. The ones who are wanting to break the barriers not for a whiter and brighter world but for a more harmonious one. One without divisions and disunity. Enslavement and fear.

In closing, this mission is no easy feat. The odds are stacked against me. The direct confrontation calls for constant conflict. Agitation entails intense conversations that, more times than not, end in consequential combat. Education in the form of zines and other literature that literally opposes everything prison thrives on is dangerous to distribute. But that's okay; for, I know that my only safety is

in danger.

* Modesto Anarcho Crew.

Send literature and letters to:

Brennan MacLean V83025 D5-221 PO Box 5007 Calipatria, CA 92233

FOR THE CRIME OF THOUGHT: THE CASE OF ERIC MCDAVIA

By Sacramento Prisoner Support



On May 8th, 2008, Eric McDavid, a young eco-anarchist from the Central Valley town of Auburn, was sentenced to 19 years and 7 months for a crime that was never even committed.

In September 2007, Eric was found guilty of conspiracy to sabotage federal facilities (dams, etc) in the name of the environment. The government's case was based on the cooperation of two of McDavid's former friends who turned snitch and a young FBI informant who was paid over \$75,000 to fabricate a crime.

On January 13, 2006, Eric McDavid, Zachary Jenson and Lauren Weiner were arrested in Auburn, California, and charged with one count of conspiracy to destroy public or private infrastructure by means of explosives or fire. Twenty months later, Eric went to trial alone to fight this charge. In the interim, both Weiner and Jenson had agreed to cooperate with the government in a variety of ways, including testifying against Eric at his trial.

Weiner began talking to the FBI a week after her arrest and was released on \$1.2-million bail. Six months later, having previously been denied bail twice as an alleged public danger and flight risk, Jenson agreed to cooperate and was released on \$40,000 bail. Eric was denied bail twice and remained in jail, struggling for vegan meals. After four months of pressure from supporters and a two-week hunger strike, he was finally able to gain access to vegan food—but a week before trial, the jail cut off his vegan meals once again, in an apparent attempt to weaken him. He has not received vegan food since that time. Eric has been in solitary confinement since his arrest.

After months of delays, Eric's trial finally began on September 10. The trial was fraught with clearly biased and improper rulings, and lies were rampant.

The trial opened with the government's star witness: cooperating witness "Anna," a young woman who was paid \$65,000 by the FBI to be friend and entrap Eric and his code fendants. Anna, who was 17 at the time she began working for the FBI, admitted repeatedly during her testimony that she was a liar. At one point Eric's attorney, Mark Reichel, said to her, "All lies, all the time, 24-7 would be the ad in the phonebook, right?"

"When I was undercover, in my role, correct," she responded.

Despite the government's best attempts to obscure the truth, Anna's testimony proved that she was the driving force behind the "conspiracy" and that without her and her FBI masters, it never could have happened.

The other two key witnesses for the government were Eric's former codefendants, both of whom admitted that they had agreed to cooperate because of the "75-percent-off sale," as Reichel dubbed it—the 75 percent reduction in prison time they were promised in exchange for cooperating. They also both stated that their sentencing had been delayed until after Eric's trial so that the government could see how they performed first. Weiner seemed visibly shaken throughout her testimony. She also seemed relieved, when Reichel cross-examined her, to finally have the opportunity to speak something more closely resembling the truth. This was not the case with Jenson, who behaved like a trained monkey.

After six full days in court, the jury left the courtroom, and both sides began to argue over the instructions that the jury would receive. These instructions would guide the members of the jury in making their decision about Eric's innocence or guilt, but the judge issued devastatingly incorrect instructions. The first blow came when the judge denied the inclusion of

the 'lesser included offense' instruction. This instruction would have allowed the jury to find Eric not guilty of the crime he was charged with, but guilty of the charge that Weiner and Jenson had pleaded to. While this clearly would not have been an outstanding victory, if Eric had been found guilty only of the lesser offense, it would have capped his sentence at five years, instead of 20.

The other huge point of contention in the jury instructions was the definition of 'predisposition.' For the government to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant was not entrapped (and is therefore guilty), it first must prove that the defendant was inclined to commit a crime prior to contact with a government agent; in this case, Anna. After a series of intense arguments, the judge instructed the jury to examine the question of predisposition beginning in June 2005; the moment at which the government claimed the conspiracy began, and almost a year after Eric and Anna had met and remained in contact. This ruling was in clear defiance of not only logical reasoning, but also of case law, which says: "Quite obviously, by the time a defendant actu-

ally commits the crime, he (sic) will have become disposed to do so.... The relevant time frame for assessing a defendant?s disposition comes before he has any contact with government agents, which is doubtless why it is called predisposition (US v. Poehlman)."

Armed with a set of faulty instructions, the jury returned after two days of deliberation with a guilty verdict.

The Aftermath

After the delivery of the verdict on September 27, Reichel conducted informal interviews with members of the jury. Here is a rundown of what they had to say:

"They wanted to acquit Eric, but felt that they could not because of the instruction the judge had given them about 'first contact' and 'predisposition."

"They thought that Anna was despicable, and they didn't believe a word she said unless it was on tape."

"They were appalled at the behavior of the FBI and told the agents so to their faces."

While much of this information is validating for Eric and his case, it's also maddening to know that Eric would be free today if not for one jury instruction. However, this bodes well for Eric?s chances of appeal, which will be the next step in his struggle for freedom. Unfortunately, this process will take at least a year, and Eric will remain imprisoned in the meantime.

Lies, Lies, Lies

Not surprisingly, the media and the government have made a number of inaccurate and misleading statements about Eric and his case. Perhaps the two most egregious lies made during the trial were that Eric threatened to kill Anna if she was a cop and that she awoke one night with him waving a knife over her. There was absolutely no evidence to support either of these claims, other than the word of an admitted professional liar. During the time that the second incident was alleged to have happened, Eric and Anna were in a cabin completely wired with video and audio surveillance. Yet despite repeated requests from Reichel, the government never produced any documentary evidence. When Anna told this story during her testimony (after a lunch break, after it was clear that the government was grasping at straws), Reichel asked her if she had gone right back to sleep after the alleged incident, and she said yes. If you wake up with someone waving a knife over you, do you fall right back asleep? Both of these outrageously slanderous statements were clearly meant to

smear Eric in front of the jury.

After the trial, US Attorney Mc-Gregor Scott was quoted as saying, "Can you imagine what would happen if they succeeded in blow ing up Nimbus Dam? It would make New Orleans look like a Sunday pancake breakfast." But both Weiner and Jenson testified that Nimbus Dam was not a target at the time of the group's arrest in January.

The list of falsehoods, hyper bole and fear-mongering state ments made by the government over the last two years is far too

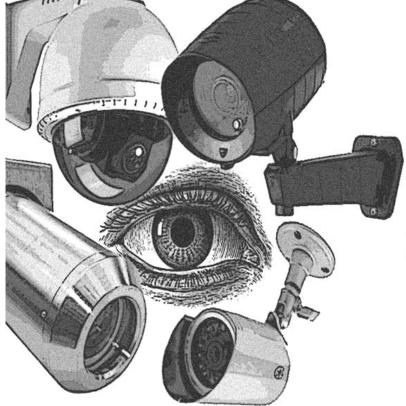
extensive to detail here. The bottom line is that the government has no qualms about spouting off the most malicious of lies in its desperate pursuit to convict innocent people.

A Bit of Context

Eric was arrested amidst the whirlwind government crackdown on radical environmentalists known as the 'Green Scare.' What sets Eric's case apart from the majority of these others, however, is that Eric was not actually charged with carrying out a crime; rather, he was charged with 'conspiracy' to commit one. In essence, Eric was pursued and arrested for 'thought crime.' Nothing makes this more clear than the prosecution's non-ironic invocation of association with CrimethInc. [an anarchist organization, editor's note], as proof of in itself of criminality. It is unclear whether the prosecutors are aware that the word they constantly uttered has the same Orwellian roots as the case itself.

A quick glance at the criminal complaint against Eric and his former co-defendants (which can be viewed on his





web site) reveals the extent to which the charges against him stemmed from the state's targeting of certain lifestyles and political beliefs. The 15-page complaint uses the words "anarchist," "anarchy" or "anarchism" 26 times and makes multiple references to CrimethInc., train-hopping and hitchhiking while tracing Eric's path across the country to various political protests and gatherings. The focus on anarchism and political thought extended into trial, with a rather heavy focus on the works of one author, Derrick Jensen [interviewd in MA #3!, editor's note]. At one point, the prosecutor actually confused Derrick Jensen with co-defendant Zachary Jenson and claimed that the author had visited Zach's mom in Tennessee over the Winter! Derrick Jensen was probably mentioned in the trial more than anyone other than Eric and his co-defendants.

This case makes it clear how far the government is willing to go to spy on and repress people based on their politics and lifestyle. Eric met Anna in August 2004 and the two remained in contact after that time. It was made clear during trial that Eric had fallen in love with Anna and that she used his feelings to keep him hooked and, eventually, to entrap him. Anna manufactured this 'crime' by providing the means for it to occur and by manipulating the three into doing things that would allow her employers to arrest and prosecute them. She constantly pushed and cajoled Eric, Weiner and Jenson when they showed resistance to her plans. She paid for their entire existence, the cabin they lived in, their travel across the country, the car they used, the computers they used (which the FBI later confiscated), groceries and supplies. Weiner testified that Anna pulled \$100 bills out of her pocket and gave them to Eric so that he could purchase groceries and supplies; leading to Anna's outlandish statements during trial that the money the group used came from Eric and Lauren's pockets!

Eric was not released on bail because the government said

that he train-hopped, hitchhiked and 'lived off the land.' The most the government had to say about Eric's predisposition is that he read an interview of Derrick Jensen and shared it with others. This case is clearly meant to terrify people who are seeking a way to be free in their minds and in their lives; to get them to police themselves and each other in order to avoid persecution.

And Then

Eric's struggle is far from over. He is committed to continuing his fight against these charges through the appeals process. Due to the many legal errors made by the judge during Eric's trial and to the response from the jurors during the informal interviews, we remain positive about Eric's chances for appeal.

But this will not be an easy battle. Much work needs to be done in preparation, and Eric needs support now more than ever. There are a number of things that you can do to help Eric make it through his coming months in prison and actualize his freedom. First of all, appeals are not cheap. Unfortunately, we will need to raise many thousands of dollars to cover Eric's legal fees. We need everyone's help with this - please start working on fundraisers now and visit Eric's web site to make a donation online.

Finally, please take a few minutes and write Eric a letter of support. Hearing from everyone around the world who keeps him in their hearts and minds helps keep Eric going day to day. You can also send Eric a book from a list that is provided online.

Eric is an amazing individual. Those of you who know him know how compassionate and caring he is, how full of integrity and courage he is, and how he embodies these qualities in his day-to-day life. Eric has taught us all so much, especially in these last two years. Most of all, he's taught us what it means to choose life, to keep pushing forward and doing what's right, despite substantial obstacles, and to infuse every moment with joy and love. After the jury delivered its verdict, Eric turned to all of us sitting behind him as he was leaving the courtroom, a look of concern on his face, and reminded us all: "Breathe...."

Let's all keep breathing... and keep fighting.

For more information, contact:

sacprisonersupport@riseup.net

On the web at:

www.supporteric.org

Send letters of support to:

Eric McDavid 16209-097
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM II
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
PO BOX 5700
ADELANTO, CA 92301

ON being An Andrew An Andrew An By I. Haglap

Unlike Europeans, who connect radicalism to the masses, the typical American equates radicalism with upper-class elitism. To have ideas outside the system is something for artists and academic types, but not for the common person. This misunderstanding about radicalism helps to keep it neatly in its place, away from the large populations that could do something with it. I have heard people say things like, "Why be part of a radical group in the Central Valley? It's just plain folks here, and no one will listen to you." My answer to that is to take a drive to the Bay Area and notice what life is like. Sure, there are "plain folk" there, just like anywhere. But to be part of the population that defines what the Bay Area is, you have to be rich. Few make the kind of money you need to have a nice house there. To get to that level of wealth you have to be enamored of the system that put you there. You have to be a corporate professional or a well-subsidized artist or academic. For many years, the Central Valley of California, especially from Stockton to Merced, has been a dumping ground for those who don't make the cut and can't afford life in the Bay Area. For years now, the population of Modesto swells at night, as commuters who work in the Bay Area but can't afford to live there pour into town after an 8-10 hour day and 2 hour commute. So even though it might sound like a good idea to be a member of a radical anarchist group in trendy San Francisco, the truth is, the Central Valley is where anarchists have their most receptive audience. If you are a supporter of Modesto Anarcho, you are supporting the anarchist revolution in the place where it is most likely to take root: among those who are not living the "American Dream" even after trying to. These are the ones most likely to see the truth that the system cannot work, cannot be reformed, and must be replaced by reasonable, human-scaled communities without government. Only then can all people share in the wealth of society.

One way that Central Valley anarchists can stay united in their cause and understand their importance is by looking at anarchists from the past. Despite what they would like you to believe in most history classrooms, anarchism is as much a part of the American story as liberalism and democracy. Thomas Jefferson famously said, "Government that governs the least governs the best." Later, the famous taxevader-transcendentalist, Henry Thoreau revised that to say, "Government that does not govern at all governs the best."

(Thoreau went to jail for refusing to pay taxes. When Ralph Waldo Emerson visited him in jail, he said, "Henry, what are you doing in there?" Thoreau responded, "Ralph, what are you doing out there?") I think Jefferson would have agreed with Thoreau's revision. Thoreau saw the logical extension of small government being no government. Perhaps Jefferson never got to the point where he could envision no government, but he was surely heading in that direction. Both Thoreau and Jefferson would be disgusted by our corporate-dominated police state, fueled by a predatory federal government.

The famous Russian anarchist Peter Kropotkin would agree with the importance of anarchist activism in the Central Valley. In his classic book, *The Conquest of Bread*, he showed us that without poverty, extravagant wealth could never exist. Doing away with poverty means also doing away with unnecessary accumulation of wealth, which only happens in a system where there are enough poor to exploit. If a capitalist only has his factories, how can he make his millions in profit? The answer is that he can't.



Only when you provide him with cheap labor from a destitute peasantry can he make his millions. Only when you provide him with hungry consumers willing to pay high prices for his products can he make his millions. The wealthy are nothing without the poor, and they know it. They need the poor as much as the poor think they need the rich. Kropotkin was making this point because he wanted people to realize that once you create a fair and equal society where no one is "poor" you guarantee that predatory persons, intent on exploiting others will never be able to do so, simply because their source—poverty—has been eliminated. The Central Valley is just the type of area where people, tired of being preyed upon by inhuman corporations and government bureaucracies, might begin to see that there is power in their poverty. It is a resource that the rich must

have to survive. Only when they realize this will they rise up and demand what they are worth. The anarchist message to the struggling poor is that you must not be afraid of your poverty, for it is your strength.

But how should we tell people to use that strength? Again, history has provided us with answers. In the late 19th century during the most violent days of the labor struggle, when poor workers were being gunned down in the streets and anarchists were being arrested and executed on trumped-up murder charges, some anarchists turned to what

they called "propaganda by deed." This meant that an anarchist had a duty to commit some violent act against the capitalist elite in order to strike at the heart of the enemy and ignite revolution in the masses. It was based on this idea that in 1892 a young man named Alexander Berkman carried out an assassination attempt on Henry Fisk, a coldhearted capitalist who had used violence to destroy the workers in the Homestead Strike. Berkman shot and stabbed Fisk many times, but failed to kill him. Berkman rotted in solitary confinement for 14 years, and the effect of his deed was not an anarchist revolution, but continued oppression of the anarchist cause. Many anarchists today believe that Berkman and others like him serve as a valuable lesson about using violence to fight violence. The lesson is simple: violence doesn't work. Violence is the tool of the state, and they are very good at using it. If you play by those rules, you give the state all the advantages. Today many anarchists believe that you must resist in non-violent ways. This is not some sort of new orthodoxy since anarchism does not have an orthodoxy. It is a real-life reaction to our time and situation. Saying that violence does not work in this place and time is not the same as saying violence never works.

Neither does it exclude all illegal action. Again, going back in history, one of the things that ate at the very fabric of black slavery was the passive resistance that black slaves used to undermine the white master's dominance. They broke tools, organized secret work slow-downs, faked illness, sabotaged crops, and stole small items when they could get away with it. In short, they made slavery less profitable for the masters, and did so working together as a group. Over time, this had an important weakening effect on the institution of slavery. If these same

slaves had stood up to their masters and tried to violently overthrow them, they would have been killed by the master's superior weapons. There is a great message here for anarchists today: resist, resist, resist...But do so working together, as individuals who function within a cooperative group. We are individuals because we function and cooperate with other individuals in little ways, every day. This is the revolution that will eventually so weaken the very fabric of predatory capitalism, as to make it fall apart. Cheer when the homeless rob banks or fight back against

the pigs, for they are not hurting fellow human beings, but only picking away at the monster devouring us all. Don't go out in a blaze of violent glory that the state can see as its victory. Instead, live the revolution every day. Hate all governments, but love all people. Undermine all governments, but uplift all people. Do you think the Central Valley has people who would be receptive to that message?

Cheer when the homeless rob banks or fight back against the pigs, for they are not hurting fellow human beings, but only picking away at the monster devouring us all.



Highs

Infoshop News - news.infoshop.org
Central Valley IMC - indybay.org/centralvalley
Insurrectionary Anarchists of the Coast Salish Territories
geocities.com/insurrectionary_anarchists/
Bombs and Shields - bombsandshields.blogspot.com
Indymedia US - indymedia.us
Crimethink - crimethinc.com
Prole - prole.info

Buoitions

325 Collective - 325collective.com
Rolling Thunder - crimethinc.com/rt
A Murder of Crows - geocities.com/amurderofcrows1
Aufheben - geocities.com/aufheben2
Earth First! Journal - earthfirstjournal.org
Fire to the Prisons myspace.com/alongingforcollapsepre
War on Misery - war_on_misery@hotmail.com
Total Destroy - mkeanarchy.bravehost.com
Green Anarchy - greenanarchy.org
Incendio - anti-politics.net/incendio
Anarchy - anarchymag.org





Monthly diy women's health meetings. Check Modesto Anarcho myspace for more info. Modesto Anarcho
is now holding
monthly meetings.
Meetings on last
weekend of the
month. Check our
myspace for more
details. Or email us
at: anarcho209@
yahoo.com



Why do rich people encourage us to vote so much?



Modesto Anarcho PO Box 3027 Modesto, CA 95353

Because, the more we buy into the idea that change can only come through participating in their spectacle - by making the same system that is oppressing us legitimate - the more unlikely we are to not to riot and overthrow that very system