



Greetings all!

Welcome to the June Issue of Brushfire!

If you haven't heard, Brushfire is a monthly newsletter developed by, for and about Florida radical activist and anarchist communities all over the Sunshine State! Brushfire helps to share information and growth of our movement so we can act in solidarity throughout the state. Responsibility for producing each month's newsletter is passed from one collective to another throughout Florida.

If you would like to sign up for a month, please get in touch with us at www.brushfire.biz or through brushfire-submissions@gmail.com.

This issue was produced by the

West Palm Beach chapter of Food Not Bombs.

You can get ahold of us at www.mypalmbc.com / subpalmbeach and foodnotbombswpb@yahoo.com.

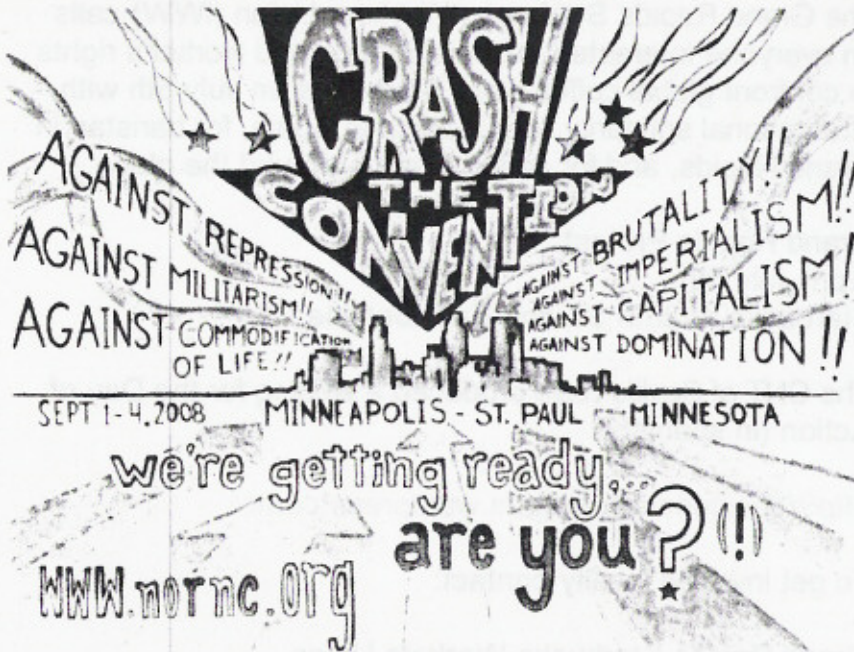
We hope you enjoy!



*Thanks for Reading
Keep up the Fight*



Start Planning Now!



- 3. CIW UPDATE
- 5. Hungry For Justice?
- 7. Hallucinating Suburbia
- 9. A Possible Look into the Future
- 16. M.M.M.ooo Ice Cream!
- 18. M.A.R.S.

Table of Contents:

- 19. Sharing the Wealthy by Mark Henson
- 21. The Issue of Poverty
- 29. Buddha Dog
- 33. Mayor's Conference
- 35. Say NO to Coffee!
- 37. RNC + DNC



Coalition of Immokalee Worker's Victory Against Burger King!



Agreement details: The agreement extends Fair Food principles to the world's second-largest hamburger chain. Highlights include:

- BK agrees to pay an additional net penny per pound to the Florida farm workers who harvest its tomatoes. To encourage grower participation in this increased wage program, BK will also pay incremental payroll taxes and administrative costs incurred by the growers as a result of their farmworkers' increased wages, or a total of 1.5 cents per pound of tomatoes.
- BK also joins other fast-food industry leaders and the CIW in calling for an industry-wide net penny per pound surcharge to increase wages for Florida tomato harvesters.
- Together, BK and the CIW have also established zero tolerance guidelines for certain unlawful activities that require immediate termination of any grower from the Burger King supply chain. The BK/CIW collaboration additionally provides for farmworker participation in the monitoring of growers' compliance with the company's vendor code of conduct.

Spain. She was a member of the Union of Commercial and Hotel Workers of the Confederacion Nacional de Trabajadores (CNT). Now with the support of all CNT affiliates, the International Workers Association, and the Starbucks Workers Union (IWW) they are demanding justice for Monica.

The treatment of Monica in Spain by Starbucks is similar to the charges of anti-union discrimination being investigated by the National Labor Relations Board in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This new Grand Rapids investigation comes less than a year since Starbucks signed a settlement agreement with the NLRB claiming they would end intimidation against baristas interested in joining the Starbucks Union.

The Grand Rapids Starbucks Workers Union (IWW) calls on everyone interested in social justice and worker's rights to confront global coffee giant Starbucks on July 5th with international solidarity. For Monica in Spain, for baristas in Grand Rapids, and for coffee farmers around the globe.

Grand Rapids Protest:
4 pm July 5th
Starbucks at 28th St. and East Beltline

The CNT of Sevilla have produced a weblog for the Day of Action (in spanish):

<http://seccionstarbucksCNT.wordpress.com/>

To get involved locally contact:

Grand Rapids Starbucks Workers Union
grandrapidsstarbucksunion@yahoo.com
616-881-5263
PO Box 6629
Grand Rapids, MI 49516

Global Day of Action Against Starbucks!



The Grand Rapids Starbucks Union (IWW) and the Spanish CNT have announced a Global Day of Action to protest Starbucks union busting in Sevilla, Spain and Grand Rapids, Michigan

- Day to protest recent firing of CNT member in Spain and continuing anti-union discrimination in Grand Rapids
- The Union of Commercial and Hotel workers CNT-AIT in Sevilla, Spain along with the Grand Rapids Starbucks Workers Union (IWW) have announced a Global Day of Action scheduled for July 5th. The two groups are asking social organizations, unions, and individuals from around the world to promote and participate in this day of action.
- On April 24th, 2008 a barista named Monica was fired for her union activity from a Starbucks in Sevilla,

The road ahead: Addressing the future of the Campaign for Fair Food at the joint press conference, Lucas Benitez of the CIW said:

"Dr. Martin Luther King said it best when he said, 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.' Social responsibility in this country's food industry is inevitable, and though the exploitation of Florida's farmworkers remains unconscionable today, company by company we are building a path toward justice. The next steps are up to those companies that stand before us in the road ahead.

"There are companies -- like Chipotle in the restaurant world and Whole Foods in the grocery industry -- that already make claims to social responsibility yet, when it comes to tomatoes, fall far short of their lofty claims. It is time, now, that those companies live out the true meaning of their marketers' words.

"And there are companies -- like Subway and Walmart -- that, by the sheer volume of their purchases, profit like few others from the pernicious poverty of workers in Florida's fields. They, too, must step up now. After eight years of this campaign -- and the very public commitment of the three largest fast-food companies in the world to the principles of Fair Food -- they can no longer claim ignorance of the problem nor can they say that the solution is not possible.

"So to all of you who have marched with us, organized petition drives with us, prayed with us, and struggled with us, today is a day to celebrate this hard-fought victory. Tomorrow, with renewed energy and purpose, we begin our work again to make respect for fundamental human rights in Florida's tomato fields truly universal."



Hello peoples of all walks of life and who hopefully share an aspiration towards necessary change and freedom!

As a group of south Florida activists attempting to keep ourselves busy and aiming to be useful to humynkind and the planet (in protection of social and humyn rights and environmental health, and in battle against all forms of oppression) we constantly find ourselves inspired to take on new ways of resisting and revolting against the many injustices that are systematic in this country and the world. This is an introduction to one of those side projects in which we, some folks from Everglades EarthFirst!, the Lake Worth Bike Co-op, and Broward Food Not Bombs, have been engaging in. We are calling it "Food Not Bars." It is still very young and we are still fine-tuning all aspects of this and were not even sure if we should be introducing the idea to the rest of the world yet until we have a better picture of where we stand legally with this project and how to better the service itself...we have already been harrassed by the police...but we have decided that the idea is honorable enough on it's own to present as long as folks are warned that this project is merely at birth stage.

As we all know the system that we live in has a tendency to reprimand, harass and often even take away all forms of freedom from those who are fighting for necessary changes in this country. Those who fight against environmental injustices, who defend animal's rights to dignity and who fight against all forms of misery and suffering are criminalized and usually end up caged. Furthermore, a disproportionate number of people of color and people raised in poverty find themselves locked-up for petty crimes while many of the wealthy and powerful walk free despite legal crimes of theft and mass murder for profit. We have always held the issue of unjust imprisonment very near to our hearts and minds and were reminded of the cruel and brutal, dehumanizing and humiliating, treatment inside jails after a recent action in protection of the Florida Everglades back in February 18th, 2008 when 26 of our

Local Residents Mobilize Against U.S. Conference of Mayors

Hundreds Will Rally For Community Control of Resources!

From June 20-24, 2008 community activists from around the country will be joining hundreds of local Miami residents to call attention to affordable housing, public space, gentrification, privatization, neoliberal policies, ecological destruction and other issues affecting urban communities in Miami and around the country.

While they sniff Cabernet at the Intercontinental and discuss how to devise new ways to appropriate resources away from urban communities and into the hands of high price developers, and build condos in the place of cheap housing and strip malls in the place of green spaces, grassroots activists from local groups including Everglades Earth First!, Food Not Bombs, Mayors Welcoming Committee, Miami Workers Center, Power U, the Lake Worth Bike Co-op, and Take Back the Land will be coordinating days of marches, rallies, bike rides, and a community festival, protesting what they view as the irresponsible and destructive policies of local governments; cutting deals with luxury developers and multinational corporations at the expense of the needs of local residents, communities and the Earth.

Although the Mayor of Miami Manny Diaz, who is also the current vice president of the USCM, has claimed to have eliminated poverty in the city of Miami, it is rated as the third poorest city in the U.S. per capita. Gentrification, homelessness, police brutality, racism, economic disparity and ecological destruction are becoming more pervasive than ever. Not to mention our chief of police is none other than John Timoney, largely responsible for "Miami Model" state terrorism used during the 2003 anti-Free Trade Area of the Americas mobilization, and the brutal police response to protests at the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

700 mayors from around the country will gather in Miami from June 20-24 at the Intercontinental Hotel for the 76th Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) to debate national policy impacting America's cities and metropolitan areas. The USCM, founded in 1932 during the Great Depression, is an organization of cities with populations exceeding 30,000. Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John McCain are also slated for an appearance.

You Are Invited! Bring Your Ladies, Your Bikes, Your Fists,
Your Love, Your Strength!

Mayors conference website: <http://usmayors.org/uscm/home.asp>

Contact: mayorswelcomingcommittee@gmail.com
foodnotbombsmiami@gmail.com

Handwritten signature or initials.

76TH CONFERENCE OF MAYORS 700 Mayors in Miami

Corporate Money & Privatization will save the community!



Rallys, marches, Actions:

All → 4 Days of Mayor "appreciation"

June 21st
Alley



June 20-24



Contact:
lakeworthbikecoop@gmail.com
Foodnotbombsmiami@gmail.com

Entry Fee: \$ 5

Cat
Winning Prize:
Vintage Dutch Gazelle Bicycle

Starts @ 9:30
see pics @ www.myspace.com/lakeworthbikecoop

family and friends were arrested for a peaceful act in protection of the planet (the climax of the Earth First! Winter Rendezvous). VI

Alas! As they say, good things often sprout from the bad, and "Waaaah" was born:

Food Not Bars! Delicious Jail Support!

Inspired by that fateful night waiting anxiously for our comrades to be released from behind bars, we discovered that serving people just getting outta jail was not only fun but a pretty good idea. In lieu of this, we decided to get organized & establish Food Not Bars! Our mission: To serve those just released from jail, with basic necessities such as food, water (iced tea or lemonade), cigarettes, free cell phone calls (calls for rides home, calling in to work, etc.), clothes and anything else we can muster.

Suggestions, Questions, Comments?
Contact: foodnotbars@gmail.com

FOOD NOT BARS



DELICIOUS Jail Support



hallucinating suburbia

by: Nestor

that mercurial menace
that phantom of the shopping malls
cloaked with invisible fuselage
flashing hypodermic fingernails
weaving wayward wizardry behind the scenes

what is this ghostly gadgetry
compelling us to consume
such maniacal amounts
of conspicuous commodities?
creating a chaotic clutter
that mystifies stupefies

VII

how many
fast food joints
must a man devour
before his time bomb blows?

hey you
mr. manonthestreet
psssttt...

why cant you see all this shit?

do i gotta smack you in the face with it?
do i gotta spit it all up on yr nice new suit?

when will you see the light
and stop muscle-toning?
when will you breathe goodness
and not press charges?
when will you extend a loving hand
and stop pointing that glock at me?

i see it in yr eyes man
some shits gonna go down
everytime i look in there
i see this glassy glazed
notquitethere look
that makes me wonder

where the hell you at?

and if it aint you
(and i know it aint you)

who the fucks at the controls then

ay big guy!

go ahead and answer me that one.

i'll give you a second to think about it.

XXXII

gave us the finger
and shook his big fat ass
he's got class
gass like a cadillac,
i don't think he'll be back

waiting.

waiting for my man
or the Sun
or something equally smelling

and full of promise like fools gold
like last night

and the thousand pounds
of dynamite you brought
uninvited.

like a soft song
i sing to you
like a hard rain
you fall on me

wanting liberation
good mileage
three meals a day
and sexsexsex
(this is non negotiable)

you are like the flowers
i step on at dawn

the fish
i gut at sea
and this is love

cant you feel it baby?

how many stop signs
must a man pass through
before reaching his green light heaven?

XXXX

decorates our lives
with sweet decadence
driving our spirit
to escape us somehow

those cannibals of conformity
chewing cupid's chocolate ass

those mutant mosquitoes
vomiting credit cards and bank accounts

whose hand hails us
like hollow children
down halls of candy coated
green backed greed
in search of sinister wallpaper and 2000 channels
hallucinating suburbias and money back guarantees
theme park sexuality and lobotomy for lovers

the journey thru sedated ambivalence starts early
the somnambulant student body trips on yesterday's
bones

the culture is countered, the drive takes a dive
the best minds are spun around
sedated with stardust they stumble
exoskeletons in their eyeballs
their Minds molded to a simplicity
of homogenized perfection

the ripples rage through the land
waking up the waxy heads
it's time to take that trip
and move out of the suburbs

VIII

Feedback Loops of Resistance:

Envisioning a successful Climate Justice movement

by Las Noches de Diciembre

"Positive feedback, sometimes referred to as "cumulative causation", is the feedback loop system in which the system responds to perturbation in the same direction as the perturbation... The end result of a positive feedback is often amplifying and "explosive", i.e. a small perturbation results in big changes. This feedback, in turn, will drive the system further away from its original setpoint, thus amplifying the original perturbation signal, and eventually become explosive because the amplification often grows exponentially..."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Positive_feedback

Positive feedback loops don't only apply to terrifying specter of melting permafrost and smoldering jungles. Brace yourself for some optimism: human society is on the verge of stumbling into a social feedback loop away from industrial civilization, quicker than most of us believe possible.

As most environmentalists realize, the reduction of carbon emissions suggests a fundamental challenge to our society. Many have recognized this reality; it's a large part of the allure we feel in organizing around climate change. The imperative to slash carbon output into the atmosphere is the invitation that we have been anticipating; a chance to have our critique of civilization taken seriously. It can, and should, be the revival of a vibrant, creative, radical ecological movement.

The assessment reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) can be seen in a manner comparable to earlier documents, such as Declaration of Independence, that reminded people in this country of an obligation to overthrow tyrannical power for the greater good. This time, power is on a global scale, and the most menacing tyranny comes from the private energy sector. The threat at hand today is much bigger than lost liberty—although that is certainly

inside
you'll find

the blind rhyme
that ends
your kind crime.

i've seen it all
with eyes of gold and lips of steel

yelling

buy now pay later

you're soul is a
buy-product

there are rows
to be filled
and lines
to be signed
and i's
to be dotted
before doomsday

but you say
no way

and dance like its
hey day

hey mr.

spare some change

spare some fucken change mr.
right the wrongs

and kingdom come's
gone

one fat bastard
trip to heavea
left screaming
didn't take any parting gifts

Buddha Dog

by: Nestor

(for ee & hr)

if you cant
eat it
you gotta
smoke it

i always say

but hey
thats not yr apple, now is it?
you fat greedy bastard
you wear
a death's head
a pumpkin pie

you are one of

those people

who walk around asking
whywhywhy?

when you forget
to open
your

brief case
be cause

XXIX

a factor. Like the historical American document, the IPCC reports come from an elite segment of our society. In themselves, these reports are not calls to open rebellion. But any interpretation of them that does not invite the drastic actions needed to succeed in stemming anthropogenic carbon output and unmaking the industrial process is fraud.

In many ways, the anti-globalization movement of the past decade laid a foundation for what is ahead in the climate justice effort; but never could we have imagined such a red-carpet invitation rolled out before us. A massive, decentralized, grassroots response to pending (and present) climate crisis is inevitable. But how will it look? How should we shape revolutionary project that is being ushered into existence before our eyes? How will we fan the fires that are being lit in scientific and academic circles, so that empowerment is widespread, independent of the corporate-sponsored environmental-industrial complex? The strategy will not follow some classic formula of organized social revolt.

There are many balls already in motion on multiple levels of politics, law and activism. While the realm of politics and law is corrupt and scandal ridden, many of the things happening here cannot be ignored or avoided in the process of strategic planning. These factors will inevitably shape public perception and should be reflected in our organizing.

For example, states such as California and Florida have declared initiatives straight from IPCC data, such as carbon reduction of 80% below 1990 levels in the next 40 years. This means, essentially, dismantling *all* fossil-fuel infrastructure and defending *all* intact 'carbon sinks', meaning every living organism that breathes in CO₂. Areas where local, regional or state government are standing with the IPCC are on the verge of having the strongest legal cases and political will for challenging destruction and pollution, not just through environmental law, but also civil disobedience and other forms of direct action. The ever-controversial legal strategy of 'Necessity Defense' is being validated on multiple levels of jurisdiction, in regards to greenhouse gases. What the Sea Shepards get away with on the open seas under protection of international law is becoming the climate for direct action around the world.

Below is one scenario of what this article is calling a *Positive Feedback Loop of Climate Justice*. Some of the ideas are based on existing or coming legislation; much is based on hopeful speculation. It should serve some strategic value for folks engaged in long term

X

planning around climate change and resistance to industrial civilization. It may also provide an uplifting read to ward off the looming temptation of miserable pessimism.

A visualization scenario

[Try reading this part aloud with some friends. Start with a few relaxation exercises, encourage them to close their eyes and let their imaginations drift...Seriously.]

What sets our metaphorical snowball, or dust ball, in motion could be something seemingly mundane, for example: a conservation group wins an Endangered Species Act (ESA) violation over the endangered Florida Panthers' habitat loss due to rising sea-level...

By the end of 2008, every carbon emitting industry is confronted on the basis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pushing these animal towards extinction. Once this is established, the precedent is set to make the same case for many other animals and plants on the State and Federal lists who are losing habitat and food source to warming (or cooling) waters, flooding (or drought), etc. Lawsuits, lobbying and media utilize an ESA that was flailing in its effectiveness months prior to fight countless proposed projects: power plants, new/expanded roads and airports, industrial factories and farms, etc.

In 2009, Inspired by the animals' winning battles, a group of human folks on the frontlines of impact from climate change draft up a federal Endangered Human Act (EHA), allowing native cultures, historic neighborhoods and small farmers to sue large greenhouse gas releasing operations for endangering their lives and livelihoods. One of these cases takes on a South Florida county whose overzealous road building is charged with enabling traffic to pollute the atmosphere with GHGs. Communities across the country use the EHA to hold local fossil-fuel companies and governing bodies responsible for climate-related disaster. Companies spend billions hiring corporate environmental firms to fight EHA claims. In the process, they lure thousands of fence-walking pseudo-environmental attorneys and lobbyists into the new, high-dollar field. This completely drains the state and national staff of Sierra and Audubon, who all flee to the corporate sector; no one notices the difference.

In 2010, as a result of lawsuit settlements, many small communities have capital, culled from crooked public budgets and bloated corporate profits, to invest in local projects like community-scale agriculture; solar, wind and low-impact hydro energy; waste stream bio-fuel co-ops; and bicycle recycleries. Settlements also cause cities to adopt climate initiatives and create climate task forces, which

To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded! -Emerson



It is said that war boosts the economy. Well certainly - weapons manufacturers are seeing an all time high in profits, as are the oil companies, even though gas prices are at an all time high too. But the people in the worst circumstances in this country are still in horrible situations. They don't get to reap the benefits of war, they need only pay the cost. Often it is made worse when a family member is killed or comes back wounded or emotionally scarred because of the horrible things they have seen and participated in. War is the most atrocious of activities. Do we as a species possess the foresight and fortitude to overcome our destructive habits and put an end to warfare forever?

Peace is the antithesis of war. It is vain to just say we seek world peace. Peace is meaningless without justice. You cannot achieve realistic peace without factoring in the river of history that has lead up to the present. But if people work together, making honest struggle to understand each other and see each other as a part of the greater human species, then slowly, with patience and compassion, we can overcome the present violent divisions throughout the world. We cannot do this, however, without conceding the capitalistic interests the various forces hold over the quest for a true peace and equality for all people.

Dignity and Justice

Poverty and violence are inseparably connected. With everything going wrong in the world we need to unify all of the separate causes out there so we may better overcome them all. If we could solve the issue of poverty, we can solve the problem of violence. Instead of the top, start at the bottom. If we can solve the issues of economic inequality at the root of the problem, we can transform all of society by making the old standards obsolete and using mutual aid to help all people achieve the kind of life they deserve. To start, we need to set up community gardens, homeless shelters, and infoshops to educate people. This has always been an anarchist tenet - community building, setting up systems of helping people get the resources they need in a practical and efficient manner. If we can get to the point where everyone in this society, and everywhere on Earth, has open access to the resources they need to make their life what it ought to be, there would be no need for the violence that exists due to the lack there of. Militaries would no longer be able to use people's misfortune at not having their basic necessities as a means to recruit soldiers.

If everyone has everything they need, they would not remain dependent on the structures that have kept them oppressed and captive, unable to change their situations in life. More individuals would have dignity and could chose how to live their lives. We could put forth more efforts towards other needs, such as the preservation of the environment, the survival of the species, art, science, space travel, and general luxury. People ought to be able, not just to survive, but to enjoy life. As topsy-turvy as the world is, I have a great deal of hope for the future. There are a lot of wonderful things happening and a lot of great people all over are standing up in opposition to the horrible things going on. Human beings are just as capable of doing right as they are of doing wrong. As long as we continue to organize, educate, and stay resilient, then tomorrow we will see a brighter day.

Peace, Love, and Justice to you all. Keep up the struggle.

~~III~~ lead to local incentives for emission-free energy and transportation, car-free downtown areas, urban reforestation programs, and allocated budget for disaster relief.

Many companies move forward with projects despite legal opposition, hoping that corporate scientists, high-power lawyers and political connections can keep their profits rolling. Road blockades and base-camps are set up to slow work at these jobsites and offices. Strategic sabotage and graffiti start chipping away at their profits and public image. Soon, companies feel the pressure of full-scale resistance as Iraq war veterans come home to confront the fossil fuel empire that started the war. They use military skills against companies and politicians who sent them to fight. Several domestic militia factions from urban and rural areas declare war on the U.S. Empire and transnational climate criminals.

By 2011, rebellion and insurrection is full swing. Despite billions spent by Department of Homeland Security, surveillance infrastructure is unable to monitor daily uprisings. Police and military presence is severely stretched in responding to simultaneous climate-related disasters: multiple category 5 hurricanes whack coastal Florida and the Gulf; floods swell across the north east; storms across Central America and Mexico drive record numbers to cross the Arizona desert border; crop failures cause prices to sky-rocket, leading starving rural families and inner-city gangs to join in looting grocery stores throughout U.S. cities.

Factionalized groups of leftist liberals and hippy activists put internal squabbling aside and join with angry rednecks and libertarians; they merge with inner-city environmental justice activists, nomadic bands of urban and suburban youth. Native warriors societies emerge from various First Nations who are calling off their violated treaties with the U.S and Canada. Through communication and dire necessity, the disparate groups over come the barriers of language, culture, race, gender and class. They are soon joined by organizations of disillusioned immigrants and refugees.

Several Iraq War veterans are arrested for acts of sabotage and accused of treason and terrorism. They demand POW status and plead the Necessity Defense. Through a high-profile Supreme Court trial, they are acquitted of all charges.

Hundreds-of-thousands from the alliance of rebels turn out to celebrate the veterans' acquittal in Washington DC; some carry U.S. flags or flags of their own nations, some carry simple green or red, others carry tattered black flags. With nothing to go home to, 50,000

set up camp in the plaza. Through spontaneous spokes councils in the streets, a decision is made to take the Capitol building, which is done with ease. The thousands of veterans lead the march passed the armed guards and government employees up to the oval office, with cheers of support all along the way. President Cheney, who took office when Bush was assassinated before the 2008 election by a member of his own cabinet, had declared a state of emergency that year and refused to step down. This time people wouldn't depend on an election to oust the regime. The President's office and all his belongings were thrown out into the street with the help of his own insubordinate staff.

2012: Between climate-related disasters wiping out major infrastructure; lawsuits stopping every permit for new industrial projects; protest camps shutting down existing energy facilities across the hemisphere; and billions of dollars in sabotage crippling fossil-fuel extraction operations across the continent; for the first time in history, US carbon foot print is reduced. Parallel rebellions occur across the planet; virtually every US military base is dismantled and every last worthless American dollar is burned in small cooking fires across the world. Human carbon emissions begin to stabilize around 1990 levels.

Now for the 80% reduction...

In summary

Things can move faster than we've imagined. Once momentum is built up to an exponentially increasing pace, there's no stopping for the capitalist allure of greenwashed false solutions. There are a few terrifying obstacles and risks that may present themselves. For one: what the hell to do with all the unearthed nuclear waste in this country? Perhaps that is a responsibility which justifies our continued presence on the planet despite the utter cosmic embarrassment of that whole climate incident. Maybe the French will help figure something out...

But, let's not get distracted. Stay active, take care of yourself and rest assured that once the feedback loops of resistance are in effect, nothing short of total transformation into a just, ecological future will do.

Las Noches de Diciembre is an underground militant cell of fictitious anti-tourist terra-ists trying clumsily to defend the sinking peninsula they cherish and call home...

XIII

pharmaceutical corporations, oil companies pay big dollars to block their development in the States. And what else is it that makes oil companies so bad?

War and Peace

In the U.S. we are desensitized to violence and conditioned to accept it willingly. Our sensory overload of incessant brutality towards one another is everywhere we look - television, movies, the media. Those in charge treat their own citizens with constant disregard as well as treating the lives of those from other places as less important. Under such conditions it is no wonder we have the highest homicide rate of any first world nation. Perhaps the fact that we are the only one still implementing the death penalty might have something to do with that or perhaps it is just our imperialistic nature of wanting to control what the rest of the world does.

In his essay "War is the Health of the State," Randolph Bourne writes:

"With the shock of war...the State comes into its own again. The Government, with no mandate from the people, without consultation of the people, conducts all the negotiations, the backing and filling, the menaces and explanations, which slowly bring it into collision with some other Government, and gently and irresistibly slides the country into war. For the benefit of proud and haughty citizens, it is fortified with a list of the intolerable insults which have been hurled toward us by the other nations; for the benefit of the liberal and beneficent, it has a convincing set of moral purposes which our going to war will achieve; for the ambitious and aggressive classes, it can gently whisper of a bigger role in the destiny of the world. The result is that, even in those countries where the business of declaring war is theoretically in the hands of representatives of the people, no legislature has ever been known to decline the request of an Executive, which has conducted all foreign affairs in utter privacy and irresponsibility, that it order the nation into battle."

War is all about economics - power and money. It puts personal gain for those at the top above the personal loss of lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of others. It is no secret that this current war in Iraq was based on lies. It is no secret the atrocities that have occurred in Baghdad, Falluja, Abu Graib and so many other places. The military takes a person and crushes their humanity and then builds them up to take orders and to kill. Under such force and in such dishonest, immoral situations, is it really that surprising that soldiers have committed such awful crimes? But the true criminals are the ones that decided to go to war in the first place and risk innocent lives for personal advancement.

Throughout history, war has been fought by the poor at the bottom to benefit the rich at the top, who themselves did nothing but order others to death. It is always the poor who pay the price of death, whether it be the poor soldiers who were forced by lies and circumstance into military service, or the innocent civilians who are ruthlessly slaughtered and deemed collateral damage. The deaths of the U.S. service men and women in Iraq recently topped over 4,000; the deaths of Iraqis is estimated to be between 800,000 and 1.2 million. A million people are now dead that were alive five years ago. And none of that is including the wounded and maimed and the lasting effects of the use of depleted uranium. There are parts of Iraq that will be radioactive for centuries to come. Thousands of U.S. soldiers from the first gulf war have been diagnosed with cancer and many have died or have given birth to deformed children, yet the U.S. government still denies Gulf War Syndrome. Great job supporting the troops!

XXVI

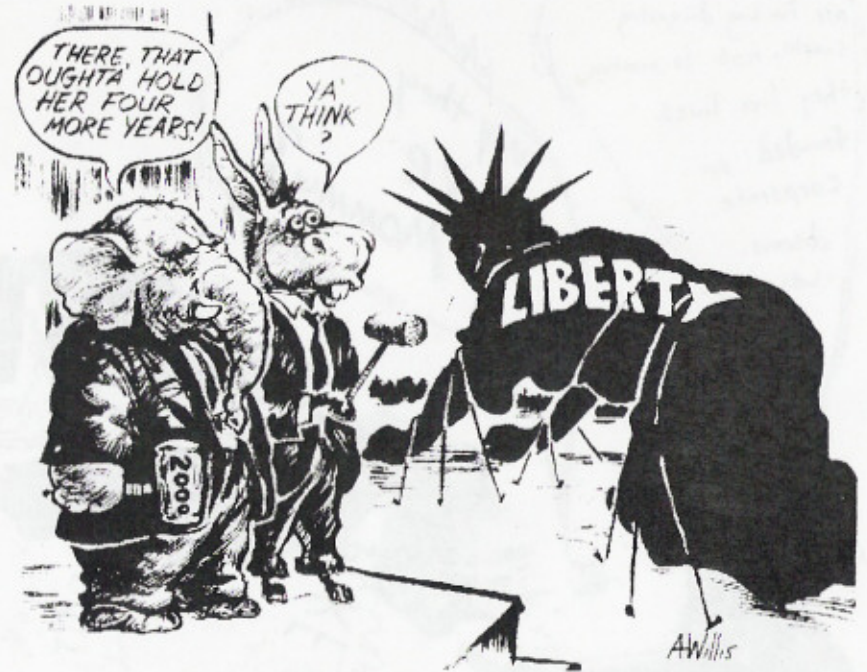
Lack of proper and available healthcare is another global issue, but also one that is felt very strongly here in this country. There are fifty million uninsured Americans, and those who are insured are likely to become victims of insurance company red tape and fraud. Just as the anarchist leaders of the 8-hour movement, I think the next major issue anarchists should be fighting for and taking the front lines on is getting free healthcare for everyone. Free healthcare is not something that would be very difficult to move into under the current system, we need only look to any other first world nation as an example how. But what it truly requires is removing the financial control from the insurance and pharmaceutical corporations.

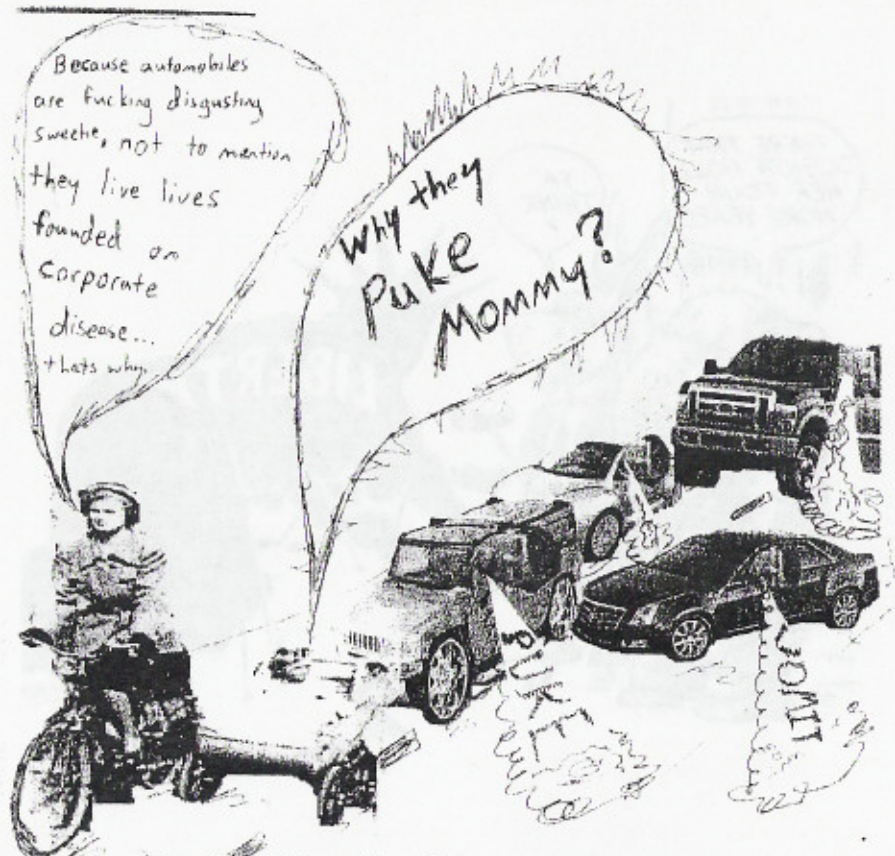
A hundred years ago, there were no illegal drugs. But pharmaceutical companies don't want the public self-medicating; they want the only legal means of treating an ailment to be their chemically derived drugs. But we also mustn't forget that the government, through agencies like the DEA, makes a humongous profit by making innocent people into criminals with unjust drug laws. This has increased the prison population in this country to astronomical levels - more people are in prison for non-violent drug crimes, that weren't harming anyone else except for offending fundamentalists, than for any other crime. There is no more inhumane and unjust an environment in this country than in the prison system; there are more human rights violations therein than any other sector of the United States.

Speaking of the legal issues concerning drugs, it might as well be pointed out that, aside from medical benefits, the legalization of marijuana and the use of hemp has numerous immediate solutions to the various environmental problems we are now overwhelmed with. The high price of corn in order to make ethanol would be eliminated; hemp oil makes a much cleaner burning and more efficient ethanol than any other source. Hemp is the strongest natural fiber and can be used for strong and lasting fabrics that are inexpensive and easy to produce. It is easier and better to make paper out of than wood, also saving further deforestation for all the absurd amounts of paper products we use. You can get four times the amount of crop per acre and the soil is immediately reusable with an extremely high turnover rate. And these are just a few of the many uses, but instead, lumber corporations, amongst others, pay politicians to keep its use illegal, thus protecting their profits.

In addition, there are numerous technologies available that are much safer and environmentally sound, but need further research and development. Some of the vast wealth of this world (or maybe just a portion of the money spent on war) should be redirected into a more positive and beneficial use in developing new green technologies. We need to immediately change consumer habits from disposable to reusable. I think that a combination of methods is best, such as solar energy, wind power, geothermal, cogeneration, recycling, water reclamation and reuse. Most of all I truly believe that hydrogen power is the future of energy needs. Germany and Japan are both much further along on the road to efficient and effective use of hydrogen power. We are not all that far off from having the technology available and affordable to have a small scale system in individual vehicles, with solar panels on the roof to run an electrolyser, which will break water into hydrogen and oxygen in order to use the hydrogen in a fuel cell system, which would provide more than sufficient energy for operation. This means all you would need to fuel a car is water and the only byproduct is clean water vapor.

Regardless of specifically how we get there, the fact is staring us directly in the face that we have to curtail our waste and we must reduce, eliminate, and undo our carbon emissions. But unfortunately, just like the lumber and





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course present memorializing her helping share food with the needy and signing autographs.

This direct mixing of impoverished and super wealthy seemed peculiar to me. I deal with both sides of the spectrum as a part of my daily life, but never do the two mix, they remain totally separate from each other. Being the most economically diverse county in the nation doesn't mean that the poorer side gets any help from the richer side. In fact, the elite of Palm Beach County like to pretend the impoverished side doesn't exist and would sooner hold fund raising events for a polo team than to give money to help those in need. Hillary Duff helping share food with the homeless is somewhat the exception that proves the rule - it is such a rare occurrence that a rich and famous person would help the impoverished that it garners such a great deal of media attention. Moreover, it took a celebrity that isn't even from South Florida to help the poor of this area, and even then, only for one afternoon. But as I always say, some is better than none, and at least it brought media attention to the very real needs of those living in destitution here.

In rich Palm Beach County, Westgate Tabernacle Church is the closest thing we have to a homeless shelter. It is a small and debt ridden church that, like all of us, does what they can to help. They let those in need sleep in their chapel, which has garnered the animosity of the county bureaucrats who have been trying to shut them down for years. The lawyer defending them against Palm Beach County is Rabbi Barry Silver, a civil rights attorney who does a lot of pro bono work fighting for environmental rights, workers rights, gay rights, animal rights, and deals a lot with poverty issues. We have always donated our leftover food to Westgate since we started feeding people which is how we came to have Barry as our attorney in our suit against the city. Barry also happens to be the co-chair of the Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition along with my first anarchist contact in South Florida who I came to know via my first anarchist contact from Orlando when I lived up there.

A couple months ago a pregnant couple and their friend came to our food sharing. They were in need of more help than we could give them but mostly needed a place to stay off the streets. I directed them to Westgate, the only place available. I've seen them a few times since then when we drop off our leftovers. The baby was born about three weeks ago, healthy and doing well.

This past Thursday, on the same day I was helping Hilary Duff feed the homeless with Art and Compassion, the Department of Children and Families came to Westgate and took their baby. Because they were staying at Westgate, DCF claimed neglect in having the baby in an unsafe environment. They are fighting for their baby, but DCF doesn't want to budge. Barry is now representing them in trying to get their child back.

Of Life and Of Death: Healthcare, Prison and the Environment

I have friends who have recently had babies under much more favorable circumstances, but who are nonetheless still struggling to get by. Two of my roommates are going to have their first child soon and are frightened of the costs of healthcare and their ability to provide for their child, and yet their situation is so much better than others. Another friend of mine just got back from Syracuse because he had to help bury his niece and nephew who died in a house fire just a few hours before I received my phone call about Hillary Duff. The funeral expenses are extraordinary. It can get expensive to live in this world, but it is also damn expensive to die too. Funeral costs border on embezzlement. But that's no worse than the general costs of healthcare in this country.

XXIV

Poverty and Homelessness In Palm Beach County

Palm Beach County is the most economically diverse county in the entire nation. That means in no other place in the United States do you have the most wealthy and most poverty stricken people sharing the same space. Palm Beach County also has the highest rate of violent crimes against the homeless. The officials and elite of West Palm and Palm Beach County want to pretend there is no poverty or homelessness in their great land and have continuously tried to cover it up and shove it out of the light. They haven't sought realistic solutions to end hunger and homelessness, only surface level responses meant to hide the reality that only end up exacerbating the problems.

In the process of outlawing our Food Not Bombs food distribution, the homeless have been blamed for all the crime in the area and the groups that share food with them blamed for their presence. Both of these assertions are absurd. First off, the downtown area of any city in the United States, yet alone the world, has a homeless population. To move in or open a business in downtown and then be shocked by the presence of homeless people is unbelievably silly. Secondly, those forced to live on the streets experience the receiving end of crime far more often than any of them commit it. They are beaten and robbed all the time, homeless women raped and left for dead under the bridge to Palm Beach Island, one of the wealthiest zip codes in the world.

Poverty is a tremendous problem in today's world and with a weakening economy and the housing crisis it only appears to be getting worse. The gap is growing between the haves and have-nots and more people are constantly going hungry in our society and more and more find their way onto the streets each year. This is a socio-economic epidemic that needs real solutions and soon. We cannot rely on our government to help us; we must help ourselves and each other. If each person did what he or she could to help others, then imagine what is possible for our future. If we continue to seek only our own interests at the expense of others, then we will continue to fall deeper into this abyss into which we have been plunged. We must work towards a more cohesive method of solving poverty and once in a great while you may even get help from an unexpected source....

Celebrity Compassion and the Loss of a Child

I'd like to share a story that has been on my mind lately. I think it is an interesting example of how oddly intertwined and miserably ironic life can be. Last Wednesday morning, as I was driving to work, Melissa from Art and Compassion called me. Art and Compassion is a religious group that feeds the homeless and works to get individuals the resources they need to get off the streets, including getting people schooling, medical care and into rehab. They are fellow plaintiffs with our Food Not Bombs in the lawsuit against the City of West Palm Beach over the ordinance they passed last September outlawing food distribution in downtown parks. She called to tell me they were having a special food sharing the following day with Hillary Duff. Ironically, Miss Duff was staying at the hotel I work for on Palm Beach and had a room a few floors above the restaurant I work at. Melissa called to see if any of us from Food Not Bombs could attend, as well as to help spread the word about the sharing since it wasn't one of the regular times they give out food.

No one else from our group could make it on such short notice, but I was able to get out of work early enough to go help them set up and give out food. As I left work, the threat of rain turned to reality and the skies opened up, unleashing a flood from above. It poured for a long time and I couldn't help but be drenched. Luckily for Miss Duff, her shopping in Boca delayed her long enough to miss all but a light drizzle for the 45 minutes or so she was there. The media was of



raw ice cream recipe

by la Dillon

Ingredients:

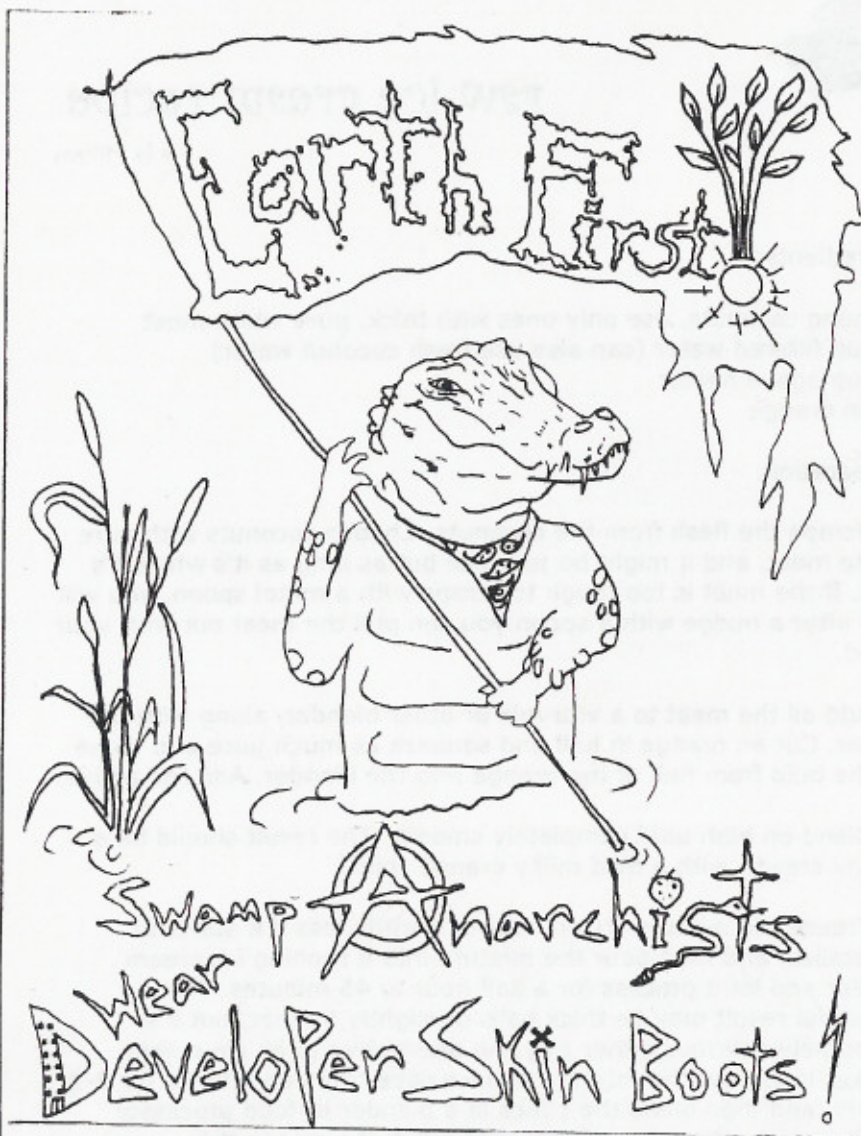
- 3 young coconuts, use only ones with thick, pure white meat
- ½ cup filtered water (can also use fresh coconut water)
- ½ cup agave nectar
- ½ an orange

Preparation:

1. Scrape the flesh from the coconuts. Choose coconuts with pure white meat, and it might be jelly like but as long as it's white it's fine. If the meat is too tough to scrape with a metal spoon, you will find after a nudge with a spoon you can pull the meat out with your hand.
2. Add all the meat to a vita-mix or other blender, along with the water. Cut an orange in half and squeeze as much juice and some of the pulp from half of the orange into the blender. Add the agave.
3. Blend on high until completely smooth. The result should be a runny cream, with a mild milky orange color.
4. Freeze the mixture for an hour or slightly less if it starts to crystalize, and then pour the mixture into a running ice cream maker and let it process for a half hour to 45 minutes. The beautiful result may be thick balls or slightly thinner, but it's extremely delicious either way. An alternative to an ice cream maker is to pour the mixture into ice cube trays and freeze for 2-3 hours, and then blend the cubes in a blender or food processor until creamy. You may need to add a tad of water to the blender/food processor, but try to use a very small amount.
5. Scoop into bowls or serve. Any leftovers should be refrigerated and before serving, you should repeat Step 4.

enjoy!

XVII



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speaking, when people in this society get a little ahead with money, instead of using it to change their position in life, they use it to buy something new that just wastes their time even more. Or perhaps being wrapped up in the life of celebrities instead of living one's own life. We have a constant supply of purposeful entertainment so that we can forget our troubles and never have to worry about thinking for ourselves.

Fear is also a powerful motivator and a great way to control massive amounts of people: fear of the unknown, each other, ourselves, death, insecurity, inability to provide for loved ones, loss of what freedoms we do have, change. "What is the most universal human characteristic: fear or laziness?" This question comes from the movie *Waking Life* as one character expounds on the lack of development of the human race despite our technological advancements. The forces that control this society base their strategy on these two cornerstones. Their main ploy is to get people angry about entirely the wrong things, conditioning the masses to focus on those things that separate us from one another instead of the things we all have in common.

Racism has been a tool of the elite to maintain their power for all of history, just as sexism and homophobia have been and continue to be used. Fear of the enemy keeps people from revolt. Racism takes many forms and moves in many different ways, some more subtle than others. But in general it is the whole "us versus them" mentality; the view that we are better than others because of our exclusivity to a particular group through no other cause than random chance. The most pervasive form of racism in today's media circus is in immigration issues.

For a country that was founded by immigrants, the United States is really paranoid of foreigners. Immigration is the double standard of the ruling class. The United States economic system depends on illegal immigrants in a myriad of ways. Companies ranging from small mom and pop stores to behemoth corporations rely on the profitability of using illegal immigrant labor. They don't want to do away with illegal immigration; they're just using racism as a way to distract people from the real issues causing problems in people's lives. The same is true of all racism or sexism or homophobia; they are irrelevant distractions.

These countries in the Americas were founded by illegal immigrants, but as it is in the jungle, might makes right. Legality is little more than whomever last physically conquered a particular territory. Laws have more to do with keeping people under control and creating profitability than they do with justice. It does not have much at all to do with morality or what is right and wrong. If anyone has the right to live in the U.S., from a historical and moral point of view, the descendants of the original inhabitants conquered by the Europeans ought to have more of a right to live where they want to on what would otherwise have been their land. I think people should have the freedom of movement to go wherever they want regardless of borders and be free to do as they please as long as it doesn't take away from another's freedom.

We are provided with plenty of distractions to keep people's attention away from the real causes to the problems in the world, like entertainment, sports, religion, racism, homophobia, and so on. In one of his songs, *Immortal Technique* says "Most of my Latino and black people who are struggling to get food, clothes and shelter in the hood are so concerned with that, that philosophizing about freedom and socialist democracy is usually unfortunately beyond their Rationale." Keeping people poor and struggling to survive serves to keep them busy as well as distracted from the forces causing their problems.

XXII

The Issue of Poverty

A culture of Violence and Fear

Jordan Hunt

Author and activist Howard Zinn once said that he operates from the assumption that "the world is topsy-turvy," that "the wrong people are in jail and the wrong people out of jail," and that "the wrong people are in power and the wrong people out of power." The world is not right. It is absurd and senseless. It is sick and dying. Humanity struggles; despair prevails. Environmental degradation endangers not just humankind, but all life as we know it. People are dying from disease, hunger, and violence. Racism, sexism and other prejudices permeate much of society. And the sad truth is that most of these problems are worsening daily. There are so many ills in this world it is difficult to know where to begin to address them, and indeed something must be done to confront not just one issue, but all of them. Yet an inter-connectedness exists between many of the injustices that plague our society. The one key component that affects everything else is economics.

Back in the 18th and 19th centuries, there was a concept called leveling: balancing the economic playing field to where none have too little while others have too much. There is no logical reason why one person should have more than he could use in a hundred lifetimes and another have not enough to live even one lifetime. Each of us is born into this world at a certain time and place in history. Each of us learns everything we know, language, science, culture, and art, from those that came before us. Our present civilization, with all of its modern technologies and advancements, stands on the shoulders of the great men and women who took the first steps in solving the riddles of nature and reality. One person or group of people does not deserve more than any other to enjoy the benefits of that knowledge and of those efforts. And yet our society is full of many with not enough and a few with far too much.

There are just over 900 billionaires alive today. If you combine their wealth, it equals more than the combined assets of every working class person on earth. Why is that? What would the world be like if economics weren't a factor? What if all the basic necessities for life were free to all? What if everyone had food, medicine and a bed, regardless of social status? How much more could humanity achieve? How much better would each person's quality of life be? How much safer and how much less violent would the world be?

The reality is that most of the hardships faced by the other 6.5 billion people on earth are not just happenstance or a result of natural disasters, but in fact are created by those individuals and corporations which control the vast majority of the world's wealth. Through various means, they seek to preserve that control by denying it to others. They keep themselves rich by keeping everyone else poor.

Fear and Pride

Pride is a huge factor in controlling the populace - to make us feel like we are better than others, that we somehow deserve more than they do. They also use consumerism to get people to buy things they don't need in order to feel like they "fit in," working on people's insecurities and need to belong. Generally

XXI



MARS ATTACKS!!!



The Miami Anarchist and Radical Studies (MARS) group was created as a space to facilitate conversations and debates amongst anarchist and anti-authoritarians who are involved in organizing in South Florida. It was felt by many individuals that such a space was needed in order to further contribute to the theoretical and practical development of anarchist/anti-authoritarian thought, both at an individual and collective level. This would be achieved by engaging with (a) text(s) (though other forms of media like film are also acceptable) as a group, and then coming together for a face-to-face discussion on what we read.

The participants of the MARS group have expressed numerous motivations for wanting to get involve: from the desire to improve their understanding of anarchist and radical theory (in order to better defend their ideas, as well as effectively communicate them to a broader audience), to wanting to make theory more relevant to their practice, and vice-versa.

Readings can be suggested and selected as individual pieces, or as part of a topic-based curriculum. All decisions will be made by either coming to a consensus, or if that fails, supra-majority voting.

To subscribe to the MARS e-mail list, send an e-mail to mars@lists.riseup.net.

XVIII

