

Modesto Anarcho

Fall 2007 #5



IT'S TIME WE END THIS

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For more information on Modesto Anarcho and to view our large distro list, check us out online at: www.geocities.com/anarcho209 - or - www.myspace.com/modanarcho
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WE HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO REFUSE TO BE YOUR SLAVES.

Welcome!

Welcome to the fifth issue of Modesto Anarcho, which also makes this our one year anniversary issue. One year down and five issues finished gives us time to pause and reflect on what we have accomplished and in what ways we have yet to see this project through. Over all, things are getting better for this free/cheap, quarterly, and very localized publication. We think that the content, the writing, and the design all have improved since the first issue. Now we only hope to get Modesto Anarcho in the hands of anyone who wants to read it, even if they haven't heard of it yet. We hope that students can pass it across the room while the teacher isn't looking, co-workers can read over it during extra long bathroom breaks, and fellow prisoners can talk over the articles while they pass the time. In short, we hope that this publication means as much to you as it does to us, dear reader. For us, in these times of so much misery, of seemingly endless war, economic downturn, foreclosure, boredom, incarceration, surveillance, repression, racism, and ecological disaster, our little journal of resistance, of people hitting back, people refusing, is still cause for continued joy and excitement.

To add to that joy, this issue has extensive news on direct action in the central valley. Unfortunately, not all the news is good, we also have a large news section on repressive measures that the state, the police, and the bosses are cooking up for us. We hope that this aids people in fermenting ideas about how to best hit back and recreate their lives. As a eulogy of sorts we have prepared a piece on "Eddie" Flores who died this summer while shoplifting from WinCo. His family and friends are looking for answers and justice, our short text hopefully aids in this department. Next, we take on the foreclosure housing crisis that we all have been hearing so much about. Some people have said 'regular' folks aren't up to the task of taking back their homes - we'd like to prove them wrong. Repressive police surveillance technology is the topic of the next article - as are those who would seek to create a dialog with the pigs who we are fighting. Lastly, we have a new feature, our poetry section, as well as an interview with local anarchist punk band, A Struggle in Vain.

We hope that in the end, you the reader just don't find this publication entertaining or just interesting - we hope that you find it useful. We hope that included within these pages are some ideas about how you and those who you associate and have a sense of loyalty with can possibly fight back and resist the daily injustices that are hurled at you. We'd love to talk with you over email or snail mail - or better yet in person. Check out our distro on our webpage for listings of other anarchist literature, magazines, and publications. If you are a GI, prisoner, or simply a poor student or worker, hit us up, we'll send something your way. We hope to meet you soon, either at an upcoming event or on the front lines of the latest struggle for freedom. Until we live our dreams and defeat our nightmares - cheers!



People rock out to the **Santa Cruz Trash Orchestra** at Anarchist Cafe' in Downtown Modesto. To hear music and learn more about SC TO, go to trashorchestra.org. The police were quoted as saying "*We know who you are, and we're not impressed.*" Feelings were mutual.



We'd like to thank the right-wing blogger who posted this picture! Next time, get our good sides. Here we are holding it down at a festival in the bay area.

Modesto Anarcho Now on the Radio!: If you live in the Modesto, Salida, or Ripon area, you might be able to pick up Modesto Anarcho on your radio! We will be broadcasting at various times on 106.1 KQRP, the valley's own independent radio channel. You can call in to the radio station at: (209) 545-4227, or check out the website at: www.partytown.com/kqrp/. You can hear interviews with Modesto Anarcho editors, information about upcoming anarchist events, and also hear selections from past issues of the journal. Stay tuned!

Modesto Radical Mental Health Group Forms: Industrial civilization got you down? Feeling depressed from the everyday strain of work, traffic, school, prison, work, traffic, police, work, television? Ever feel like you just need someone to talk to that isn't writing you a ticket or judging you? If you answered yes, then check out the new Radical Mental Health group that is meeting in Modesto. **For more information on the group and when meetings are, email: cvradicalmentalhealth@yahoo.com**



where we start to hit back direct action in the valley

June 27: In South Side Modesto, someone shot at a California Highway Patrol pig who was conducting a traffic stop. The attacker drove off quickly without being caught.

July 3rd: In Turlock, the West America Bank on East Main Street in Turlock was robbed.

July 11th: In Modesto, a physician's assistant and clinic administrator from Delhi chained himself to the door of the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency clinic on Scenic Drive in the morning to protest the treatment provided to a specific patient and the bureaucratic policies of the clinic in general. He remained locked down in protest for close to an hour.

July 11th: In Merced, a young worker at a Mervyns was sadly arrested by police after a glorious run of liberating more than \$3,000 in store goods. The worker would void charges when friends were buying things, or would charge items on her employee card only to later refund the charges and keep the merchandize. The worker would also allow her friends to bring her a receipt and she would offer them a full refund without having them return any items. Store surveillance cameras were used to catch the worker in the act of liberating the goods. Merced pigs have stated that, "She did not voluntarily give up the names of the people she was working with," although this makes it unclear if the worker has snitched on her friends or not. We can only hope that she keeps her mouth shut and doesn't rat on her friends. At a store like Mervyns where workers get low wages to sell items manufactured by kids in sweatshops (who make much lower wages) we can only smile and offer solidarity when a fellow wage slave starts to hit back!

Mid July: In concert with locked out strikers in the bay

area, workers conducted solidarity pickets at Waste Management sites in Sonora and Stockton. In Stockton, about a dozen haulers hoisted signs outside Stockton Scavenger Association and booed scab drivers brought in to complete routes unfinished. In Sonora, pigs were called in as workers camped out in front of office buildings, refused to stop picketing and also walked onto the property of other businesses. According to one boss in the Sonora newspaper, "...[O]ne of his trucks was... followed by some picketers and the [scabs] were... intimidated." This type of solidarity between workers in struggle and increased confrontation against scabs, property, and bosses is great to see, although the strike was recently lost. We can only hope for militant and more successful action in the future from the garbage workers - who deserve all of our support.

July 23rd: In Modesto, a police officer was attacked, beaten, and almost shot when he tried to detain someone. Passersby unfortunately broke up the fight before the man could grab the pig's gun from his belt.

July 24th: In Manteca, someone set fire to a public works truck that was parked outside of city hall.

July 29th: In Modesto, when a pig tried to pull over someone for not driving with a seat belt, they got more than they bargained for. Police asked the man to step out of the vehicle after he could not provide identification. He then pushed the cop and ran, and then turned around and started fighting. He attempted to grab the pig's gun several times during the struggle, but was unable to get the gun out of its holster. Passersby however, quickly broke up the struggle.

July 31st: In Merced, vandals did \$200,000 damage to five tomato harvesters owned by the Wolfsen Inc. farming complex, by running the harvesters into each other. Industrial agriculture continues to pollute and destroy various eco-systems with pesticides, force migrant workers into servitude, and use up huge amounts of resources which

rely on oil, dams, and environmental destruction.

July 31st: In Merced, people protested inmates' treatment outside Merced County Main Jail in response to violent raids by guards against various inmates. Protestors said that inmates haven't been given proper medical attention after the raid and held up pictures of various inmates that were in bad condition.



Early August: Newspapers in the Sonora area reported in early August that, "There have been almost 40 gasoline thefts from private vehicles, businesses and schools in Tuolumne County reported so far this year. Most cases were clustered in April, May and June."

August 10th: In Manteca, squatters are able to turn power, water, and air conditioning on in a vacant house before being snatched on by neighbors to the police. Those inside were run out, but were not arrested or ticketed.

August 26th: In Modesto, after a three hour standoff with Ceres and Modesto Police, two women finally gave themselves up after shooting at deputies in an attempt to free a man being detained by police.



From www.redanarchist.org

August 31st: In Modesto, a group of mostly youths converge downtown for "Anarchist Café". Various individuals set up tables of free food and literature while a group of people pounds on trash "instruments" making music. The "band" then begins marching around the downtown - much to the anger of various business and property owners who call the police. Despite the police presence, the event continues until about 10:30PM.

September 1st: In Twain Hart, a pig conducting a traffic stop was kicked and spat on while trying to arrest someone.

September 12th: In Merced, a man allowed to leave prison to attend a funeral did not show up at his scheduled time to head back into prison.

September 16th: In Turlock, a Bank of America inside a Save Mart was robbed by a suspect without a weapon who demanded money from a teller and quickly fled with the large amount of cash.

September 16th: In Stockton, strikers at the Martin-Brower distribution plant for McDonalds and Chipotle restaurants refused to pick up food that had fallen from a work truck, causing a 45 minute back up of trucks. Workers were striking over pay and threats to their health care. "They want us to sacrifice safety for production," one worker stated in the local newspaper.



September 19th: UC Davis food service workers still fed up with their low pay (read more about their struggle in Modesto Anarcho #4) and not satisfied with the UC's table scrap compromises, disrupted a UC regents meeting by chanting and marching out of the auditorium where the meeting was held. They then protested outside. The UC workers are employed by Sudexo which operates mess halls in schools, prisons, and in the army. "What Sudexo pays me is not enough to get by," said one worker in the local newspaper. "We need these changes. All of my co-workers want this. We want to see these changes."

Solidarity Actions with Stockton Strikers

Text taken from www.indybay.org/centralvalley

“Several days ago, truckers and other workers in Stockton California (San Joaquin valley) at a distribution plant went on a short strike for better pay and against attacks on their health care. Workers walked out, picketed, and even backed up traffic for up to an hour at their plant that supplies products to all Northern California McDonald's and Chipotle restaurants. In solidarity with this strike and with a desire to extend this struggle simply beyond the workplace, several Stockton restaurants that were counting on the continued exploitation of these striking workers had their windows, locks, and toilets damaged. Slogans were also written in solidarity with the strikers. By making these centers of exploitation less manageable, we hope to extend the power of those in struggle so we can all better fight against this system. The bigger the picket line - the shorter the strike. It was a joy to strike in solidarity with our sisters and brothers fighting against their imposed misery and we hope that actions against exploitation continue and grow larger.

Victory to the Stockton Truckers!
Against Every Boss!

-The Extended Lunchbreak Workers”

IF THE INNOCENT DESERVE OUR SUPPORT

- THE GUILTY NEED IT EVEN MORE!

Eric McDavid (more in Modesto Anarcho #4) has been found guilty of ‘conspiring’ to carry out direct action against parts of the industrial capitalist infrastructure. In these times of increasing ecological devastation and exploitation, the state and capital are the real ‘eco-terrorists’, not people like Eric. Eric’s conviction was based on the testimony of an FBI informant and two snitches that are cooperating with the government to point the finger on Eric. Right now Eric is still having vegan meals denied to him and needs constant letters of support. Call the jail at: 916-874-6752 or 916-874-6905. Eric’s reference number is x-2972521. Write to him at:

MCDavid, ERIC X-2972521 4E231A

Sacramento County Main Jail

651 "I" Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

WWW.SUPPORTERIC.ORG

Links and Resources:

www.prole.info

www.crimethinc.com

www.anti-politics.net

News

news.infoshop.org

www.anarchistnews.org

www.ainfos.ca/en

phoenixinsurgent.blogspot.com/

bombsandshields.blogspot.com/

www.indymedia.org

www.indymedia.us

Anarchist Media/Journals

Green Anarchy - www.greenanarchy.org

Rolling Thunder- www.crimethinc.com/rt/

A Murder of Crows -

www.geocities.com/amurderofcrows1/

325 Collective - www.325collective.com/

Anarchy: A Journal of Desire Armed -

www.anarchymag.org

Earth First! Journal - earthfirstjournal.org/

Aufheben - geocities.com/aufheben2/

A Longing for Collapse Press -

myspace.com/alongingforcollapsePress

Eberhardt Press - eberhardtpress.org/

Modesto Anarcho Distro -

geocities.com/anarcho209/distro

Political Prisoners

Eco-Prisoners - ecoprisoners.org

Green Scare - greenscare.org/

LA Anarchist Black Cross - abcf.net/la/

Prison Activist Resource Center -

www.prisonactivist.org/

Audio and Visual

Audio Anarchy - www.audioanarchy.org/

Radio 4 All - www.radio4all.net

@ Films - anarchistvideo.blogspot.com/



REPRESSION

EXPANSIONS OF THE POLICE

STATE IN THE VALLEY



Stockton Nazi Savagely Beats Woman: In July, Michael Christopher Pulliam, 42, of French Camp attacked an 18-year-old black woman who was walking alone near Sequoia Avenue and Oregon Street around 6pm. Michael began yelling racial slurs and then hit the woman in the face. She lost consciousness and fell to the ground where he continued to hit her. Witnesses claim that he had at least one tattoo of a swastika. If racists and fascists are willing to walk the streets and attack people at random, we must be prepared to confront and attack them wherever they show their ugly faces!

Lodi Pigs Beef Up Repression Against Teens: In Lodi, police have been beefing up repression against teens hanging out in downtown areas. According to the Lodi newspaper, "Authorities [have] sent plainclothes officers on overtime to monitor the plaza, and police issued dozens of loitering citations over the past couple of weeks. Property managers say they have hired private security guards to work weekend nights. Managers also intend to install bright spotlights on top of the building to illuminate its back alley and ferret out mischief. Surveillance cameras may soon provide another watchful eye." This shows the police to be what they are, guards for the elite class that make sure no one steps outside of the role of worker or consumer. In nearby Manteca, the city is also planning on putting in new security cameras throughout the city.

Central Valley Pigs Raid Another Medical Pot Center: In Oakdale on July 31st, according to activists, the DEA raided yet another central valley medical center that distributes medical marijuana. Police, FBI, and other government agencies have been cracking down on medical centers and patients, even though increased repression makes it harder for those with illnesses to cope with pain and also forces them to buy drugs on the street.

Modesto Homes Hit by Homophobic and Racist Vandalism: In July, residents of a northeast Modesto street woke up to find at least nine homes defaced with racist and anti-gay messages, which were left on cars and

garage windows. Some of the messages included Nazi symbols, although it is unclear if the event was carried out by any organized group or organization. One resident was not afraid of those who carried out these racist and homophobic acts and stated in the local newspaper, "I definitely would like to catch the people who did it, that's for sure." We can only hope that residents *do* get their hands on those responsible and let them know that racists and fascists will not be tolerated!

Patterson Parents Say Pigs Harassing Their Kids: According to the Modesto Bee, some parents of youths in Patterson are saying that police are targeting their kids based on race and age. Parents state that kids have been harassed by pigs who claim that they are in gangs, are threatening them with arrest or violence, and generally harassing them if they look young and brown. This harassment of young Latino people under the pretext of 'fighting gangs' continues throughout the valley and the repression will only increase until we turn the tables on the biggest gang that walks any of our streets: the police themselves.

Yuppie Apartment Settlements Growing in Manteca: A new wave of extreme high price condos is being built in the Manteca area and would not only offer upper scale homes but a "lifestyle complete with concierge service for everything from dry cleaning to other needs...and general gathering area[s] that [would put] many country clubs to shame". Behind their concrete walls and three story condos, the rich are able to live in luxury while the rest of us struggle. The target market for these upper scale homes is big wig bosses and doctors, who will be working in new business and office parks that are also being developed. With the rich comes urban sprawl, development, gentrification, and increased class divisions.

More Surveillance in Livingston: The Livingston City Council has bought \$54,000 in police car camera systems and is looking to spend about \$800,000 on a city-wide digital video system. The city is spending so much on surveillance technology, that the police are getting cuts in wages and benefits. With surveillance comes repression - resist!



Homeland Security Turns Heat Up on Migrants: Across the valley, people are being fired from their jobs after the U.S. Homeland Security Department announced 140,000 warning letters would be mailed to employers that commissioned workers with mismatched Social Security numbers. The warnings are part of a “crackdown” on illegal immigration. Migrants will continue to flee to the U.S. as long as neo-liberal capitalism forces people to do so. This increased repression of migrants will only cause more break ups of families, more deaths on the border, increased xenophobia, and a stronger police state.



Valley Pigs Cracking Down on Homeless Population:

At the same time that police are starting to move against squatters using vacant homes as places to sleep and live, they are also stepping up repression against the various homeless populations in the

valley. In Turlock, police stated in the Modesto Bee that they will be taking a "letter of the law" approach and will be cracking down harder on the homeless. Police and city officials cite homeless people using city government property as places to party, hang out, and sleep as reasons for the crackdown. In Manteca, police stated in the local newspaper that they take direction on breaking down homeless squatter encampments from business owners. The breaking up of homeless squatter encampments has also been a major project of the Fresno Police Department in recent times (read more about this in the last issue).

For years homeless people in Fresno have faced the wrath of a city government and police force that wants them gone. But starting in the early summer of last year, police and other agencies have stepped up harassment of the homeless with a new set of procedures aimed at destroying their belongings and breaking up their encampments. In many instances, police and city workers simply swept through homeless encampments and destroyed items that were either in shopping carts or tents. This process destroys homeless people's legal documents, medicine and medical information, contact information with family and friends, and in one case, even a litter of kittens was murdered (according to some homeless people) by police and city workers when a tent was destroyed. Much of this destruction took place when homeless people left their stuff unguarded and when they showed up to protect their stuff (sometimes with the help of activists or people from the community) the city would back down. In future operations, city workers would erect fences with barbed wire around the area that they were “cleaning,” kick out the homeless people in the area and then start to destroy their stuff. The city of Fresno also passed a new ordinance aimed at criminalizing

anyone using a shopping cart outside a business in September of 2006. According to local independent journalist and indymedia reporter Mike Rhodes, a person, “[C]ould be arrested, fined \$1,000, and spend up to a year in jail. It does not matter that the police could not prove that he was not returning this abandoned shopping cart to a grocery store. The ordinance says that if you are in possession of a shopping cart, away from the business that owns it, you could be arrested, fined, and jailed.” This law was obviously aimed at the homeless and designed to help police and city workers in their efforts to more easily (and legally) destroy homeless people's stuff.

In the fall of 2006, things seemed to be turning around however. A court issued a restraining order against police or city workers destroying anything belonging to the homeless and for a while it looked like the city was going to back off against further action. But soon bulldozers and city workers were back to destroying homeless people's encampments. Police also began using railroad workers as a proxy to get homeless people to leave the wide open spaces next to railway tracks. By November 2006, the city was ordered to stop (immediately) destroying and taking homeless people's property, (although this did not stop the breakup of encampments). By the spring of 2007, the city had a brand new policy implemented, where it would take homeless people's stuff and then store it at a government building for a period of time. If people did not come to pick it up, then the items would be destroyed. In one story by Mike Rhodes, he documented how the city storage facilities actually were destroying people's stuff, by leaving them outside to be ruined by the elements and then later mildew. The City of Fresno also recently considered making camping without a permit a crime and also placing all of the homeless in the city in one concentrated place that would be located in an industrial section of downtown Fresno. Breakups of squatter encampments in Fresno's downtown continue and police and city workers are still routinely destroying homeless people's stuff (although now it is under the pretext of destroying “just trash” or saving it for a period of time).

The actions of the City Government and Fresno and their forces of “law and order,” the police, show that the local elites have a fairly well thought out game plan on how to kick out and get rid of a large homeless population. The first is to further criminalize being homeless (which shows again how the legal and court systems are not neutral and do not provide ‘equal’ access for regular people) which will aid the police in further repressive actions against the population. The second is to break up and destabilize the homeless community by taking and destroying their things. The third is a “community policing” approach that teams the local police (the people destroying homeless people's lives) with various people

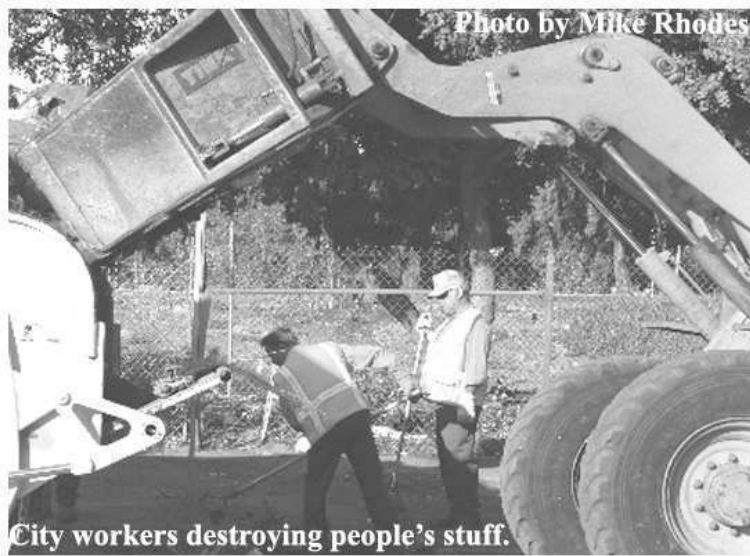


Photo by Mike Rhodes

City workers destroying people's stuff.

from organizations (almost all religious based) that “help” the homeless. In this way, police can appear to look like they are “working” with the homeless community and “their” organizations while at the same time they engage in a campaign of systemic repression against them.

The responses to this repression have been mixed. Simply sharing food and sleeping out in front of city hall (see Modesto Anarcho #2) obviously will not stop police and City government actions against homeless and street people. The fencing off of prime squattable space with barbed wire and the various city worker trucks that are used to destroy people's stuff are all possible targets that people can direct their rage against. If the city has less of an apparatus to destroy people's lives with, then this is a good thing. Surveillance cameras also fit into this category. People wishing to show solidarity with the homeless facing this repression should also make it clear that they do not support those who want to work with the police and local city government, especially those who exist under the pretext that a solution will come out of working with them. These people are part of the problem just as much as the city government and the police. Ultimately, the solution is taking on this entire class based society. Some people are already waking up to this reality, as Cynthia Green (a local Fresno homeless woman) said “homelessness is created by the government, not by the people. It is created by corporations, business both large and small.”

Livingston Pigs Increase Surveillance in High School: The Livingston Police Department was recently awarded a \$112,339 grant to help buy high-resolution surveillance cameras for a high school with about 1,150 students. Gangs and vandalism are quoted as reasons for the beefing up of the security state, both at the school and abroad. With more money the state can spend more on projects which increase it's power, give further justification for it's invasiveness into our lives, and give them more ability to lock us up and police our streets. We can only hope that students step up resistance to this new repression and start fighting back.

Fresno Pigs Assault Homeless in Fresno: According to www.indybay.org/centralvalley, homeless people say they were attacked by officer Velarde (badge #477 with the Union Pacific Railroad Police) when he forced a group out of a tent, took out a knife, drew his gun, and began cutting open their tent. When various people began to protest, Velarde holstered his gun and pulled out a can of mace and began shaking it. Velarde then grabbed one of them, ripped off their bag (the kind that wraps around your stomach), and shoved the person into an SUV - hitting the person's head on the top of the door. The group was then issued a citation and told to leave the area. Despite the injunction of the city, (see previous blurb), Fresno pigs remain as brutal as ever.

Two Longshore Workers Maced By Pigs in Sacramento: According to members of the ILWU (Longshoremen's Union), “On August 23, West Sacramento cops and private SSA security guards viciously attacked, two Local 10 brothers returning to work after lunch on the SSA terminal. When the guards demanded to search the car, the brothers asked to see the MARSEC (maritime security) reg and called the Local 10 business agent. This enraged the guards who called the cops. While talking by phone to BA MacKay and without provocation, they were assaulted, dragged from the car, maced and jailed, charged with “trespassing”. How the hell can a longshoreman be “trespassing”, after returning to work at the terminal. They'd already shown PMA ID and a driver's license. This is racial profiling and police brutality. The longshoremen were black and the cops white. Such is the brutal face of the “war on terror” on the docks. It'll get worse unless we take united action to defend these brothers. An injury to two is an injury to all!”

Repression and How to Fight It

Repression as State Strategy, From A Murder of Crows #2 -

www.geocities.com/amurderofcrows1/issue2/repression.htm

The New State Repression, From Social War -

www.socialwar.net/main/nsrflyer.pdf

Our Enemies in Blue: Police and Power in America, by Kristian Williams - Order at www.akpress.com

R.I.P. EDDIE FLORES

THE RICH ARE THE REAL THIEVES

On Friday, August 3rd, Edmund "Eddie" Flores, 35, entered a Winco supermarket in Modesto. He grabbed hair gel, deodorant and other bathroom products and left the store without paying for them (according to local police and store security). On the way to his car with the appropriated goods, he was stopped by employees and security. A struggle ensued and suddenly Flores was on the ground. The employees got him up and took him upstairs to be processed. When upstairs in the office, the store manager noticed that Flores needed medical care and called an ambulance. For a day Flores lingered on life support, with news of his health making front page headlines. Then, with only a tiny mention in the police blotter, Eddie passed away on August 4th. Soon after his death, people began to ask if Winco security hurt Eddie so bad that he died. But of course, Winco hasn't been talking about what happened that day and their unwillingness to discuss the situation certainly seems to confirm they contributed to his death.

A week after his death, family and friends of Eddie were on the streets in front of Winco, protesting his death and looking for answers. Regardless of if Eddie died because of an attack by Winco employees - this class based society is ultimately to blame. We are forced into selling our time and energy for wages and if we do not we face both starvation and homelessness. We then must use our wages to buy back the products which ourselves and other workers have created: thus becoming exploited twice. Corporations like Winco don't care at all about people like Eddie, the consumers who buy it's products, the workers who make and harvest the food it sells, or the workers which keep the huge corporation afloat day in and day out. All they care about is making money. Eddie rejected this, when he decided to take something back, to shoplift, to liberate goods for himself, to refuse to play the game of being a good little worker and consumer. We have been forced into a system which has destroyed our lives, polluted our planet, policed us to death, and forced us into this rat race. And Winco is a part of this global system. When something like what happened to Eddie goes down, we need to respond with action.

Showing solidarity with the protests of Eddie's friends and family is one way and continuing to put pressure on Winco for answers is another (if they tell actually the truth is another question). With Winco stores dotted across our landscape like a million other corporate monsters, our possibilities for action and expressions of solidarity are limitless. Let Winco and ourselves never forget Eddie. Let's make the rich remember his name, because when they kill a shoplifter, they kill a part of all of us. Those in power want us to be the slaves on their plantations - let's show them that we'd rather see it burn.

For more information:

www.prole.info

www.crimethinc.com

news.infoshop.org

Produced In the Spirit of
Working Class Resistance by
Modesto Anarcho Crew
www.geocities.com/anarcho209
anarcho209@yahoo.com
myspace.com/modanarcho

NA 100J

ICE

Bringing down the House



**The Current Foreclosure Crisis and
Possibilities for Collective Action**
By crudo



Anyone who lives in the Central Valley knows that rent is sky high (1). The influx of bay area people brings rent up on houses and apartments and predatory landlords and firms stalk elderly seniors and the poor in mobile home parks (2). But in the midst of all this money making comes a growing foreclosure crisis that is rocking the valley and having implications (3) upon global systems of capital (4). Modesto, Stockton, and Merced are now leading the whole nation in foreclosure rates (5). Banks and other financial institutions are 'repossessing' people's homes after they cannot pay their loans or mortgage payments, often because the rates go up after several years, or people skip a payment and cannot pay fines (much like credit cards). Capitalism has forced us to rent not only our very lives out for wages, but also to pay for shelter and a place to sleep. If we decide to step outside of these roles that have been already decided for us, we face the police and prison system, starvation and homelessness. The rich have created the conditions that ensure that people will stay stuck in a cycle of debt while paying them more and more money. For us there seems to be only servitude and misery, for them prosperity and wealth.

Across the valley, lives are turned upside down, homes are taken away, items are seized as collateral and people are left without anywhere to go. This has led to thousands of homes in the valley (6) becoming vacant and many empty properties are now owned by one bank or investment firm and then sold off to another. Many homes go unused or unsold for years, staying un-kept and becoming run down. Meanwhile, some people have decided to take things into their own hands and have taken back these homes, as the media vultures circle overhead and play up fears of "squatters", "gangs", and the "homeless" (7). The forces of 'law and order' and the media

spectacle that supports it, reminds us over and over again of the various middle class values that we all are supposed to adhere to such as respect for rich people's property and to never break the law. But why should we allow these banks, loan sharks, and capitalists to ruin our lives and take away our homes for their own profit? Why should we spend money on rent in the first place while so many homes go unused already? Who created the concept of rent anyway but the rich who needed another way to suck our blood dry.

Some people aren't buying any of this. Many people aren't sitting by while they could be living for free and not paying some rich landlord scum rent (which means working for some rich scumbag boss). Many people aren't sitting by while their homes go vacant. Some people are occupying these empty houses, some people are breaking back into their homes which used to be full of life and joy. Across the valley a new wave of action is fermenting; people are squatting. Of course, the developers, upper class, and police aren't too happy about any of this. Bob Boyd, a local Turlock pig even recently commented in the Modesto Bee to the level that squatting has risen in some areas in the valley: "As soon as someone see[s a home is] vacant, they'll break a window and move in" (8). We can turn this 'foreclosure crisis' for our own benefit, by pushing for a collective (and individual) struggle not only against people losing their homes, but also the capitalist concept of rent slavery itself. The police don't have the resources and skills (yet) to stop people from occupying vacant homes and they depend on people snitching out squatters. Our neighborhoods have now become a staging ground for people to begin to take back their homes and also resist the imposition of rent. They have made our lives unlivable - we shall make their streets ungovernable.

Foreclosure Housing Crisis

July 2007 marked the start of a 'foreclosure' crisis in the United States. This was caused in part by the failing housing market, the government's rising interest rates, foreclosures brought on by 'sub-prime loans' and the bankruptcy of several dozen sub-prime mortgage companies. The federal reserve pumped literally billions into the market to keep it afloat, but the damage was already done. Sub-prime loans (which are the cause of much of the crisis) are loans that are aimed at people who have "bad" credit and are usually people who are poor and working class. When these people couldn't pay their loans, or when their rates went up (or when perhaps they got laid off, had to pay for a hospital visit because they don't have health care, etc) the bank repossesses their house or some of their stuff to pay the money that they owed the bank. Some home buyers cannot afford the "balloon payments or significant upward adjustments of

interest rates” (8) that are often associated with sub-prime loans. Other people get caught in home equity loans, where they received money from banks on the assumption that when the housing market was good, their home would be worth a lot. When the housing market crashed, these loans threw many people into foreclosure as many people ended up owing banks more than their houses were worth (9). While the foreclosure crisis has hit even upper middle class people, the hardest hit, as always, are the exploited and excluded class.

With 2.4 million homeowners (10) facing the loss of their homes to banks and other capitalist institutions, much of the blame (and rightfully so) for the current crisis has been pointed at predatory mortgage brokers, faulty appraisers, and real estate agents. Most of this debate on the current crisis is one sided, however, with conservatives placing blame on the renter who is ‘supposed to know the risk’ (a.k.a. ‘blame the victim’), or liberals pointing the finger at companies and financial institutions who ‘don’t have enough government oversight’. Regardless of the limit of the current debate, some of the reform groups like the National Fair Housing Alliance have illustrated (through their online reports) that the nature of the sub-prime loan business is set up and aimed at the working class and communities of color (11). This illustrates that capitalism is always interested in exploiting those with the least chance of defending themselves.

Of course, none of this is addressed by groups like NFHA, who also don’t talk about the fact that capitalism has always been based upon exploitation, alienation, and domination. This reality shows itself in the workplace where we are forced to rent ourselves out in order to survive and then we must use our wages to buy back what we produce for the bosses. It shows itself with housing; where we are forced to rent a living space from capitalists who have stolen the land from indigenous people, created an alien concept of ‘private property’ and made it a crime to live anywhere but a place that you have to pay for. It then also shows itself when we are forced to reproduce the daily conditions of this alienating, undignified, and polluted (both emotionally and physically) class society through our (forced) labors, so an elite class can grow rich and powerful. If we don’t fit into these roles of renters, workers, and consumers, we are faced with either starvation or jail time. Capitalism and the state crushes and smashes us under its boot heel, using its landlords, police, prisons, and school systems to not only break us to its will, but also to ingrain its twisted logic into our heads. The false opposition of the left with its political parties, non-profits, and unions, only helps to weed out and destroy self-organization and direct action of the exploited and excluded against the realities of our daily lives and helps to integrate us further into the machine. The answer to the foreclosure crisis is the answer to the poverty of modern existence - it is the destruction of this class society.



Police evict squatter in Manteca.

Squat - Don’t Let It Rot

Squatting means occupying space that has (generally) become unused. Almost always this means that squatting is an illegal action. More and more, this space is not just some house that caught fire or hasn’t been sold in several years, but people’s homes that they have made a life in and have now had to leave. Squatting is illegal because this allows the police and other forces to stop people from opting out of rent (and wage) slavery. But what is bad for the pigs and the rich is often good for the rest of us. Thus, squatting means taking back a house or other buildings for ourselves - although the concept can extend to any sort of physical area or shelter. The purpose of squatting then is pretty straight forward: to shelter yourself without having to pay for it. Squatting as an action negates and denies the capitalist idea of having to pay a boss for shelter. This can allow people the freedom to apply themselves in other directions - perhaps spending more time to fight the class society that created rent and wage slavery in the first place. Squatting also creates and fosters new social relationships between people and the place in which they live which is based on autonomy - not subjugation to a landlord or slavery through rent. But while the benefit of squatting is clear: more control over your life and a free place to stay, squatting can also bring you in conflict with the authorities who want nothing more than for wage and rent slavery to continue. This is why solidarity between people looking to squat and those in the surrounding community is key. We must fight against the middle class detractors among us who will claim that squatting will drive down property values and bring in “undesirables”. We must also oppose the junkies who would come into these houses and use them as areas to use and cook their drugs. Without the solidarity between people in a set neighborhood, we will be right where the banks, the rich, and the pigs want us: disorganized, undignified and acting against each other.

Keep on Squattin’ in the Free World

It’s not us who needs to be evicted, but the control the rich have had over our lives. But have people had any success with squatting and taking over homes in recent years? The answer is yes and what follows are some examples of squats that people have been involved with in

the city (Modesto and local area) to give the reader some perspective of the possibilities and limitations of squatting in small groups. The first squat that we will look at is the "Black Star" which was occupied for about 2 years in Modesto around 2004. The house was very dirty and full of trash when it was first occupied. Long hours went into fixing up the house, closing holes in roofs, and getting trash out of the building. The door that was used for the main entrance was already kicked in, so a banner and mattress were put against the door frame to keep the wind out and discourage people from entering. After the floors were mopped and cleaned of debris, squatters got loads of carpeting from a carpet dumpster and carpeted the floor. Beds and furniture that lined the street in various neighborhoods were picked up and brought to the squat. The house ended up serving two purposes: one was social, as it provided a place where people could communally interact with each other and share resources, hang out, and be together. It also acted as a place to store materials for projects organized by an anarchist collective. While the Black Star was occupied for a long time, periodically people came inside (one time someone left a Bible with \$100 in it), threw stuff around, vandalized the place, and took things. One time a police officer (called by people next door) at gun point came into the squat, but after finding that the squatters had no drugs on them, simply let them go. Squatters ended up going back to the house that same night and problems with the police did not happen again.

As time passed however, people stopped using the squat more and more and this vacancy left it wide open for drug users to come in. Police and junky presence (albeit a small one) could have easily been squashed by several factors. One would have been simply getting a new door with a lock on it to keep people out. The fact that the door was wide open (protected only by a banner) left the house wide open to anyone who wanted to come inside. The other was being more discreet about coming into the squat during the day. Although hardly anyone besides motorists could see a person enter the house, there was a senior center next to the squat and they probably didn't take kindly to squatters living next door. Taking these small steps probably could have allowed the Black Star to still be shiny today.

The next house occupied we shall look at is the Bastallion Squat (talked about in Modesto Anarcho #1, The Life and Times of the Bastallion Squat). The Bastallion Squat was different from the Black Star in its sheer size and also the fact that the power and water was still turned on when it was occupied (right after the former tenants left). By climbing onto the roof, squatters were able to access upstairs apartment rooms (and then lock the house when they left), take showers, watch movies, cook food, do dishes, and do a variety of other things. In essence, the house looked and acted like any other, except people were living collectively without a relationship that involved rent or a landlord. The squatters were also keen on not messing the house up, not vandalizing everything, cleaning up trash, etc. When one

potential buyer came by (although he scared the shit out of the squatters), he commented on how good the house looked and told the group not to worry, he had been "homeless himself" and wouldn't call the police. This solidarity (not pity) that was expressed by not snitching on the squatters was one reason that the group was able to continue to occupy the house. Squatters also saw neighbors every day (and city workers several times) and were polite and tried not to make messes or extra noise; in short, they were good neighbors. This also helped the cops not getting called. The biggest worry to the squatters was not the police actually (who often parked right bellow the house at a nearby school), but the presence of a strung out looking guy that occupied another part of the house from time to time and found it necessary to sleep with his door open. While the fear was that he would accost the other squatters was nil, the squatters upstairs were afraid that their neighbors would get fed up with him and call the cops and everyone would be up shit creek. Ultimately the Bastallion was destroyed by city workers on the date that the reality officials claimed via telephone it would be. Although the building was lost, by making a few short phone calls to the number listed on the for sale sign, at least the squatters were prepared to leave the house when the time came.

We have seen in the two examples above how squatters in different situations squatted houses without many problems because they stayed largely out of sight and people from the community didn't snitch. We will now turn towards Manteca, where some recent news stories have highlighted squatting. In one neighborhood in Manteca, people called the cops repeatedly on squatters who were using a vacant house and entering it through the back door. When police finally decided to get rid of the squatters, they were "astounded" to find that they "had managed to bypass utilities - including water - to make the house livable with the basics. They even illegally bypassed the PG&E service to get the air conditioning to run." (12). Squatters in the home even took the time to refill the swimming pool. While the pigs chased off the squatters, no one was arrested (according to the Manteca Bulletin) cited, or fined. According to the Modesto Bee in a later article, the Manteca police chief stated that this was not an isolated incident and police found "10 such homes [in which] squatters had taken up residence" (13). Instead of buying any of the crap that the media or police foist on us, we should be celebrating and sharing skills with the people like the squatters in Manteca, finding out how they managed to get power, air, water, and other standards of living working all without paying for it. When the system attacks us, we need to find our friends from within those that are attacking it in kind. This includes squatters that are acting against the horrors of daily life that are imposed upon them - just as they are imposed on all of us.

Evict the Rich

While some of these small local examples may be inspiring, we can see that they are often quite limiting as well. While squatting with a group of friends (or by yourself) may offer a break from business as usual and an escape from rent, often the stress and worry of a knock on the door is too much for many potential squatters. This is not to negate the actions of small groups of people who squat buildings because of their desire to live without rent - only to encourage more people to get involved and move these actions beyond those of a few individuals into full out rebellions against rent and wage slavery as a whole. If we do not fight the rich for control over our homes and lives then we will lose to them later. If we cannot show solidarity with our neighbors and friends squatting and taking back their homes - then what does that make us? It makes us snitches and rats. It places us on the side of the rich, the police, the bosses, and the landlords - somewhere we should never be. Our place is with those who are squatting, those who are taking back their homes, those who are reclaiming, those who don't give a damn about the law because they know it serves money and power and not us. Everyday another house goes empty and everyday another squatter is born. The more of us there are, the more power that we have. The more we fight and resist the police and the government, the more space we control and the more space that we control, the less that we have to work or rent ourselves out for money.

Capitalism is forcing people from their homes. Whether it is because they don't have enough money, they have too many bills, they lost their job, they got screwed by someone who sold them a loan, etc., it is because of this system that people are losing their homes. People being pushed out and having their lives destroyed need to try and hold onto their livelihoods by any means necessary, including squatting. But without solidarity between neighbors and those that wish to squat, this isn't likely to happen. The snitching on squatters needs to end now. We have to throw middle and elite class values out the window, such as working with the police, a distrust of those that break the law, and a belief in the systems of wage and rent slavery. With more and more people losing their homes, more people will start to resist. As this happens, we then can draw a line in the sand between those in our communities who stand with the bosses, police, landlords, and the current system, and those that are willing to resist.

When people on our block, in our neighborhoods lose their homes to banks or other institutions of the rich, we need to act in solidarity with those people because we may be next. When someone is going to be foreclosed on, get

together in your area and agree not to call the police and help the family (or friends, person, or persons) stay in the house for as long as possible. We can keep the house in tip top shape and work together to gain access to fresh water and other necessities without having to pay for it. We can discourage potential buyers from buying the property, so the original occupants can stay inside for as long as they want. In this way, we can begin to actually create autonomous zones where we are in control. As more and more people begin to drop out of the world of rent and wage slavery more and more homes can become defended and occupied. And why stop there? We can tear up the roads and plant gardens. We can spend less time around this industrial cancer causing infrastructure of work, traffic, and pollution and start growing our own food, herbs, and medicines. We can put more energy towards ourselves and those around us instead of

having to worry about paying rent or working for assholes. In homes that no one is using, we can get together with others and fix them up, giving friends and family who don't have a place to live a home to stay in. But of course to get to any of this we will have to fight, we will have to defend ourselves, and we will have to reject calls for alliances with those in power. We will have to resist and fight the police and landlords coming into our neighborhoods and trying to kick out our neighbors. At the very least we can create spaces where people can squat their former houses. We can also start showing solidarity with other types of resistance that can feed into this struggle, such as bank robberies or attacks on urban sprawl by those fighting for the earth (and labeled "eco-terrorists" by the police). Our strength lies in our ability to stand together, fight back, not work with the system, and defend ourselves. It is said that our homes are our castles, but unfortunately there are dragons at the gates. Load the cannons.

End Notes:

- 1.) Many Modesto apartments start at around \$700 a month for one bedroom.
- 2.) See our article in Modesto Anarcho #2, ('For All Those on Rent Strike').
- 3.) The failure of the housing bubble sent shock waves into the stock trading markets.
- 4.) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_meltdown
- 5.) <http://www.biggerpockets.com/renewsblog/>
- 6.) Modesto Bee.
- 7.) Modesto Bee and Manteca Bulletin
- 8.) Modesto Bee 9/05/07
- 9.) Manteca Bulletin.
- 10.) Merced Sun Star
- 11.) National Fair Housing Alliance
- 12.) Manteca Bulliten
- 13.) Modesto Bee

"As soon as someone sees a home is vacant, they'll break a window and move in" - Turlock Police

THE SMILING FACE OF REPRESSION

In the past month, police in the California central valley have unveiled new technology which they plan on using to keep the rest of us in line. In Stanislaus County pigs are planning on implementing a surveillance system in which parolees will have to wear anklets and carry special cells phones (1). These devices transmit information to the police regarding a person's every move with the help of a GPS (Global Positioning System) tracker. If a parolee tries to escape or move out of their area, an email is immediately sent to police. The cell phones are also capable of not only being tapped by the FBI and other state and police agencies, but can also act as a listening device which can pick up conversations between people. Nearby in Stockton, police are using a new system in which actual finger prints can be scanned by a computer and then run through a database. This allows police to much more easily see if someone is violating their parole, has a warrant out, has a history of 'gang activity' (or any other pretext which gives a green light for police to violate someone). Couple these recent developments with the wave after wave of installations of surveillance cameras (see the Repression News section in this issue and Modesto Anarcho #4) and you have the recipe for a police state. Just like the building of more prisons within the valley, the increased powers of these technologies will not make anyone safer or freer. They will only increase the power of the police and the state and lead to more people in prison. Locked up, locked down, under surveillance, under control, and right where the pigs want us.

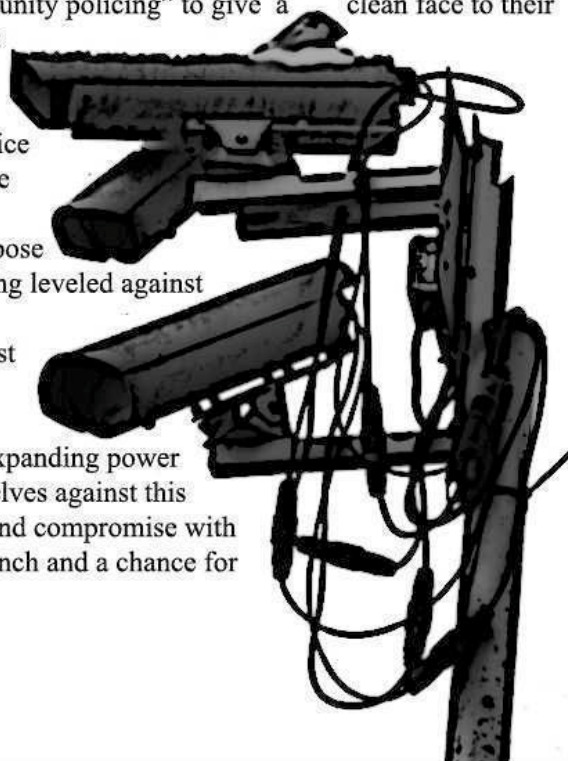
At the same time as the police are consolidating their own power, they have also been engaged in a campaign of 'community policing.' This is designed to create a 'positive' image of the police department, foster good community relations, and also to 'build bridges' into communities (people of color, the homeless, youth, etc) that are generally hostile to the police. In Modesto, the top pig brass often manages to put on an impressive show every time the community looks like it is ready to explode after the latest police murder, beating, or scandal. In public forums and discussions, the police actually have no desire to change their brutal approach to the communities that they work in, but are putting on a show of 'dialog' with the people they are oppressing that makes many people believe that they can influence police policy in a certain way. We can never dialog with people who have more power than us and who are oppressing us. By entering into a dialog with the police and the state we give them legitimacy and credibility. These interactions (community forums, meetings, radio chats, and media interviews) also help to deflect rage and action away from those who are brutalized by the police and back into the system which supports them.

In order for 'community policing' to work, the police need intermediaries between the wider population and themselves. They need people who others look to that "stand up to the police." Often, these people come in the forms of local heads of non-profits and leftist organizations. Just as police use "community policing" to give a clean face to their continued and ever expanding repression, the various bureaucracies that claim to "take on the system" need the continued myth that they are actually challenging it in order to continue to remain credible. The recent "radio chats" (3) between the Modesto NAACP and the local police only further illustrate this point. People who wish to struggle against the police have nothing to gain by dialoging with them - but the police do, either in the form of information gathering against those who would oppose them or by creating an air of credibility. Like the technology that is being leveled against us by the police state - the police are not neutral.

We of course don't have to accept any of this - we can actively resist the expanding power of the state and the police in our daily lives. Ultimately, we will have to destroy this class based society that makes people commit crimes in order to get by. We have to destroy the ever expanding power of the surveillance state if we want to be able to attack and defend ourselves against this system. We also have to fight against those who would call for dialog and compromise with those who are oppressing us. Our oppressors often offer us an olive branch and a chance for dialog - let's give them resistance instead.

Endnotes:

- 1.) Modesto Bee, September 22nd
- 2.) Stockton Record, September 25th
- 3.) Modesto Bee, August 2nd





Crudo and Leliand from Modesto Anarcho sat down with Chad and rien, two members of the Sonora based band, A Struggle In Vain, to talk about the band, their ideas, and combining the two.

MA: Can you talk about how the band started and why?

Chad: A Struggle In Vain started in early 2006 simply for the love of music. We had been playing together for some time and decided it was time to get serious about it. As the band evolved our ideas and beliefs naturally manifested through the music. So it wasn't our intention in the beginning to be an "anarchist band" but it turned out to be inevitable.

rien: After two years now playing as a band and paying our dues we are going through a bit of a transition. We've parted ways with guitar player Chris and have Mike moving from bass to take over the crucial guitar role. In his place we have ex-Slander bass player Charlie steppin' in. Its sounding better than ever. Our style may change a bit but the content won't. We're more excited than ever!

MA: Do you see A Struggle in Vain as an anarchist project or a (punk) band with anarchist themes, or something else?

Chad: Good question... all of the above and more. An anarchist project yes, because we firmly believe in the principles of anarchism and we strive to bring to light the issues we feel are most urgent and important to the punk scene and

beyond (such as homophobia, racism, sexism, etc.) and if we can reach just one person out of a hundred, than it's all worth while. I know when I was younger I hadn't the slightest clue about what was going on in the world around me. Bands like Propagandhi, Good Riddance, and Anti-Flag (pre-superstardom) opened my eyes and started me on a quest for knowledge, truth, and insight that is ongoing. So I know from experience that music with a message can change lives.

But also, we want to break boundaries. Even in the anarchist/ punk scene there are issues that people just don't want to talk about. Things like love, compassion, and spirituality which are so sorely needed in this day and age. We want to promote the idea of inner-change. People need to heal their relationships with themselves, as well as the earth, animals, friends and family. Only then can we truly be the light that we want to be in this dark world.

rien: It's all that and more. Punk is what you make of it and we are definitely in the tradition of the bands we loved, the ones who had something to say or made you think rather than the Sid Vicious/drunkpunk stereotype. The seriousness of the band and our message just stems from the fact the world we live in is fucked in so many ways. We personally sense an urgency to open eyes and just maybe get people thinking another way; at least possess some type of awareness before its all gone. For me, its my motivation and its what keeps it interesting as

opposed to just being in a band for the sake of just loving music, or the whole notion of being in a band to score ladies or some rock star ego thing. Fuck all that! We are on a mission!

MA: What has been the response of people at your concerts/shows to your ideas?

Chad: So far we've got nothing but good feedback. I think people can feel the good energy we have at shows and like a positive message. It's all too common for punk bands to sing about how fucked up things are and generally promote hatred and violence. In my opinion it is far too easy to hate. I mean, that's what we've been taught our whole lives. The challenge is letting go of those bad feelings and being bigger than that. Some people who are open to these ideas are drawn to us and others are repelled.

rien: Playing to the ones who are repelled are the shows I like- a chance to feel like I'm not preaching to the converted, maybe miraculously sway a jaded head or two. But, the feedback continues to manifest itself. It's what really matters and makes everything we do feel worthwhile.

MA: What do you think about having "groups" like Modesto Anarcho tabling at your shows? What do you think can come out of such a collaboration?

Chad: I think it's great. The more we work together and combine our ideas and strengths the more our message will be heard. Its easy for some people to get wasted at a show and love what we have to say, then forget everything the next day. If they can go home with something tangible (pamphlets, zines, books, etc.) then I think that makes a huge difference.

rien: It goes hand in hand. Collaborations with

collectives like Modesto Anarcho are just an extension of the ideas we sing about. Working together with yourself and others is anarchy in action working collectively and in unison. The more means that we can establish with others to inform and get these ideas out the better. Its more than just the music for us. Otherwise we would be singing about mainstream horseshit rather than ideas of self determination and direct action. And honestly, who really cares about fast cars and getting laid? There is so much more in the big scheme of things. Read more, learn more. Knowledge is key.

MA: Do you find the band and/or music in general to be a good outlet to express yourselves and deal with being in a suppressive society?

rien: It is indeed a positive outlet in the sense we are able to communicate our ideas and vent ourselves. I've been writing for as long as I can remember and its always been an important element of who I am. Instead of going off the deep end and transfixed always on our sad state of affairs, I am able to turn my anger and motivation into music and find a means to turn my negativity into something that's positive. After I have manifested this awareness within myself, then I can manifest it around me. The band and the fundamentals of anarchism help me grow as a person. Hopefully, come my dying day, this struggle we often find to be in vain won't be after all. That's all we wish for.

Chad: Most definitely. Especially where we live (Hickville USA). Its hard to express our selves without getting beat up or someone calling us "faggots" or "hippies." Playing shows and being involved in the anarchist and punk communities is a kind of sanctuary for me, where I don't have to worry about people like that. Aside from the music, just talking to like-minded people and discussing politics and life is also a great outlet.

MA: Anything else you'd like to say?

Chad: We want to thank Modesto Anarcho for the interview and everything you all are doing as a collective [actually we consider ourselves an affinity group - ed]. Keep up the good work! Also we would like to thank anyone who has booked us a show, played shows with us, or just came out to support us. If you would like to contact us for merch, booking information, or correspondence check out: www.myspace.com/astuggleinvain. Email us at invain23@yahoo.com, or write to: P.O. Box 251 Mi -Wuk Village, CA 95346



Armed with dreams of revolution!

Hopeful Motivation

by Trevor

In case your eyes have not seen
this world is completely fucked up.
So if you haven't already....
Stop sitting down and stand up!
Nothing lasts forever.
We need change now! more than ever.
I believe that if we all believe in a future of beauty and freedom
its time we take our thoughts ideas and dreams
and make them something more.
Let's end a world of constant struggle!
If we have the strength to deal with a system made of
pure pain and constant struggle...
Than we have the strength
to tear this down and build something new!
So if you're sick of it...
keep in mind and heart that we can't just let this go.
We shall use the walls as our canvas
and the city as our battlefield.
We will make sure they reap what they sow.

Womyn

by Leliand

woman,
You say,
as if i am a different version of You.
as if
You came first,
then me, the afterthought,
dimly reflecting Your perfection.
Thus, i am not a Man,
i am a woMAN.
taken from your rib,
given your name;
as if i should thank you
for my existence,
thank you for my life.

however,
I
have my own set of ribs.
I am not less than you.
I rose from the Earth
at the same time as you.
We were one then.

Until you separated us,
pointed out our differences.
Made the case for your
Superiority.
I am Man,
You said,
you are woMAN,
dirty, half a person.

I laughed.
I remember:
We were Both made from the Earth.
So You can be Man if You want to.
I'll call Myself
Womyn.

Only A Matter of Time by rien of A Struggle in Vein

We pollute the air we breath,
unable to fully grasp the death we fear.
With no regrets for the future and our ignorance,
Infected with our own disease.
Even Mother Earth can't compete.
When all is lost and forgotten,
will all we've left behind become the remnants of the
gods,
or will they even cease to exist amidst this world we've
left behind.
The clock is ticking,
there is no resisting,
this fate we are creating
it's only a matter of time!
I just can't conceive it,
I'd rather not admit we are better off dead - believe it
Hell on Earth will come
What's it gonna take for us to open our eyes?
What's it gonna take for us to change our ways?
What's it gonna take for us to help ourselves?
If not for ourselves then maybe for the futures sake!
What's the matter with the human race,
we're such a disgrace,
created in the pointless image of shit!
Now we've done it!
But it's never too late for us to open our eyes
and it's never too late for us to change our ways.
It's never too late for us to save ourselves.
If not for ourselves then maybe for our children's sake!

Send future poetry
submissions to:

[anarcho209poetry
@yahoo.com](mailto:anarcho209poetry@yahoo.com)

work

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**"THEY WANT US TO
SACRIFICE SAFETY
FOR PRODUCTION." -
STOCKTON STRIKER**