



Anarchist Tubes

digest of anarchistnews.org

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

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2009 Northeast APOC Conference Mission Statement

No doubt in the days since we last gathered together as APOC (Autonomous/Anarchist/Anti-Authoritarian People of Color), much has changed for each of us. We've each experienced new joys and grieves, up and downs. Across the vastness of this metropolitan wasteland, new bonds have been built, old bonds strengthened. In surviving, even thriving against the transgressions perpetrated by those who would see us torn apart, we've developed both as individuals and as a movement.

Still problems persist. Despite our best efforts, our most spirited resistance, we remain oppressed. Native land remains occupied, its people marginalized, their culture appropriated and left to die. Zionists, backed by other Western powers, continue their genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people. Gentrification continues to invade our neighborhoods. Police, ever vigilant in their protection of the ruling class, remain a brutal force separating us from our freedom. The rich still control the means of production, while the rest are exploited, forced into wage-slavery, prisons, and graves.

The all-pervasive system of patriarchy still looms over and surrounds womyn, while their bodies remain battle grounds. Queers and transfolk still face violence, bashings and murders in a world hostile to all but the established norms. Billions of animals remain enslaved in chains, tanks, cages, and barns, subject to all manner of exploitation. This year, as before, the struggle continues.

Revolution, if it is to succeed, requires a coordinated, comprehensive network of dedicated revolutionaries. Of course, APOC has existed for some time now. However, we have not thus far been able to create and maintain a form suitable to our needs. Many times have we converged, many times have we expressed a desire for something more consistent. It is clear

to many that what we need is an autonomous organization of sorts, perhaps many. Our intention is to make this happen.

This August, we converge upon Philadelphia, the disgusting home to the bombing of the MOVE Organization, the framing of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the capture of Russell Shoatz, the framing of the MOVE 9, and the murder of Erica Keels. As we share our stories, our experiences, our ideas, our visions, we will come to understand and respect each other as individuals and make build our community as a whole. Let our resolve and our rage give rise to not just a tendency but a united force with which to cast off the chains that bind us all.

Love and Liberation,
APOC Philly

For more details and updates on the conference please visit <http://www.illvox.org>

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7906>

Notes from British Anarchist Movement Conference - 2009

A short preamble from the note taker.

Theme 1: On the "anarchist movement"?

Theme 2: Resistance, and is it futile?

Theme 3: Anarchism and the working class

Theme 4: How to take our ideas forward?

What follows is a rendering of the notes taken from one of the sub-groups, number 3, at the anarchist movement conference that took place in London in June 2009. Attendants were randomly divided into groups with a view to mix people from similar affinity groups around, and all groups discussed the same set of 4 issues. This discussion took about 10 hours.

In compiling these notes I deliberately did not attempt to synthesise, or smooth over, different opinions, even though they

were sometimes contradicting each other.

As it is pointed out in the text those contradictions show the breath of anarchist politics, or movement, and are not seen as a dividing or divisive line in the anarchist community. Anarchism presents a wise menu of politics, according to activists' tastes, and they are all as delicious as each other.

Looking back at the notes it is clear that some serious issues were only given a small place. These include issues of race, gender, hetero-normality, free software production, free and alternative culture, international solidarity, human and civil rights, independent media, animal rights and the discussions on violence. Even this list is probably incomplete. Other groups, hopefully, would have dwelled on those more deeply. If this is not the case it would be a good idea to seek such debates to be included in a volume about the anarchist movement in 2009.

The statements are not attributed to those who made them, because of privacy concerns. Some that made a similar point were compressed and compacted, while trying to not trivialise nuances of opinion. Needless to say any rendering of these notes contains my, sometimes limited, interpretation of what people meant. Hopefully all participants will be satisfied that their opinions are represented, but if not, they should definitely provide a clarification or an expansion upon those, as well as different interpretations of the discussion.

The gathering was not geared towards making decisions or dictating directions. Yet some of the statements can guide anarchists and anarchist groups on how to take the struggle more effectively in society. Some opinions and discussions were inspirational, and I have humbly tried to carry that in the text. Discussions were often able to distil and touch upon the essence of what anarchist politics is about...

much more at <http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7922>

Women's Statement at British Anarchist Conference

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IDEAS INTO REALITY and what's in between?

There will be no future for the anarchist movement if it doesn't also identify as an anarchy-feminist movement. Anarchy-feminist organisational structures must exist within the movement to make anarchy-feminism an integral part of it. And you don't need to identify as a woman to be an anarchy-feminist - every anarchist should be able to participate in the struggle against sexism.

The state's incursion into our private lives and the relationship between sexuality and productivity from which it profits affects people of all genders. The gender binary system violently allocates us roles on the basis of our anatomy. A refusal to accept even these basic precepts will be a great hindrance to the movement.

You ask, 'Can we find common cause despite our differences?'. We will only find common cause if we recognize that our differences are structured by numerous oppressive systems, and together fight to end each of these systems, wherever we find them.

Our feminisms must be plural, they must be anti-capitalist, anti-racist, anti-homophobic.

Our inspiration must come from the actions of feminists who have helped self-identified women reach revolutionary consciousness.

Our feminisms must be revolutionary.

Final word

You can pretend we didn't come here, pretend nothing was said.

You can purposefully misunderstand us.

Or you can ask yourselves why we came, what we meant, and whether we'll come back again.

Read the rest at <http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7923>

No Cops in Hamilton, No Cops in Akwesasne

HAMILTON - June 6th 2009 Anarchists and other anti-capitalists took to the streets in solidarity with the Mohawks of Akwesasne and against police and state repression. Around 45 people gathered in the late afternoon with flags and banners to march through downtown and distribute litera-

ture. The demonstration came together in response to the police siege in Akwesasne and their attempts at repression locally.

On June 1st the US-Canadian border, which cuts through the community of Akwesasne, was shut down. June 1st was the day on which Canadian border guards were to be armed with 9mm handguns and to oppose this hundreds of people set up camp in the area. The area has since been surrounded by police and military boats with hopes of laying siege to the community until they have no choice but to give in and accept the guns. The people of Akwesasne are entitled to travel freely on their own land without potentially deadly harassment by armed guards of an illegitimate border.

In Hamilton, the Hate Crime Unit recently released their year end report revealing their intentions of manipulating their mandate for political reasons. In the report for the first time "police" are included as a protected group despite being an obvious contradiction. This is used as a pretext for naming the 2010 Olympics, native land reclamations, the "anarchist movement", and reactions to the economic crisis as "areas of concern" for the unit.

The cops in Akwesasne and the cops in Hamilton are the same pigs serving the same purpose. It's clear that the police and the system they protect are the perpetrators of hate and violence against the poor, oppressed and anyone else who stands up against it. People came together on June 6th to show visible opposition to what they have planned for us here in Hamilton and in solidarity with those struggling against the same structures elsewhere.

There have recently been many blockades and actions across Ontario in solidarity with Akwesasne. This is but the beginning.

more at <http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/8008>

Justin Solendz Apprehended

From *Portland Indymedia*

Environmental activist Justin Solendz has been apprehended in China and has been taken into custody. Justin was named as one of the Green Scare defendants in the University of Washington Genetic Engineering Research arson and was named as a codefendant of Briana Waters, who refused to cooperate, went to trial and was sentenced to 6 years in prison. Justin has been listed as a fugitive by the FBI since the UW indictment was issued several years ago. It

is unclear at this time whether Justin will be extradited back to the U.S, and/or when such a transfer would occur. Stay tuned for more updates as they become known.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/8018>

Activists Accused of Thought Crimes

From *Green is the new Red* by Will Potter

Hugh Farrell and Gina "Tiga" Wertz have their first court date on July 14th: they've been charged with racketeering--charges originally intended to target the mob--for allegedly "conspiring" to engage in tree sits, participate in non-violent civil disobedience, and make an inflammatory blog post against the I-69 NAFTA superhighway.

When I reported on their arrest, though, I didn't catch an interesting bit of information buried in the government's motion for \$20,000 cash bond. Mind you, these activists are not accused of any property destruction or violence, they're accused of "conspiracy." So how did the government attempt to justify the high cash bond?

According to Farrell's motion for bond: "The defendant has been observed advocating literature and materials which advocate anarchy, property destruction and violence, including 'Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching' or 'Recipes for Disaster: An Anarchist Cookbook.'"

In many ways, this is nothing new: the demonization of anarchists has existed as long as the term itself. But this is dangerous territory for a few reasons:

* It reflects more wasted resources on surveillance of First Amendment activity. Why was Farrell being "observed" by the law enforcement while allegedly "advocating literature" in the first place?

* It is intended to punish people for their political beliefs. Even if it is true that Farrell was observed advocating literature and that the literature advocated "anarchy," how does this relate to whether or not he'll show up for his court date (which is what bail is all about)?

* Criminalizing books has no place in a democracy. Make no mistake, that's what this is about: criminalizing dissent. The government isn't burning the books, and it isn't saying it is illegal to own them, but prosecutors are saying that if you *do* own them or "advocate" them it reflects negatively on your character.

In that case, I'm guilty as well (and I'm

sure I'm in good company with many of you). I own both of these books, and they are both available in countless bookstores and on Amazon.com. "Ecodefense" was a pivotal book in the history of the environmental movement, and includes an introduction by Ed Abbey. "Recipes for Disaster," published by CrimethInc., isn't the "anarchist cookbook," you might expect: It has sections on coalition building and mental health.

As with so many of the cases I write about on this site, this isn't about threats to public safety, it isn't about property destruction, it's about demonizing people because of their political beliefs. Well, in this case, it's not even about that: It's about demonizing people because of their books.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/8035>

Gypsies Trash £5million Police Helicopter

From Telegraph.co.uk by Ben Leach

The gang used axes to smash five windows - causing thousands of pounds worth of damage to the only police helicopter in the county.

The vandalism followed weeks of aerial surveillance on a travellers' site where stolen cars and goods are believed to be being kept.

The incident happened at around 10pm after the gypsies climbed a 4ft wall surrounding the police force's helipad at Fair Oaks airport, near Woking.

They threatened staff in the operations room before trashing the aircraft, which is expected to be sidelined for another two weeks while repairs are made.

As the helicopter is the only one owned by Surrey Police neighbouring forces are having to provide air cover during police operations in the county.

Detectives were apparently ready to raid the gypsies' site on the back of evidence filmed from the air, according to The Sun newspaper.

A Surrey Police spokesman said the identity of the vandals was "unknown".

He said: "The incident is part of an ongoing investigation and security measures are being reviewed as part of this.

"We are working with a maintenance contractor to ensure the aircraft is back on line as soon as possible."

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/8105>

GPAC Space Now Open

The Greater Pittsburgh Anarchist Collective's social center is now fully open to the public. We are an anarchist social center whose goal is to further the anarchist movement in our city. The center is open to holding events whose purpose is to directly challenge the state and capitalism. We have a free store, literature, and space for meetings and movie viewings. Our open hours are:

M-F: 1-6; Sa: 3-7; Su: Closed for meetings
Our space is located at 5001 Penn Ave. Fl. 1.

If you want to use the space, send us an email at info@gpacattack.org

WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE
ARE COMING FROM:

The Greater Pittsburgh Anarchist Collective is the realization of impassioned desires to collectively create anarchy. GPAC exists primarily to promote the anarchist ideal in an open, inclusive manner. We are based out of the East End of Pittsburgh. We seek to support all resistance against the state and all tendencies and hierarchies that alienate and oppress the people of our city and the people of the world.

GPAC is part of the Anti-Racist Action Network: a decentralized network of militant Anti-Fascists that are dedicated to building a fun, diverse, liberated and explicitly anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-homophobic youth culture. In GPAC, every person has the same say in every issue. If something needs to be decided upon by the group as a whole, we get together and discuss it until we reach some sort of resolution or consensus. Then we put the decision in action.

We are students, workers, un-employed workers, immigrants, ex-cons, current cons. We have a working critique of activism, identity politics, and do-it-yourself subculture. We are not people who are looking for white middle class activist approval. We are honest with ourselves and others, and this is where we draw our approval. Our realness may not please everybody, in fact we might be offensive at times, but we are not going to hold back with what we say or do. We don't give a fuck about the "City Paper", nor do we measure our success in terms of media exposure.

We come from a cross cultural perspective, which is to say that we have a lot to learn from other cultures including radical struggles in Mexico, Spain, and Greece among others. We are conscious of our privileged position as radicals in North Amer-

ica. We are not the ones with the answers, we are not professionals. Our everyday personal struggles hold the same weight as larger struggles against institutions. We try to find the connections between taking a high-interest loan from a check-cashing store in the U.S. and taking a high-interest loan to start a small business in Central America as a means for subsistence.

WHAT WE SUPPORT:

We seek to support others in their journey for a classless free society and to provide a voice with our publication and a physical space for organizing central to the east end of Pittsburgh. As anarchists, we seek to attack the things in life that limit our freedom. If we can do something to limit state power in our lives, we will. This includes struggle against bosses, police, politicians, and developers who want to build condos and push us out of our neighborhoods. Those who choose to use crime to support themselves and their families and those who choose to work outside the set of laws imposed by the government are just as deserving of our support as those who struggle in more traditional ways. Whether it is by the literal assertion of the value of creativity over the sanctity of property via graffiti or by the commitment of a handful of volunteers to feed hungry people twice a week via Food Not Bombs, we are with them.

Read the rest at <http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/8085>

Interview with El Libertario (Venezuela – June 2009)

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El Libertario is a newspaper published since 1995 (56 issues from then to June-2009). We try to report on anarchist theory and practice in Latin America and the world, as well as support any libertarian aspect within the social movements we find in our field. We do not receive, nor do we want to receive, any subsidy from the State or other instance of hierarchical power. Our activity is 110% self-managed. This spokesman is based on the anti-authoritarian ideal of anarchism and is promoted by the Collective Editor of El Libertario, an affinity group open to participation and collaboration of people with libertarian principles and attitudes, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and non-dogmatism. The central criterion of affinity is to share the anarchist ideal for building

a society based on direct democracy, social justice, self-management, mutual support and self-contract without the authoritarian imposition of the law or force; between other values.

Apart from being a propaganda group, we try to promote the existence of a libertarian movement in our country, but for this we presupposes that there must be a number of grass-roots social movements, autonomous and belligerent, as a requisite for the expansion of libertarian ideas and practices in our environment. For that reason we linked to various grass-roots social organizations, accompanied them in their struggle against hierarchical power, and for the human rights. Also, some of us do research work and theoretical reflection. We also encourage tasks to promote a culture of self-management, such as audio-visual samples and talks, and the First Libertarian Book and Video Fair, scheduled for November 2009. Finally, to the extent of our affinities and possibilities, we get involved in campaigns like the one held last year for the 20 years of the slaughter in El Amparo. More details on us, how we act and what we think, in our web: www.nodo50.org/ellibertario (in Spanish, English & other languages), and in the print editions of the newspaper.

GS - What is your position on the so-called Bolivarian revolution?

° We understand that what happened in Venezuela since 1999 has been an unhappy mix of warlord's foul-mouth and state capitalism, based on the abundance of oil revenues. Our analysis suggests that the so-called Bolivarian government is a continuation, not a rupture, of the crisis of representative democracy in Venezuela and its economic model based on energy exploitation. There has been a 'revolution' as our way of life has been dismantle in many ways, but what we see under construction clearly announced negative results for the exploited and oppressed, and therefore to allow its consolidation is to make things harder to change. The transformations the anarchists aim are very different from the direction this 'process' has taken. With more than 10 years at the helm, is full of authoritarianism, in shameful alliance with transnational capital (through partnership with joint ventures that control the oil reserves of the country), bureaucratically inefficient, structurally infected with corruption; with orientations, attitudes and characters that we can not endorse.

We have investigated, documented and reported about the role of Venezuela in the economic globalization, which is not-

ing more than provide in a safe, cheap and reliable way, energy resources to the world market. Like no one in the past, this government of nationalist and leftist rhetoric has been very effective to teach the society to accept his role of submission to the global oil business, and to thank slavishly the crumbs received while maintaining one of the most unfair distributions of wealth on the continent. Thus, to question the environmental and social effects of the exploitation of hydrocarbons and minerals have now become taboo and politically incorrect. The Bolivarian government has developed an impressive propaganda machine to sell the alleged benefits of their social policies, but the data and the reality show us that if there have been improvements in some dimensions and specific government programs, (excuse given by the State action to claim its purported legitimacy anywhere in the world), the situation of the people has not improved significantly despite having had in this decade the higher oil and tax revenues in the history of the country for a similar period; but they have served to elevate the "boliburguesía" (the new bourgeois created in Venezuela) growing at the expense of the official power. Much of this is shown in our publication, trying to cite sources and data from the government itself, and as an example of the worsening crisis from below note that Venezuela has one of the highest homicide rates in the continent, being 14.000 deaths for this cause in the year 2008. This tells us about the extent of a climate of violence that reflects the disintegration of the Venezuelan society, a trend that would have been reversed, or at least content, if we had have experienced any change that would really benefit the people.

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Read the whole interview at <http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/8108>

Toward a Collective Security Culture

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There have been two instances in which people who attended a CrimethInc. convergence have been entrapped. Eric McDavid, Zachary Jenson, and Lauren Weiner met each other and an informant by the name of "Anna" at the 2004 and 2005 convergences, among other events. Anna drove them across the country, rented them a wiretapped cabin, bought bomb-making materials, and took advantage of McDavid's attraction to her to

pressure the group into discussions that resulted in McDavid's conviction on conspiracy charges. Afterwards, Elle Magazine quoted regretful jurors as saying "the FBI was an embarrassment" and "I hope he gets a new trial." In 2008, Matthew DePalma attended a CrimethInc. convergence in Wisconsin, at which he was approached by Andrew Darst, a federal infiltrator posing as a member of the RNC Welcoming Committee. Darst persuaded DePalma to assist him in manufacturing explosives, recorded conversations with him in a wired apartment, and drove him around to do research and purchase supplies. DePalma was indicted on felony charges for possession of "unregistered firearms," and eventually pleaded guilty.

Besides these two cases, not one of the hundreds upon hundreds of people who have attended CrimethInc. convergences has been convicted of anything having to do with bombs or Molotov cocktails. These infiltrators sure are precise! Apparently, they can show up in a chaotic space filled with hundreds of people who don't know each other, immediately identify the most dangerous extremists, and insinuate themselves into their closest confidence—all in a very short time. Next thing you know, the snitches are saving the day, narrowly rescuing ordinary citizens from terrorist attacks—which the criminals would have been about to carry out anyway, even if the agents provocateurs hadn't befriended them, talked them into crazy schemes, and supplied them with all sorts of incriminating materials.

If you're gullible enough to believe that version of the story, you're a perfect target for government entrapment yourself. It seems much more likely that these agents provocateurs pick on the most vulnerable people they can find: the lonely, the naïve, the impressionable, the mentally or emotionally unstable, people who lack close friendships or life experience. This is easier than messing with shrewd, well-connected organizers. The point is not so much to catch the people organizing resistance to the government—charges of Conspiracy to Riot in Furtherance of Jaywalking are just not that impressive—so much as to discredit resistance movements by framing somebody, anybody, as a Dangerous Terrorist. If that means destroying the life of a person who never would have actually harmed anyone, who cares—honest, compassionate people don't become snitches in the first place.

Read the whole proposal at <http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/8155>