



Beginnings...

Six Years of Anarchist News

You may be surprised to know that Anarchist News is six years old this week. The first year was rough as we formalized our look and software but not long after we started we had decided that our goal was two fold. One we wanted to be non-sectarian in regards to the kind of anarchist politics we reported. Two we wanted a very open forum for comments and commentary. Anarchist news has succeeded on these two counts but there are many more lessons to learn, many more goals to achieve.

Being a non-sectarian news source has been an important part of the success of Anarchist News. Up till now the story of anarchism has been told by segments of the anarchist space that had a particular axe to grind. Whether red or green, by the communique or the constitution, the newspaper or the journal, anarchists have had different messages and mediums they used to communicate their message. It is now easier than ever to get an overview of what each of these approaches is doing, thinking and communicating about their approach. We hope we can continue to be a way that anarchists can see what other anarchists are doing in towns and tendencies across the world.

In addition we believe that communication between anarchists is of vital importance. We think that this communication is at the heart of future activities together and should not be gated or filtered by a moderation policy. That said, Anarchist News is a site for (and by) anarchists, and while we greatly desire participation by non-anarchists on the site we have to demand that this participation be respectful. Ninety five percent of our lives is filled with bad faith arguments about anarchist ideas and disrespect towards our goals. We can create a place that is different and so we have.

Six years is a fair amount of time, especially for an anarchist project. It is enough

A MAYOR, A BURGLAR, & PRISONERS

Icelander's Campaign is a Joke, Until He's Elected

From NY Times

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — A polar bear display for the zoo. Free towels at public swimming pools. A “drug-free Parliament by 2020.” Iceland’s Best Party, founded in December by a comedian, Jon Gnarr, to satirize his country’s political system, ran a campaign that was one big joke. Or was it?

Last month, in the depressed aftermath of the country’s financial collapse, the Best Party emerged as the biggest winner in Reykjavik’s elections, with 34.7 percent of the vote, and Mr. Gnarr—who also promised a classroom of kindergartners he would build a Disneyland at the airport—is now the fourth mayor in four years of a city that is home to more than a third of the island’s 320,000 people.

In his acceptance speech he tried to calm the fears of the other 65.3 percent. “No one has to be afraid of the Best Party,” he said, “because it is the best party. If it wasn’t, it would be called the Worst Party or the Bad Party. We would never work with a party like that.”

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11609>

time to set our sites on the next six years and future goals. We would like to make the Anarchist News Digest more broadly available as a mechanism by which non-anarchists can learn what is happening in the Anarchist Planet. We would like to take advantage of other ways in which digital communication can improve the spreading of our words. We would like to help coordinate anarchist action at future events.

Happy birthday Anarchist News and we look forward to another six years of providing the most entertaining, engaging, non-sectarian news, commentary and information about the entire anarchist space. One day we will be everywhere.

Subrosa Asks That Burglar Not be Prosecuted

From Santa Cruz Sentinel - by Jennifer Squires

SANTA CRUZ - A man arrested over the weekend for allegedly breaking into a downtown anarchist collective will not be prosecuted on burglary charges because the leaders of Subrosa Cafe requested no case be filed against him, the District Attorney’s Office reported Tuesday.

The seven-part ownership group met and decided to make the request, according to assistant district attorney Dave Genochio, who handles felony case filings. Burglary can be a felony.

Genchio said the D.A.’s Office could go forward without the collective’s blessing, “but you have a difficult time if you have witnesses that may not cooperate.”

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11625>

What I Would Do with \$55,000

From Four Star Anarchist Organization

Our need for accountability and our failure to realize opportunities and build movements

On May 2nd 2010, I received an email in my inbox calling for “solidarity” and “emergency donations” to pay the bail of 11 self-identified anarchists in Asheville, North Carolina. ...The price to bail out each of the 11 who were arrested? \$5,000. As predictable as the paper-hawking of countless Communist factions at street demonstrations – anarchists locally and nationally got to work planning benefit events. Arrestee benefits are something we are always able to pull together. Yet our inability to create effective momentum, organization, and lasting impact, especially during economic and ecological crisis, is exacerbated by the fact that our





“movement” allows anyone to identify as an anarchist, go on “the attack,” and turn months of potential movement-building efforts into benefit shows and talks about their actions.

... I started to ask myself how anarchists here in Chicago could use \$55,000 to build and strengthen our movement. The numbers I use are obviously not exact. However, they point to the possibility of creating mass base movements instead of acting as an isolated political sect.

To strengthen our current movement, I would attempt to pay the rent of several existing anarchist and related projects for the year. To strengthen formal organizations and social centers I would pay Biblioteca Popular \$9,600 and Locked Out \$12,000; the I.W.W and Lucy Parsons Worker’s Center would get \$4,300. That would leave \$29,100. To strengthen community projects I would give Cop Watch \$5,000 to buy new cameras, recorders, vests, and supplies for the communities that they organize in.

That would leave \$24,100. I would use this money to address weaknesses in our movement, including our inability to effectively outreach and expand anarchist ideas outside of our circles. I would buy one industrial CD-R/DVD read and write drive for \$1,000; a printing press for \$5,000; and a screenprinting press for \$8,000. This leaves a remainder of \$16,100.

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11414>

responder: We’re going to continue rotting in jails as long as “solidarity” means “throw money at the problem”. I’m against it for the exact opposite reason of the writer- we need to stop turning into damn liberals every time someone gets arrested. Solidarity means attack. And I know someone is going to respond “But if prisoner support isn’t pacifist, the accused might get harsher sentences!”, but that’s short term thinking. The fact is that there is currently no consequences for arresting anarchists, and the pigs know that.

other responder: (some) anarchists want something that, by the very notion of anarchism, they will be unable to achieve. they want a mass movement and a violent overthrow of the state and capitalism, but they want it to be replaced by self-governing, voluntary organizations and, at most, a federated structure to make larger scale decisions. i can’t see how

these can fit together. it is in the nature of a well organized, broad based movement with an at least quasi military wing to have a unifying ideology. people who are swept up in mass movements are carried away not just by objective circumstances but by a simple, universal moral appeal. the latter becomes the basis for a party to organize the economy and politics. if anarchists built a mass movement they would be laying the groundwork for authoritarian political structures. if they remain decentralized and voluntarist they will not build a mass movement.

anarchism has always been stuck with that dilemma. it’s not the “fault” of anarchism; it’s the nature of it. and it is all the more true today since anarchism has developed a whole series of schisms beyond the old duality of “individualist” versus “social” anarchists.

the solution is for anarchists to stop wanting the impossible. it will only make people crazy enough to write more laments like the \$55,000 dream. instead anarchists should have a ball. make life joyful in the face of capitalist drudgery and prescribed rituals. also, break shit. who cares the impact on “the mass movement” since that does not and cannot exist anyway. de-arresting is always an inspiration for the vast majority of urbanites who at best distrust the cops. all manner of collectives creating alternative spaces and experiences is good. food not bombs and shit is charity, but at least you don’t have to hear a sermon. and what has capitalism got to offer by comparison? free skools are cool.

yeah, i get it. none of that amounts to the grand liberation that so many anarchists dream of. so stop fucking dreaming. leave that shit to hollywood. my feet are on the ground, and i’ll take the real anarchy i can get rather than the weepy woe is us anarchy that posits a future we never will have.

and when the shit house does go up in flames i’ll be more steady with my crew than with some “anarchist” general somewhere directing somebody else’s troops.

yet another responder: The conclusion to be drawn from this article is as such:

Fucking shit up is good, but cost us too much money when someone gets swept up by the police. So... expropriations that lead to a surplus of resources could take care of the folks that get caught up and leave money over to buy a dvd burner or something.

We already know how to smash shit up, start brainstorming on how to get some liquid assets for employers next time shit pops off.

Firebomb This Site, Please

In general, I’m not a hateful person.

Occasionally, however, I encounter certain people who genuinely deserve a slap in the face.

When it comes to things I dislike, they usually fall square into the authoritarian capitalist category.

This website is one mammoth exception.

This website is so poorly managed and idiotic that it spins my head.

Let’s have a look at the stated goal of anarchistnews.org :

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

... It’s not difficult to write a goddamned article! Anarchist News is not providing a source for news because it’s hardly creating any original articles of its own.

Half of the articles on this website are unabashedly irrelevant to the Anarchist movement, or utterly fucking stupid. The other half of the articles are poorly written to the point where the reader wonders how the hell so many Anarchists get into Liberal Arts schools.

I’m not a Maoist prick bashing this site for ideological reasons. I’m not an FBI infiltrator trying to spread disunity in the Anarchist movement through criticism.

What I’m trying to do is illustrate how low the intellectual ideas has fallen with @news and infoshop.

Compare the writings of Proudhon, Kropotkin, Bakunin, and Emma Goldman to the articles on this website. All four Anarchists were eloquent, convincing writers who drew countless thousands of people to Anarchism. Even the legendary Chinese novelist Ba Jin took his pen name from the first syllable of “Bakunin” in Chinese and the last syllable of “Kropotkin”.

How the hell are we going to organize a mass movement with this hideous, stinking pile of literary shit? If Martin Luther King wrote substandard bullshit speeches, how do you think African Americans in America would be today? These aren’t rhetorical questions either.

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11433>

Open Letter from Bash Back Denver to Jordan-from-APOC-Philly

In the lead up to the Bash Back 2010 convergence, Jordan from APOC Philly was banned from the convergence for being a perpetrator of sexual assault due to a case of mistaken identity. Bash Back Denver is truly sorry for this, and hopes that everyone will spread the word that Jordan IS NOT accused of sexual assault. The perpetrator is Jordan O, a white person who recently moved to Philly.

What follows is a brief outline of the process that occurred around this situation and what some of our mistakes were made, and some of the most troubling dynamics present in this situation.

...

One of the collective members, Ariel Attack, was in charge of double-checking the information on Jordan O. After reading the email, Ariel assumed the identity to be Jordan from Philly based upon the information in the email and never

checked the facebook page. Had they done this, Ariel clearly would have seen that the perpetrator was not Jordan from APOC Philly. Ben Yager, not in the collective but in the working group, took Ariel's word on doublechecking this information but did not doublecheck himself.

The collective was never given identifying information on Jordan O beyond TJ (the name Jordan O used to go by...), and decided to ban them from the convergence. The collective also decided not to contact Jordan about banning them from convergence; an email was sent last minute at the urging from Ben on the grounds that it was manipulative to not inform someone that they weren't welcome at a convergence that they may be planning on attending.

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11450>

Anarchists Attack Police Union Office, in Portland

PPA office smashed up the night of June 23rd. Fuck them, from defending murderers, to demanding hidden contract meetings, they deserve worse!

Dear Portland Police Association,

Your office was smashed last night because it fills us with rage that the police exist. You have always worked tirelessly in the interest of white supremacy and the rich at the expense of everyone else.

Now, without even the flimsiest of punitive measures for cops who kill, beat, taze, and terrorize the marginalized people of portland, just to spit in the eye of

this city you demand closed negotiations for your next contract.

We're letting you know that when you hold negotiations in seclusion we will try to open them any way we can (for now with rocks through windows).

We think that you, the PPA, should dissolve yourself, but in lieu of that elect a glazier in your upcoming union presidential election, as trend seems to indicate that you will be having a lot of open air meetings in the future.

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11571>

Santa Cruz Anarchists seek to "Demystify Anarchy"

From *Santa Cruz Sentinel* - by J.M. BROWN

SANTA CRUZ -- Feeling misunderstood after police blamed anarchists for the May 1 riot downtown, a group of anti-establishment thinkers hosted a free forum Thursday to "demystify" what defines its beliefs.

The speakers said doing away with government, police, military, capitalism and other institutions of power would help to eliminate class structures, reduce racism and foster collective ways of addressing poverty. They acknowledged their views as radical and diverse, saying anarchy has room for a range of ideas about how to foster individual liberty.

"For me, anarchy means living free and working cooperatively," said John Malkin, a preschool teacher who hosts a weekly program on Radio Free Santa Cruz called "Non-violence, Spiritual Growth, and Anarchism." "Collectively, we have power to design how our lives look."

A crowd of more than 100 at the Loudon Nelson Community Center listened to anarchists identify their core principles as personal responsibility, respect for others and autonomy. To reduce distractions, the group asked that no one record or photograph the event.

Police also are investigating anarchist links to the May 1 riot, which was billed as a May Day dance party in support of workers' rights. Several people threw rocks and other objects through store windows and spray-painted anarchist symbols on buildings, causing damage to 18 businesses.

Police said a man charged in connection with the riot identified himself as a worker at SubRosa Cafe, an anarchist coffee shop and reading room.

Leaders of the organization have denied any role in the riot or affiliation with the man.

Anarchists barely mentioned the riot Thursday, but one speaker said she was proud to be open about her identity amid heightened scrutiny of anarchists after the demonstration.

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11584>

Black-Clad Clash with G20 Police

From Calgary CTV

A group of black-clad protesters has raged through downtown Toronto, smashing windows, vandalizing businesses and burning at least two police cruisers in the heart of the city.

The riots have forced officials to shut down downtown subway stations and close off main streets from traffic.

Only a few blocks from the mayhem, G20 leaders are meeting at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

For more than five hours, much of the city's core has been in a virtual lockdown as heavily armed police periodically clash with protesters.

The violence escalated after a splinter group broke away from a large and peaceful group of protesters who marched ahead of the high-level meetings.

A concert at the Air Canada Centre has been postponed, hospitals in the downtown core have been locked down and the Eaton Centre was also closed.

Toronto Mayor David Miller said at a news conference that the so-called anarchists are simply criminals who are determined to cause as much destruction as possible.

"It was a deliberate act by people who make it their business to commit these acts," he said.

...Earlier, the black-clad protesters smashed up a police cruiser and smashed its windshield along Queen Street, as other demonstrators hurled bottles and sticks at a solid line of riot police.

As police donned gas masks and mounted units rode into the city's core on horses, the violent protesters lit garbage on fire and tipped over recycling containers. They also smashed vehicles in and grabbed stones from nearby homes.

News media vehicles were also targeted and vandalized.

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11572>

From Birds Before the Storm - by Magpie

This past weekend has seen remarkable protests against the g20 in Toronto, Canada.

The government has reportedly spent an astounding \$900 million on keeping the world leaders and their meeting safe from the protesters. Which really, quite simply, points to exactly the problem with the priorities of our system: our system has, since the beginning, been more concerned with self-perpetuation and holding on to power than it is with, say, dealing with the issues of the world.

The media, of course, is trying to split us into "good protester" and "bad protester." The Huffington Post has a posted a shamefully poor AP article ostensibly about how the police have now arrested hundreds of activists who weren't even in the act of protesting, but it quickly devolves into a ridiculous effort to justify these actions

...
First of all... \$3 million in property damage versus \$900 million in defense expenditure? But most important here is that a man "died after clashes with police" in London, which is an outright lie. A man, unrelated to the protests, was killed

We Support Our Troops

by the police. That isn't a "clash." A war is when at least two armies are fighting.

Sigh.

My response might be simplest summed up by someone over at Infoshop News: If you're angry about people dressed in black burning cars, you should probably know about the people in suits burning countries.

So, yes, I support the "black clad hooligans" in Toronto. Because they believe, for uncountable reasons, that the unelected world leaders of the g20 are in the direct process of destroying the natural earth, looting the developing world, and generally perpetuating the whole "rich get rich the poor get dead" thing. And no, the protesters aren't willing to be polite about it.

Think about it. If you believed that the earth and most everyone in it was being absolutely tormented, tortured, and murdered by some rich people wearing suits, would you go hold a sign somewhere and hope that these bastards look at you and change their minds? Or would you go try to stop them?

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11617>

Anti-G20 Solidarity Action in Toronto, Ontario

On the night of Sunday June 27th - Monday June 28th two Bank of Montreal branches were attacked in Toronto, Ontario. We smashed several windows on the bank at the corner of Christie and Dupont. At another, near the corner of Ossington and Dundas, we glued shut the card slot of its ATM before smashing its screen; we then broke several window and walked away.

We caused this damage to respond to the arrests that happened earlier that

day, as well as to attack the larger context of this repression. Bank of Montreal provides financial support for the development of the Toronto South Detention Centre, an large expansion on a prison in Mimico. This expansion will replace the existing Toronto Jail in 2012 with new high-tech and sterile forms of incarceration.

Solidarity means attack! Against all repression and its prisons!

Calgary Anarchists Smash Local RBC and McDonalds in Retaliation for Events at G8/G20.

June 26/27: Saturday evening/early Sunday morning, under a full moon, a group of Calgary Anarchist's set out to show solidarity with political prisoners and comrades injured in recent events in Toronto. With police eyes distracted by the summits, we were able to destroy a local McDonalds and an RBC bank (chosen due to video footage of these establishments being targeted in Toronto riots) in retaliation of the police state brutalizing our friends and comrades from every walk of life, during the G8 and G20 protests. In addition to painting "NO G8, NO

G20. THESE STREETS ARE OUR STREETS", to show our gestures of solidarity with protesters, we wanted to do even the smallest amount of action to show our respect and pride in all you people out there. Piece!

"Stay peaceful, by keeping your piece full."
Dead Prez

"G8, G20. They few, we many."
Test Their Logic

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11597>

Vandals Mar Summit Protests in Toronto

From Associated Press

TORONTO — Black-clad demonstrators broke off from a crowd of peaceful protesters at the World Summit, torching a police cruiser in the financial district and smashing windows with baseball bats and hammers.

Police with shields and clubs earlier pushed back another small group of demonstrators who tried to head south toward the security fence surrounding the perimeter of the Group of Twenty global economic summit site. Some demonstrators hurled bottles at police.

"This isn't our Toronto and my response is anger," Toronto Mayor David Miller told CP24 television. "Every Torontonian should be outraged by this."

Previous major world summits have attracted massive, raucous and sometimes destructive protests by anti-globalization forces. But so far the Canadian demonstrations have been smaller, with rain apparently discouraging some protesters.

Organizers of Saturday's demonstration were hoping to draw a crowd of 10,000, but only about half that number turned out.

The roving band of protesters in black balaclavas broke shop windows for blocks with baseball bats and hammers. They also broke windows at police headquarters.

Police spokeswoman Jillian Van Acker said officers employed tear gas a short distance from there.

Police in riot gear and riding bikes formed a blockade, keeping protesters from the security fence a few blocks south of the march route. Police closed a stretch of Toronto's subway system along the protest route and the largest shopping mall downtown closed after the protest took a turn for the worse.

...
Ontario's provincial government quietly passed a regulation earlier this month allowing police to arrest anyone who refuses to show identification or submit to searches if they come within five meters (five yards) of the security fence.

Toronto's downtown core resembles a fortress, with a big steel and concrete fence erected along several blocks to protect the summit site.

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<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11592>

Police arrest 3 in Ottawa firebombing

Less than a week before the G8 and G20 summits, Ottawa police say they have made arrests in the firebombing of a local Royal Bank of Canada branch in May.

Three Ottawa-area men were arrested during raids on Friday, police sources said. They have been linked to an "anti-establishment" group which has been operating for some time.

...[T]he Ottawa Citizen identified them as Mathew Morgan-Brown, a well-known activist in his 30s, Claude Haridge, 50, of Stittsville, and Roger Clement, 58, a retired federal public servant. The report said they had been charged with offences ranging from arson to mischief to careless storage of ammunition.

...
The blast, which occurred at 3:30 a.m. on May 18 in the RBC branch in the Glebe neighbourhood, was first reported as a suspicious fire.

But a day later, a video of the bank-front erupting into flames appeared on a local website, posted by an activist group calling itself FFFC-Ottawa.

The video of the firebombing, filmed from across the street, appeared with a statement of protest against RBC, which the group said was a strong sponsor of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics that had taken place on "stolen indigenous land."

...The bank suffered about \$500,000 in damage, he said, far more than originally reported. The branch is still closed.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11526>

Montréal-Attack in Solidarity with the 3 Arrested in Ottawa

Yesterday morning the police arrested 3 people in Ottawa, saying that they are our dear ones, the FFFC.

Yesterday evening, we broke windows and wrote our solidarity on the wall of the RBC on Sherbrooke, corner Victoria.

Innocent or guilty, we are in solidarity with the arresteds.

Fuck the banks. Fuck the police. Fuck the prisons.

No repression without response.
Solidarity means attack.

The Support Committee-Night Tendency