



## *CRITIQUE, COHERENCE & COPPING A PLEA*

Editorial

### **Non-sectarian Means Incoherent**

Anonymous commenting means both that there are plenty of problematic ideas and ways of expressing ideas (problematic or not) to comment on AND that ill-thought-out criticism can easily get lost in better criticism. It also means that people share their ideas with relatively little fear of censure or abjuration.

A recent poll\*, the following comments, and a particular comment bring up the best of the criticisms of the status quo.

- Flaming/flame-baiting/trolling needs to be radically excised.
- There's no contradiction between anarchist principles and the censorship/repression of actions designed to impede them.
- Libcom works like this...
- Some would call that incoherence and confusion. (later comment)

On the one hand I can entirely agree with the author of this post. I find it very frustrating that the broader project of the site is continuously forgotten, ignored, or belittled because of the comments made to the stories. I also entirely agree with Pauley that there isn't a contradiction between principles and removal of hostile comments. I believe that attentive readers would notice that the increase of moderators plus a stronger hand towards moderating comments has resulted in a noticeable uptick in the quality of the discussions in the last month. But at the end of the day the project of this site is to provide a non-sectarian news and discussion service. This means that the comment section, the registered and non-registered users, and the content of the site will, by definition, be incoherent.

This is one of the reasons that "outlier" (or anarchist-only-by-self-identification) anarchist stories have been posted in the past and will be posted in the future. This is not a news site expressing the position of an editorial collective or a particular

anarchist position but a feed of what is happening in the anarchist space, primarily in North America. It is intended to inform an intelligent, critical, engaged anarchist audience. It is also intended to entertain them. The assumption continues to be that this audience respects that other people have positions that they may disagree with but are entirely acceptable anarchist positions.

Other anarchist, or anarchist friendly, sites take a very different approach to these problems. I think one of the reasons that Anarchist News garners so much hostility in certain circles is because of the natural tendency of people to want their political preferences to be represented and to feel hostility towards the dissonant nature of a story about the CNT next to a story about the Tea Party and another announcing a communist journal. Couple this variety with the attitude of many of the site's commenters towards everything (be that hostility or bland positivity) posted, and the effect can be jarring. Even I continue to be surprised at interesting stories that receive little to no attention from commenters while silly stories receive hundreds of comments. But I enjoy this feeling and appreciate Anarchist News even when I don't relate to the commenters, in a way that I don't with other sites. That said I regularly visit many other anarchist sites.

There is a general attitude among the moderators of Anarchist News that prisoner stories will (continue to) be heavily moderated; hostile and anti-anarchist comments will generally be removed unless they are respectful; most triggering terms will be replaced, by default, with more awesome ones or removed; burning pseudonyms or calling people out by their (non public) legal name will be removed. This is a far longer list than we started out with six years ago but as this

### **Important Update on the RNC 8 Case**

From RNC 8

It is with great disappointment that we share the news that our co-defendant, Erik Oseland, has decided to take a plea agreement as early as Monday, August 23rd. He has informed us that he will plead guilty to one count of gross misdemeanor conspiracy to commit riot, which is riot "without a dangerous weapon," a charge which bears a maximum 1-year sentence. ...

Erik has told us that this is a non-cooperating plea agreement, and we want to make absolutely clear that \*we ARE NOT treating Erik as a cooperator\*, and \*we ARE NOT asking people to withdraw their support from him.\* We do fear that any plea agreement offered by the State has the potential to hurt the rest of us, but we are reserving further comment on the matter until the hearing has taken place and we've been able to review the final resolution of Erik's case.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11962>

community has matured it is increasingly evident that it is a necessary change. Anarchists are targets. We have enemies in the form of Statists and their friends, Capitalists and their friends, Anarchists who believe that theirs is the single correct way to approach problem-solving or that all of our aims are the same. We have a very simple shared desire, to live in a world without the State and Capital. All of the rest is yet to be determined and will be the kind of confusion and incoherence that I can't wait to experience.

\* poll at  
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11977>

# WAR, OPPRESSION, DEATH AND DEMUTH

## Anarchism, War, and the State

From Cease Fire Magazine - by Andrew Robinson

This article summarises how a number of anarchist and anarchistic authors view the relationship between the state and war. Some of the authors discussed below are self-identified anarchists, while others are libertarian or autonomist Marxists who adopt anarchistic ideas. Stereotypically, anarchists are associated with violence, corresponding to the view of states as guarantors of peace. The first stereotype follows from the second: while anarchists disagree on the use of force, they generally view states as highly warlike, and oppose state violence both internationally and against internal 'enemies'. The Hobbesian view of the state as protector is based partly on an assessment of state behaviour comparable to IR Realism, and partly PM awareness of histories of state-formation and of stateless peoples and movements. In contrast to statist, anarchists generally view society or social relations as separate and distinct from the state (or the state as a special kind of social relation distinct from others).

In response to a common misconception, it is not true that anarchists oppose the state because they are naïve about human nature. Anarchist views about human nature are widely variant. Objections to the state can be convincing based on many different views, such as distrusting people to hold too much power without abusing it. Statists might be said to have a dual conception of human nature: the good people are trusted with excessive power so as to disempower the bad people. Statism is thus associated with hierarchical differentiations of people. Further, the objection is not simply to states as institutions but to state-like ways of relating and acting: in some accounts, the state is a social relation. In anarchist theory, states are viewed as expressions of hierarchical, oppressive social logics. They are forces of decomposition, which tend to attack or break down alternative, horizontal social relations. They are also based on 'reactive' emotional forces of suspicion, hatred and aggression which they channel to produce warlike relations among people. They also turn on one another, accumulating wealth by pillaging other states or societ-

## Upcoming Court Dates for Scott DeMuth

Scott's trial could start as early as September 13th! The federal district court has a trial call system, which means that the actual start date of the trial can vary. We're planning to be in Davenport and ready to pack the courtroom starting on September 13, so we would love it if you could join us. Interested in coming out? Email us at [scottandcarrie\(A\)riseup.net](mailto:scottandcarrie(A)riseup.net) so we can help you get plugged in to the support work and figure out the logistics for your stay in beautiful Davenport.

Also, we're still in need of legal defense funds! Our fundraising continues to progress, but we have a long ways to go to meet our goals. You can donate online by visiting <http://davenportgrandjury.wordpress.com> or you can send a check or money order made out to Coldsnap Legal Collective with "EWOK!" in the memo line to:

SCSC c/o Coldsnap Legal Collective  
P.O. Box 50514  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12001>

## Jaime Semprun (1947-2010)

Jaime Semprun, a French author and publisher, died in Paris on 3 August 2010. He was 62 years old. The announcement of his passing was made six days later by Encyclopédie des Nuisances, the publishing house that Semprun founded.

Inspired by the Situationist International, and in contact with Guy Debord starting in 1975, Semprun would go on to publish books by such contemporary authors as Baudouin de Bodinat, Theodore Kaczynski, Jean-Marc Mandosio, and René Riesel.

more at:  
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11950>

ies. Against such state violence, anarchist strategies often seek to find or form focal-points for social power which can counter-balance or draw energies away from state power. These focal-points necessarily involve living and acting in non-militarist, non-authoritarian ways.

more at:  
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11960>

## The Toronto Model

From The Nor'easter: Issue 9 - by SUBLETT

Early reports from the recent G-20 summit in Toronto make it clear that it was the worst case of state repression of a protest since the FTAA Ministerial in Miami in 2003, where the Miami model was born.

After anarchists burned four cop cars and smashed numerous windows, the Toronto cops employed rubber bullets, beatings, tear gas, pepper spray, Tasers and random searches to attack nearly anybody they encountered, protester or not. Conditions at the temporary jail were Guantanamo-esque, featuring many of the same techniques used to torture prisoners in Afghanistan and Iraq. These included freezing temperatures, withholding of food and water, sexual assault and threats of rape, beatings and "pain compliance techniques." Many prisoners were denied phone calls for the entire duration of their stay, which was sometimes days.

There were 1,090 arrests - more than there were at the 2008 Republican National Convention, an event that lasted twice as long. In line with the Miami model, police conducted a campaign of pre-event repression by demonizing anarchists in the media, arresting several protest "leaders" the night before the meetings, and even falsely claiming to have passed a new law allowing the cops to arrest any individuals within five meters of the security fence if they refused to show ID.

At first glance, this all might seem fairly routine. Summits and conventions are usually an excuse to declare de facto martial law in the host city, and embarrassed cops can generally be counted on to stage a police riot when all their expensive toys fail to contain a handful of kids in black. A similar pattern was seen at the Pittsburgh G-20 and at the 2008 RNC in St. Paul, Minn. What set Toronto apart from those demos was the sheer size of the operation.

much more at:  
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11941>

## Costa Rica: No cheeks left to turn

From Anarkismo

Since early July this year, plantation workers, peasants and indigenous people of the province of Changuinola in Bocas de Toro (Panama), have been on strike to defend basic labour rights threatened by the so-called "Jailhouse Law" and "Sausage Law" passed by Martinelli's militaristic right-wing government.

More than 4,000 workers affiliated to the Confederación de Trabajadores de la República de Panamá and 700 workers from the Convergencia Sindical, demonstrated on 8 July against the cancellation of the right to strike, restrictions of the freedom of association, the criminalization of protest, punishable with prison, and the elimination of union dues, when they were brutally repressed by police forces whose violence and batons left at least seven people dead, over 100 hospitalized and about 30 arrested.

These actions sparked protests in every province and the convening, by a national meeting of leaders of popular organizations, syndicates and trade unions, of a national strike for Tuesday 13 July. The worker and peasant organizations, threatened with extinction after the establishment, by law, of a Trade Union Central loyal to the government, demanded the release of the imprisoned workers and investigation into political killings.

However, the violence of the State, the official pressure and the media circus have again, as so many times in the past in this region, permitted "negotiations" and gave birth to a "way out" of the conflict. But this case is yet another example of the ways in which today the capitalist system and the State commit murder in Central America; it is an example of the barbarism which the fascist right is capable of reaching in order to impose its plans for economic liberalization, the extraction of resources and the commodification of life.

This is a trend that has been developing for several years and has been taking shape under the aegis of militarist, neo-liberal States in the region, from Mexico and Honduras, through Costa Rica, to Panama and Colombia. There is no coincidence in the close relationship of the current president of Costa Rica with Marti-

## Moscow/Khimki: The Battle Heats Up

In recent days, the battle to stop the destruction of the forest in the Moscow suburb of Khimki has heated up. Activists have been protesting the building of an \$8 million high-speed toll highway between Moscow and Petersburg. This highway would destroy beautiful forestland around Moscow. Environmentalists say the highway can bypass the old oak forest....

On the morning of July 29, antifascist Alexei Gaskarov was called in for a conversation with the local Internal Affairs Department. From there he was passed on to Extremism Department officers and taken away to an unknown destination. This is in violation of most of the regulations governing police operating procedures. No relatives have been informed, no notice has been served regarding his arrest. That same evening antifascist Maxim Solopov was asked to meet at Okhotny Ryad metro station for a conversation after the "Russian News Service" radio broadcast. Instead, when he got there, he was put into a car and driven to Khimki. That night Gaskarov's and Solopov's flats were searched, Gaskarov's without a warrant or other required paperwork. A list of items taken was not provided, nor were there any witnesses to attest.

We're disturbed by the way the procedures are progressing and would appreciate any international support. We are raising funds for their defense and your help would be critical here.

Please see the links below for money transfers:

WebMoney

\*R619797098487\* -- ruble

\*Z221201586867\* -- \$

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11906>

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nelli's Panamanian government (which in its most vulgar form consists of Costa Rican police involvement in acts of repression across the border inside Panama), nor the role that this country has played in the international legitimization of the coup in Honduras and the unthinkable government of Porfirio Lobo.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11923>

## Marie Mason transferred to rumored CMU in Carswell, TX

From Support Marie

As of August 6, 2010, Marie Mason is at the federal prison in Carswell, Texas.

It has long been rumored that Carswell is the location a third CMU (Communications Management Unit). The CMUs were previously secret detention wings of prisons which severely curtail prisoners' access to the outside world; for more on them, see: <http://www.supportdaniel.org/cmu/>

Please write:

Marie Mason #04672-061

FMC Carswell

Federal Medical Center

P.O. Box 27137

Fort Worth, TX 76127

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Marie Mason is serving almost 22 years for two acts of environmentally-motivated property destruction in which no one was harmed. This is the longest current sentence of any of the Green Scare prisoners. (The Green Scare is the name given to the recent prosecution of eco-saboteurs and animal liberation activists, in which the government has labeled them as "terrorists" and sought huge sentences.) Mason was turned in by her then-husband, Frank Ambrose, who had secretly spied on activists for years and then filed for divorce the day she was arrested. Mason eventually plead guilty to 14 actions; 13 were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front and one by the Animal Liberation Front. At her sentencing, the judge said she had "violated the marketplace of ideas" and gave her an even longer sentence than the prosecution had asked for (15-20 years).

More information on Mason is available at [www.supportmariemason.org](http://www.supportmariemason.org).

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11914>

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# THOUGHTS AND REPORTS

## Anarchism versus Civilization

From Post-civilized - by Margaret Killjoy

In his 2003 polemic *Anarchism versus Primitivism*, Brian Oliver Sheppard makes the case that primitivism is inherently in contradiction with anarchism.

Much can be inferred from his tone, which is openly mocking. He makes references to how “[u]nfortunately for anarchists, plunging into the primitivist miasma has become necessary”.... But his arguments are mired in absurdities: he mocks primitivists as hypocrites for engaging in technological practices while ignoring the fact that nearly every anarchist of any stripe in capitalist and statist society is not living as she or he preaches.

The core of his argument is that primitivism is authoritarian and therefore irreconcilable with anarchism. But the anarchism he promotes is rather clearly a simplistic and “classical” one, a red anarchism that argues for worker control of a stateless society. He argues that primitiv-

ists are stuck in an illusory past that cannot be supported by evidence, yet never acknowledges his complicity in the same behavior; here is a man arguing that anarchism has always been about worker control and communistic ideas, completely ignoring the heterogeneous past and present of anarchism. The individualists, the anarchists-without-adjectives, the mutualists... these people simply never existed, if one is to infer from Brian’s piece.

Well-reasoned critiques of primitivism exist, but they are rarely distributed. Instead, self-defeating and remarkably sectarian missives are the norm. But this basic idea, that anarcho-primitivism is no more anarchist than the largely dismissed ideas of “anarcho”-capitalists and “anarcho”-nationalists, is a curious one.

For the sake of argument, I make the opposite case: anarchism is and always has been anti-civilization, and that civilization and anarchism are completely irreconcilable. Anyone who claims to be

for civilization and anarchism is deluding themselves.<sup>2</sup>

An anthropologist named Elman Service<sup>3</sup> suggested a widely-used system of classification for human cultures that contains four rough categories. Firstly, there are gatherer-hunter bands, which are generally egalitarian; secondly there are tribal societies that are larger, slightly more formal, and have bits of social ranking; third are chiefdoms, which continue down the path of social stratification; and finally there are civilizations, which are anthropologically understood by their complex social hierarchies and organized, institutional governments.

The rejection of complex social hierarchies and government means, therefore, the rejection of civilization. If an anarchist society were to develop, it would be by definition a non-civilized society.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11975>

## Notes from the Social Forum

From NEFAC

The recent U.S. Social Forum in Detroit brought together some 10-15 thousand people, a lot of them young, to have conversations and participate in workshops and assemblies devoted to changing the existing rotten capitalist system. The USSF generated much enthusiasm, for the Forum was a huge opportunity for folks for the first time to meet others who were doing similar work in other places. These projects included issues like fighting foreclosures and evictions, school and hospital closings, police brutality and prisons, fetus fanatics, immigration xenophobia, and union givebacks; and building alternative institutions, environmental justice, transformative justice, participatory cultures, radical bicycling, &c. (Altogether there were well over 1000 workshops and assemblies over four days).

However, despite the excitement, the Forum fell far short of what’s necessary to address the current economic and political crisis of capitalism.

Why? First, in my view the crisis is much

more than an increased level of attacks on working class and oppressed people. (Capitalism attacks them every minute of every day anyway—that’s the nature of the system). Rather, it’s a crisis of the system itself, graphically illustrated less than two years ago by the collapse of such corporate giants as Bear Stearns, AIG, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, General Motors, Chrysler, Washington Mutual and others. The capitalists exposed themselves as being incapable of managing their own system. (And we don’t want to manage it, either).

A mere increase in attacks merely mandates an increase in resistance; but a breakdown crisis calls for revolutionary solutions. Groups standing for this, at least in words, were clearly visible at the USSF. But the thrust of the Forum itself went in another direction.

This is not surprising given that the initial major seed money for the Forum came from prime players in the social democratic-non-profit-financial complex, including

the SEIU and the American Friends Service Committee. In addition, the Forum’s use of Detroit’s main convention center, Cobo Hall, had to be approved by the Detroit Common Council. Locally major movers included the League of Revolutionaries for a New America (LRNA—a descendent of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers), and the Boggs Center, a 501.c.3, which pushes urban gardening as a major strategy for capitalistically bombed-out Detroit, and which has for sale T-shirts emblazoned with the vague but unambiguously centrist slogan of ‘(r)evolution’.

A major component of any revolutionary strategy is mass direct action. There were several opportunities for this in Detroit. One was a symbolic blockade of the tunnel to Canada under the Detroit River to protest the Arizona law legalizing the profiling of Latinos. Another was a march-and-something to a massive incinerator. Both were squashed by Boggs Center/LRNA people who were on the local organizing committee. This was rather easy since the pro-

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## Vancouver Pacific National Exhibition Vandalized with Agit-Prop!

From Moment of Insurrection

The PNE, that site of colonial-spectacle and former gulag has been attacked with agitative-propaganda. (Reproductions of the images used are below)

As it celebrates its hundred years of ritual circuses, we remember with rage, its existence as a concentration camp- institutionalized as such during the mass internment of the 22,000 people stripped down to bare life and classified as 'Japanese Enemy Aliens' in 1942.

Over these (and the preceding) 100 years, the vancouver metropolis has been a site of war-networked to a constellation of penal colonies and internment camps-engulfed by a gulag archipelago. Able at destined States of Emergency to offer-up its institutions as a Camp. Camp: that space where the State of Emergency becomes the norm.

The PNE was the Biopolitical space of that State of Exception in '42, that con-

centration camp 'where the horses were, that's where they put us;' that institution that has always been a military operation, reminds us of the ease in which Empire is able to transcend local institutions into generalized points of its global assemblage of apparatuses.

Is that not the situation now? In our State of Emergency the oppressed are concentrated into the DTES-ghetto and interned within the Camps constructed under the guise of Community Care Facilities. Displaced and forced into a Camp: the formula of imperial-humanitarian intervention throughout Empire.

'But a mass round-up could never happen again,' say those caught between the fangs of power, deluded in the emergency imaginary. But those who form the subjective foundations and the imperial ranks for the new BC Exclusionary League (a settlers league formed in race/class war against 'immigrants') know better, those citizens who operate as cops and demand

the beast of the State spring into action. Did the apparatus of Capture not operate as a perfect machine in its mass incarceration of the G-20 internees? (Whist, conversely- unable to control the chaos in the streets!)

...

At war with these Camps we are Maroon! We attack these imperial sites, such as the PNE, not to phantastically exorcise restless spirits; but so as to target these institutions for Total Destroy, so that its ruins might be added to the advancing International's graveyard of global Empire!

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12058>

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ponents of the actions were largely white out-of-towners in the Black city of Detroit. However, not so easy was the derailing of any protest over the assassination by the FBI of Imam Luqman Ameen Abdullah last year in nearby Dearborn or the recent killing of 7-year-old Aiyana Jones by the Detroit Police Dept. Apparently the local players and their allies have been satisfied with Attorney General Holder's promise of a federal investigation of the former and the Michigan State Police's inquiry into the latter. As a result both killings were non-issues at the Forum. The RCP did try to organize a march over Aiyana, I don't know the outcome, but I doubt it was very successful given the group's wacky Bobism and the fact that almost none of its members are from Detroit.

One of the promises of the Social Forum was that it was supposed to be an example of direct democracy—or at least as direct as possible—in action. However, social democracy and reformism have time and again proven themselves

to be virulently anti-democratic when presented with the choice of upholding capitalism or siding with angry masses of workers and oppressed people. This latter dynamic played itself out in muted form in the one People's Movement Assembly which I attended, that on political prisoners and prison issues. Four and a half hours were allotted to the assembly, during which time it would divide into two separate sessions of breakout groups, the first for the participants to lay out what they wanted to get of the assembly, and a second later one in which each group would work out three 'vision proposals' and three 'action proposals'. These would then be given to a pre-selected committee to merge into a final resolution to be presented to the Social Forum as a whole. There would be no discussion except in the breakout groups and, as one member of the assembly's organizing committee said at the outset, 'you will have to trust the committee' doing the final editing. As one of two members of the New York

Free Mumia Coalition, I wanted to make sure that an endorsement of the call for a Dept. of Justice civil rights investigation got into any resolution in addition to a call for the freedom for all political prisoners; and I wanted the Social Forum go go on record as condemning the recent actions by some major players in the anti-death penalty movement to cut Mumia's case from the campaign to end capital punishment. These never made it into the merged resolution. In part this was because of some confusion in our breakout group. But in any case that didn't matter because near the end of the assembly a woman came around handing out copies of a pre-packaged resolution which had already been written by the organizing committee. The breakout groups were in fact a waste of time and constituted only a charade of democracy. Although maybe not intended that way by some of the organizers, the process was in fact a slick bureaucratic game.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12056>

## Fighting in the New Terrain: What's Changed Since the 20th Century

### Fighting in the New Terrain

At the turn of the century,  
we could only imagine  
anarchism as a desertion from an  
all-powerful social order.

Ten years ago, as starry-eyed young maniacs, we published *Days of War, Nights of Love*, unexpectedly one of the best-selling anarchist books of the following decade. [1] Although controversial at the time, in retrospect it was fairly representative of what many anarchists were calling for: immediacy, decentralization, do-it-yourself resistance to capitalism. We added some more provocative elements: anonymity, plagiarism, crime, hedonism, the refusal of work, the delegitimization of history in favor of myth, the idea that revolutionary struggle could be a romantic adventure.

Our approach was shaped by a specific historical context. The Soviet bloc had recently collapsed and the impending political, economic, and ecological crises had yet to come into view; capitalist triumphalism was at its peak. We focused on undermining middle class values because they seemed to define everyone's aspirations; we presented anarchist struggle as an individual project because it was dif-

ficult to imagine anything else. As the anti-globalization movement gathered momentum in the US and gave way to the anti-war movement, we came to conceptualize struggle more collectively, though still as originating from a personal decision to oppose a firmly rooted status quo.

Today, much of what we proclaimed has become passé. As capitalism has shifted into a state of perpetual crisis and technological innovations have penetrated deeper into every aspect of life, instability, decentralization, and anonymity have come to characterize our society without bringing the world of our dreams any closer.

Radicals often think they are out in a wasteland, disconnected from society, when in fact they are its cutting edge—though not necessarily moving towards the goals they espouse. As we later argued in *Rolling Thunder #5*, resistance is the motor of history: it drives social, political, and technological developments, forcing the prevailing order to innovate constantly in order to outflank or absorb opposition. Thus we can contribute to tremendous transformations without ever achieving our object.

This is not to credit radicals with the agency to determine world events, so

much as to assert that we often find ourselves unconsciously on their cusp. Measured against the infinities of history, all agency is infinitesimal—but the very notion of political theory presumes that it is still possible to utilize this agency meaningfully.

When we strategize for individual campaigns, we have to take care not to make demands that can be defused by partial reforms, lest our oppressors neutralize us by simply granting them. Some examples of easily co-opted radical programs are so obvious that it is practically vulgar to point them out: bicycle fetishism, “sustainable” technology, “buying local” and other forms of ethical consumerism, volunteer work that mitigates the suffering caused by global capitalism without challenging its roots.

But this phenomenon can also occur on a structural level. We should look at the ways we have called for broad social change that could take place without shaking the foundations of capitalism and hierarchy—so that next time our efforts can take us all the way.

Today it must become a line of flight out of a collapsing world.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12018>

### i. communiqué

This is an unwavering political statement, a conscious effort to politicize an event without being apologetic or defensive. This statement is written by a collective of women who came together in the spring of 2010 based on shared experiences and concerns surrounding patriarchy and sexual violence within the radical scene and beyond. In our meetings and discussions, we learned that many of the women within our network have experienced some form of sexual violence. It is no coincidence that we have had this experience with power. Rape is not a personal misfortune but an experience with domination shared by many women. When more than two people have suffered the same oppression the problem is no longer personal but political – thus, rape is a political matter (*New York Radical Feminists Manifesto*, 1971).

Violence against women contributes to a system of power, organizing society into

a complex set of relationships based on a sometimes invisible and internalized assumption of male supremacy. Rape is not the only form of control that male-bodied individuals can practice in romantic, friend, or comradely relationships. Physical as well as emotional abuse function as ways of maintaining involuntary hierarchies and control over women, female sexuality, and reproductive systems.

The silence and secrecy that often surrounds issues of power and domination should in no way be taken as complicity, however, we as women and survivors will remain silent no longer.

Ideologically speaking, male-bodied anarchists and communists align with principles of egalitarianism and anti-authoritarianism, yet daily practices in this regard oftentimes fall short. We have repeatedly seen a chasm between theory and praxis in male-bodied treatment of women and other oppressed people. We

have seen over and over again, male-gendered behaviors reproduce the very systems of domination that we are fighting to dismantle. We refuse to allow this to continue.

In the course of our meetings, we identified one male-bodied individual as a repeat perpetrator of sexual violence against female-bodied people: Jan Michael Dichter, also known as Maus. This particular individual, whose vocabulary consisted of anti-patriarchal jargon, had committed sexual violence before, and participated in survivor-defined accountability processes. Since he continued to transgress boundaries, raping and sexually assaulting women in Boston and Santa Cruz, we decided to confront him. We met him at his home and verbally confronted him.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12011>