

Antioch Arrow



#3

Winter 2009

Hurry to attack capital before a new
ideology makes it sacred to you.
Hurry to refuse work before some
new sophist tells you yet again that
“work makes you free.”
Hurry to play. Hurry to arm yourself.

Alfredo M. Bonnano

Welcome!

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the Antioch Arrow. This project is our way of communicating some important points to people that we feel have similar concerns to us. All of us are local, working class and pretty level headed. We are students, workers, unemployed and underemployed.

Our position is pretty simple, this world is controlled by money. There are those who have a ton of it, and those who have very little. Somehow people continue on as if this isn't the case. We, being those who don't have a ton of money, can never forget that this is the case. The lives that we live are just continual attempts to get money.

We think this situation is unliveable. We understand the value of work, and the product that work creates. We aren't lazy, we just want the work we do to benefit ourselves and our communities.

This journal isn't meant to be some crazy rambling. It is our goal to start a conversation with the people around us. Inside you will find original articles, written by us, and reprinted articles that we have found or come across in our own search for knowledge.

We cover some interesting topics including jails, police brutality, racism, immigration and others.

This project is not just to rant and rave about whatever, we have larger goals. We soon hope to have the funds to send our magazine and our newspaper, The Rebel, into jails and prisons because we understand that many of our fellow working class people find themselves locked up for minor offenses.

Our future plan includes setting up a PO Box so that we can begin to send our literature out. In each issue we will have an ever changing list of writings and literature we have in our collection and people will be able to place mail orders for them.

We plan to get more newspaper boxes and maybe even to move our newspaper to real newsprint instead of our lower quality prints we have now. In any event, keep reading!

-The Editors

Contacting Us

Reasons that you might want to contact us

- ★ You love what we put out
- ★ You want more
- ★ You know someone who is locked up and you think they'd like to receive free literature
- ★ You are locked up and want to receive free literature
- ★ You want to donate money to our project

Hit us up at

antiocharrow925@hotmail.com

www.myspace.com/925arrow

www.925arrow.blogspot.com

Our Current Literature List

What is Capitalism? by Scott Rittenhouse

Autonomous Self-Organization and Anarchist Intervention by Wolfi Landstreicher

The Network Of Domination by Wolfi Landstreicher

Locked Up by Alfredo Bonnano

Toward The Destruction of Schooling by Jan D. Matthews

Towards The Creative Nothing by Renzo Novatore

Sabotage In The Workplace from prole.info

Armed Joy by Alfredo Bonnano

Revolutionary Solidarity

Interviews With Class Warriors

Fire To The Prisons #5

Call by The Invisible Committee



“Capital is dead labor, which, vampire-like, lives only by sucking living labor, and lives the more, the more labor it sucks.”

**-Karl Marx
(some dead guy)**

What is Working Class?

One of the main problems with communicating your ideas to a large group of people is that language can create barricades. A lot of us don't talk the same. The slang I use will be different than the slang other people use, so we must find a common language. We can begin by explaining what we mean.

Working Class is a term that was given its meaning in the 1800's by a person named Karl Marx. Marx said that the working class was those who were forced to sell their ability to do labor for wages.

Working Class people do not own the means of production. This means that 1 person can hire 200 workers to build a factory and to make furniture but none of the workers own any of it, even though the boss built none of it he still owns the means of production, the factory.

You can have working class people grow food, build bridges, make cars but they do not own factories, land or the resources to build bridges.

The Working Class also includes the unemployed, under employed (getting 15 hours a week at work when you were promised 30) and other poor people.

Of course it can be argued that nobody is “forced” to work. This is just getting into ridiculous details. Of course I don't HAVE to have a job, but the alternative is homelessness and starvation. So there is no other choice. Not to mention my job will make someone sitting in an office tons of money. You can make the company \$300 in an hour and still get paid \$8 for it. There are others who find money in robbery, selling drugs and so on but all of these things are still work. As with any wage earning job, all of these positions are precarious, or unstable.

At any moment a plant can be given the news of a shut down, food service workers can lose their jobs to “restructuring”, hours can be cut for any number of reasons.

Building power in the Working Class means that, like the French workers, we can begin to take matters into our own hands, and that when management decides that it is time to shut down the place you are working, you can demand a severance pay, or that you can stop harassment and unfair policies and create a more worker controlled situation.

This translates to our neighborhoods. It is indescribable how many times the cops get called for the dumbest reasons. If we build relationships in our neighborhoods we can begin to bring community control and handle situations ourselves. Which means less cops on the block, and if they are here they must be looking for trouble.

The rich have been organized for years. They organize themselves into companies, corporations, social clubs etc. The only way that we are to remain weak is by remaining separated. If we're going to be broke, let's be broke together, because honestly, being poor and alone can be too much to bare.

This is a call to those who understand, are beginning to understand and are willing to understand this position.

It is our time to build ourselves.



**UPDATE: FRENCH WORKERS
THREATEN TO BLOW UP FACTORY
BY JULY 31ST, THEY RECEIVE
THEIR MONEY ON JULY 24TH**

Layoffs Got You Down? Kidnap Your Boss!

FRANCE

French workers have brought back a time honored tradition from the 1968 worker's strikes. A handful of reports have surfaced of what have been called "Bossnappings". Workers kidnap the CEO of the company and hold them hostage until the executives agree to play by their rules.

The hostage takers have a diverse range, from single mothers to the nearly retired, with demands for better conditions, higher pay and no layoffs. France has also seen a wave of "commando picnics", where dozens of people walk into a large corporate grocery store and begin to serve themselves a lunch, all while chanting " We will not pay for their crisis!" This chant being in reference to how, like America, many corporations received trillions of dollars in assistance from taxpayer money, it serves as a rallying cry for working class people. The economic crisis has proven that interests are in keeping the rich wealthy, while working class people face layoffs.

After 3 days one CEO was released after he had promised to renegotiate the pay given to the workers that were soon to be laid off. One worker was quoted as saying "If we did it again now, we would hold him for longer, definitely." Another worker at a French Sony factory said "Holding him for a few more days would have allowed us to get more. The advances we made were minimal, but we wouldn't have got anywhere without kidnapping the boss."

Meanwhile, in other parts of France, workers at the New Fabris car part factory rigged improvised gas canister explosives that were wired together, to the whole factory. Their demands were simple, if the company was to go under and sell off all of its property the 366 workers were entitled to 30,000 Euros (\$44,000) each. They held 3 machines in the factory that are worth 2 million each. Many of the locals completely supported the workers, who have been described not as terrorists, but as mid 40's family men and women concerned for the future of their children. One of the main quotes from the workers was "If we leave with nothing, they leave with nothing."

The New Fabris workers inspired a second factory to make the same exact threat, and yet another. The third group of factory workers had their demands met immediately. Each worker was given 30,000 Euros. In the end the New Fabris workers received their money too, one week before the deadline.

The French and the American situations are quite similar, but our reactions are different. On one hand we have the French workers demanding working class power, and on the other we have the Americans who hang their heads and walk to the unemployment line. How long will it be until we see the same situations starting to happen in the US? The more important question is, what side will you be on?

Local//Contra Costa Sheriff Shootings On The Rise and a few words on Police

In September there were two officer involved shootings within one week of each other.

These are the most recent in what seems to be an escalation in police shootings.

In June another man, Paul Hammond, was shot to death by CCC Sheriffs after brandishing a knife. He was shot four times.

One of the two that had happened last month was of a man who had stolen a car and had allegedly attempted to ram an officer. Two other Sheriffs Deputies fired into the vehicle, killing the person inside.

A week before that 46 year old Roger McComb had called 911 and when Sheriffs arrived McComb allegedly had a knife duct taped to his wrist. After being told to drop the knife McComb walked towards the officers, they then opened fire.

The excuse used in the hospital shooting of Paul Hammond was that the Sheriffs didn't have tasers and couldn't non lethally subdue him. Some 3 months later the Sheriffs found themselves dealing with Roger McComb, who had a knife, and they dealt with him the same way. Which begs the question, if you have one incident where you "had" to kill someone who was holding a knife and then 3 months later you have another situation with a knife, you would think that maybe a group huddle would occur where you could figure out how not to kill someone the next time they had a knife.

The aggression being shown by the CCC Sheriffs department is becoming more visible. We know that the police aren't on our side. A book came out in the last few years called *Our Enemies In Blue*, it is by a young man named Kristian Williams.

We continue to see an increase in Police activity and ways to cut social programs to give more money to Police stations. It is understood that as the economy worsens, people will increasingly begin to take back space and resources. In this situation this Police would be dispatched to keep things the way they are.

Our view is that the Police always do this.

The police are tools of the State that force the laws of the State onto every being. People being foreclosed on will be forced out by the police, people acquiring food, squatting in vacant homes and people unable to pay bills or tickets will all be the victims of police. In the 60's police forced segregation, arrested black people for drinking from the same water fountain as whites and sicked the dogs on civil rights protestors.

Since the police are a tool of the State then in order for the police to be just, it must be believed that the State is also just. We know this is not the case.

Because we all know that the US is in Iraq for oil and that it cuts healthcare for the poor while allowing rich CEO's to give themselves billions of dollars as poor we suffer.

So the State is not just, the tools of the State are not just, therefore the police cannot be just.

For an interview with Kristian Williams check out our blog: www.925arrow.blogspot.com



Gas canisters that workers in France rigged to blow up the machinery and building that made up the factory they worked in. The bosses decided to lay off all workers and to sell off the machinery to profit from the closure.



the emerging student-worker direct action movement in california

On Sept. 24, thousands of students, faculty, and staff walked out of University of California campuses across the state. The walk-outs and one-day strike were called by a wide coalition of UC unions and activist groups as a largely symbolic protest against the budget cuts, fee hikes and firings associated with the state budget crisis. At two campuses, however, in Santa Cruz and Berkeley, some people then walked back in and began to initiate occupations. Administrators and activists alike were stunned that the logic of symbolic protest had been abandoned for concrete, insurrectionary activity. Occupation, a tactic which is mostly unfamiliar in the U.S., is widely generalized in many social struggles throughout the world, and points towards new dimensions of struggle and autonomous organization that are likely to prove particularly vital as the economic crisis continues and deepens.

WHAT IS THE CRISIS?

Students at UCs and CSUs are facing a 32% fee hike which their governing bodies will ratify on November 17. 50,000 students were turned away from community colleges this year, and as many will be turned away from CSUs starting next year. The hikes, cuts and firings affecting public education (among other services) throughout this state (among other places) are described as austerity measures in response to the global economic crisis. Like the recession, those in power who are making these decisions would like us to believe they are temporary.

But it seems some of us have learned a little too well. It turns out that global capital has been in decline for about 30 years, and has only been kept afloat by various financial

bubbles - the S&L bubble in the 80s, the dot-com bubble in the 90s and more recently the housing market bubble which burst in 2008. This has led to the mass foreclosures throughout California as well as food riots throughout many of the poorer countries in the world.

We are going to school to avoid having to engage in menial labor for the rest of our lives, but this long collapse means the jobs simply won't be there. Most of us are working shit jobs already, sometimes alongside people with degrees. In the meantime, student loan volume has skyrocketed 800 percent since the early 80s. College is now just a place where we'll get ripped off one last time on our way to be dumped out of the system as debt-laden, unemployed nobodies. Out of a workforce of 20 million in California, 2 million are now unemployed and 1.5 million underemployed. Each year, it seems, capitalism needs fewer and fewer of us as workers (except for cops to keep the rest of us in line). We could well be heading into another Great Depression where we will have to band together to squat, loot and organize our own communities just to survive.

Crises are often times when reactionary forces take hold, capitalizing on people's anxiety and desires to get back to "the way things were". This will very likely not be possible this time. This is why activist approaches geared towards returning things to normal and negotiating with the state miss the point entirely. We have a chance, if we use it wisely, to steer this crisis away from the reactionary option and towards a decisive break with the nightmare reign of economic value which renders us nothing but its disposable appendages.

WHAT IS AN OCCUPATION?

An occupation is a break in capitalist reality that occurs when people directly take control of a space, suspending its normal functions and animating it as a site of struggle and a weapon for autonomous power.

Occupations are a common part of student struggles in France, where for example in 2006 a massive youth movement against the CPE (a new law that would allow employers to fire first-time workers who had been employed for up to 2 years without cause) occupied high schools and universities and blockaded transit routes. In 1999, the National Autonomous University of Mexico City was occupied for close to a year to prevent tuition from being charged. Both of these struggles were successful.

In Greece and Chile, long and determined student struggles have turned campuses into cop-free zones, which has in turn led to their use as vital organizing spaces for social movement involving other groups like undocumented migrants and indigenous people.

Occupations have not been seen much in the U.S. since the 1970s until 2008 when workers at the Republic Windows and Doors Factory in Chicago occupied the building and won back pay from the bank that foreclosed the factory. In following months, university students in New York City staged several occupations in resistance to the corporatization of their schools.

It was this activity which inspired the students in Santa Cruz and Berkeley.

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON CALIFORNIA CAMPUSES?

The occupation of UC Berkeley on Sept 24 failed due to the intervention of reformist student activists, but the occupation of the Grad Student Commons at UCSC went off successfully. Seizing control of this building on the campus's central plaza, occupiers hung banners that urged "TAKE OVER CAMPUS, TAKE OVER THE CITY, END CAPITAL!" and read a statement entitled "Occupy California".

This explained that the occupation was a tactic to directly open space for the development of student and worker power, not a ploy to bargain with administrators. The discourse of the activist is dead for us. We know there is no funding and these assholes couldn't help us even if they did see us as anything besides numbers.

Over the next 6 days, the space was used to host meetings about how to broaden and escalate the struggle, as well as to throw several raging dance parties in the plaza.

There was also an attempt to raid the campus bookstore en masse which was thwarted by cops.

Eventually the occupation was dissolved as the deadline of a threatened police action approached, so that the momentum could be kept up and transferred to new projects rather than everyone getting arrested for no reason.

The GSC was a bold step forward in an experimental process. One thing we learned was that at this stage, authorities are very reluctant to create confrontations: they know they look bad enough already. A tremendous amount of enthusiasm was focalized through the space, but unfortunately, the occupiers of the GSC had not planned to be able to hold the building for so long and had to scramble to assemble plans to spread radical activity.

We learned that people will come out of the woodwork if they are excited about what's going on, but also that the occupation has to grow and ramify or it's nothing.





One of the many barricades that were built to keep the police away in order to take the space

In the weeks since then, a number of sit-ins and soft (not barricaded) occupations of space have occurred at UC Berkeley, CSU Fullerton, and CSU Fresno. Another building at UCSC, this time including the office of a dean who cut many programs and fired a bunch of people, was occupied briefly. Participants in the UCSC occupations traveled to several campuses in southern California recently and a UC-wide general assembly was held in Berkeley. Many folks have been inspired by the actions taken in Santa Cruz and there is a lot of talking and planning going on right now.

Some of the main obstacles the emerging student movement is facing are how to connect with non-student workers on campus, with people at other kinds of schools and with society as a whole. Another big issue is how to avoid being recuperated and co-opted by administrators and activists.

One of the sit-ins, at a library at UC Berkeley, was seized on by the administration as an excuse to privatize library hours while showing how they are really listening to the students. At the second UCSC occupation, a Marxist professor convinced many people to dismantle barricades and go home early. It's hoped by some that the insurrectionary approach will have the virtue of deepening, not neutralizing the contradictions we are currently experiencing.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Unions and student groups have announced they are planning to shut down the UC Regents meeting at UCLA on November 18th to prevent the fee hike from being voted in. With the CSU Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach on the same day, actions are being organized at public campuses around the state. While geared to this temporality, the calls to action are not being framed around any deluded hopes for a return to a normalcy that was never good enough to begin with, and is certainly not coming back anyway.

We are under no illusions that we are 'leading' a struggle, only that we are situated uniquely to confront the crisis as youth recognizing that we simply have no future in capitalism. We can only begin where we are. If we begin, it opens space for other people (like non-student staff) to also begin taking charge of their own lives. If we act in concert, we can collectively dissolve the academy along with the alienating and exploitative society that it serves. As it states in the "Occupy California" communique, "This crisis is general and the revolt must be generalized... We call on the people of California to occupy and escalate." This means schools, workplaces, foreclosed homes, BART stations. This means we will break with capitalist time to inaugurate OUR time.

We have begun.

<http://occupyca.wordpress.com>

<http://likelostchildren.blogspot.com>

<http://wewanteverything.wordpress.com>



Last Dec. 12, on the outskirts of Pecos, Texas, the immigrants doing time in the world's largest privately run prison decided to turn the tables on their captors. It was the Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, an important religious holiday in Latin America. But the inmates were in no mood for celebration.

The motin, as the overwhelmingly Spanish-speaking inmates called their uprising, began in the Reeves County Detention Center's Special Housing Unit (SHU), better known as solitary confinement, with two men—a Honduran and a Mexican—using the wires in an electrical outlet to set a mattress on fire.

They broke out the windows of their cell, and when prison guards tried to extinguish the fire by sticking a fire hose through a port in the door, the two broke the sink off the wall and held it up as a shield. One brandished, but didn't use, a "shiv," a crude jailhouse knife. Meanwhile, the two men yelled for other inmates to join in the uprising. Soon, at 12:45 p.m., a lockdown order went out across the prison. Staff tried to hustle prisoners on their way to lunch or the recreation center back to their cells. Inmates in one of the housing areas refused, and they forced the guards to release friends from their cells. "Open the doors or we will take your keys," the prisoners demanded, according to an FBI account. "We'll see who has control in a bit," one inmate told a guard.

The prison's emergency-response team deployed an arsenal including rubber bullets, pepper spray, expulsion grenades and bean-bag guns. To little avail. The insurrection quickly spread to the other housing areas.

The rioters assembled in the outdoor recreation yard armed with rocks, concrete, and steel poles as well as horseshoes, hammers and box cutters they had pilfered from the recreation building. Many of them, aware of the prison's extensive surveillance system, hid their faces with T-shirts, hats and bandanas. Some wore sunglasses.

Two prison employees were taken hostage. (Neither was harmed.) With more than 1,200 inmates milling around outside and hordes of law enforcement officials, the prison must have looked like a war zone.

It was not mere anarchy, though.

By midafternoon, members of the FBI, Texas Rangers, DPS and the Odessa Police Department arrived at the prison. As the crisis negotiators quickly found out, the riot had not been prompted by gang infighting, racial tensions or a spontaneous outburst of violence. The men incarcerated at the Pecos prison are considered "low-security"; most are serving relatively short sentences for immigration violations or drug offenses. All are set to be deported at the end of their sentences.

Leaders of the rebellion were demanding a meeting with the Mexican Consulate, the FBI and the warden to discuss a number of grievances that they said GEO Group, the prison company that manages the 3,700-bed facility, had refused to address.

The evening of the uprising, the inmates sent a delegation of seven men—a Venezuelan, a Cuban, a Nigerian, and four Mexicans—to meet with the authorities.

They explained that the uprising had erupted from widespread dissatisfaction with almost every aspect of the prison: inedible food, a dearth of legal resources, the use of solitary confinement to punish people who complained about their medical treatment, overcrowding and, above all, poor health care.

The delegates pointed to a string of deaths (according to public records, five men died in Reeves between August 2008 and March 2009, including two suicides) they attributed to the prison's inattention to medical

The riot had been sparked by the death of Jesus Manuel Galindo, an epileptic, who had been carried out of the prison's Special Housing Unit in a body bag that same day. "Suspect(s) are talking about the guy being out of the shoe [SHU]," the Odessa Police Department report said. "Someone should have been there with him. Special housing was not the place for [him]." The authorities jotted down the concerns and promised to take them seriously.

Twenty-four hours after it began, the uprising was over. More than \$1 million worth of damage had been done to the prison.

Less than two months later, on Jan. 31, the prison would be under inmate control again—and this time the rioting would last for five days and end with one building destroyed and some \$20 million in damage.

To critics of GEO and other for-profit prison companies, the two huge riots in as many months—rare, especially in low-security prisons—were the logical consequence of the largest experiment in prison privatization to date. The story of the death of Jesus Manuel Galindo is the story of a death foretold.

For weeks, Galindo, a 32-year-old epileptic Mexican citizen who had lived in the United States since he was 13, had been complaining to anyone who would listen that something terrible was going to happen to him because of poor medical care.

In May 2007, Galindo was found illegally crossing the border in El Paso. Galindo, nicknamed "Negro" for his dark complexion, was sentenced later that year to 30 months for illegal re-entry.

Ten years ago, he would likely have been quickly deported, not prosecuted. But the Bush administration piloted a "zero-tolerance" policy in Texas that eventually spread across the border: All illegal border crossers would be arrested, detained and, if possible, prosecuted in federal court.

Prosecutions surged, as did the need for detention centers, jails and prisons to hold the tens of thousands of newly minted criminals



Jesus Galindo, died in solitary confinement

The Obama administration has more than embraced the policy. The number of prosecutions for immigration crimes—almost 68,000—during the first nine months of 2009 is on track for a 14 percent increase over 2008. More than half of those prosecutions took place in Texas.

The result has been a system swamped with low-level immigration cases and prisons bursting at the seams with illegal immigrants.

Rather than build and run the facilities themselves, federal agencies have turned in large part to private prison companies, such as Corrections Corporation of America and GEO Group. In 2008, GEO reported more than \$1 billion in revenue, an 80 percent increase over 2005.

Privatization has been less profitable for others. GEO's Texas facilities have been plagued with suicides, filthy conditions, sexual abuse scandals, hunger strikes, riots and lawsuits.

Jesus Galindo became another case in point. According to his family, Galindo had had seizures before his incarceration but they grew worse and more frequent under the care of the Physicians Network Association, a Lubbock-based medical services provider that serves 17,000 inmates in 24 facilities across the nation. In 2002, Reeves County hired PNA to run the prison's health care, attracted by its promise to improve services and cut costs.

(The county pays PNA \$6.03 per inmate per day, about \$8 million a year at full capacity.) Jesus Galindo became another case in point. According to his family, Galindo had had seizures before his incarceration but they grew worse and more frequent under the care of the Physicians Network Association, a Lubbock-based medical services provider that serves 17,000 inmates in 24 facilities across the nation. In 2002, Reeves County hired PNA to run the prison's health care, attracted by its promise to improve services and cut costs. (The county pays PNA \$6.03 per inmate per day, about \$8 million a year at full capacity.)

Four months into their contract, then-warden Rudy Franco lauded PNA at a county commissioners meeting for drastically reducing the number of surgeries, X-rays, outside visits and other medical services, the latter of which had dropped from 3,148 to 222.

On Nov. 12, Galindo was locked up in the Special Housing Unit. The mostly Spanish-speaking inmates call it la celda de castigo, the punishment cell. Prisoners and others say the SHU was frequently used to isolate and punish men with health problems who complained about their medical care.

According to Galindo's family, the prison authorities said they put him in the SHU to keep an eye on him. "That's not true," says Jesus Galindo Sr., his father. "It was to punish him."

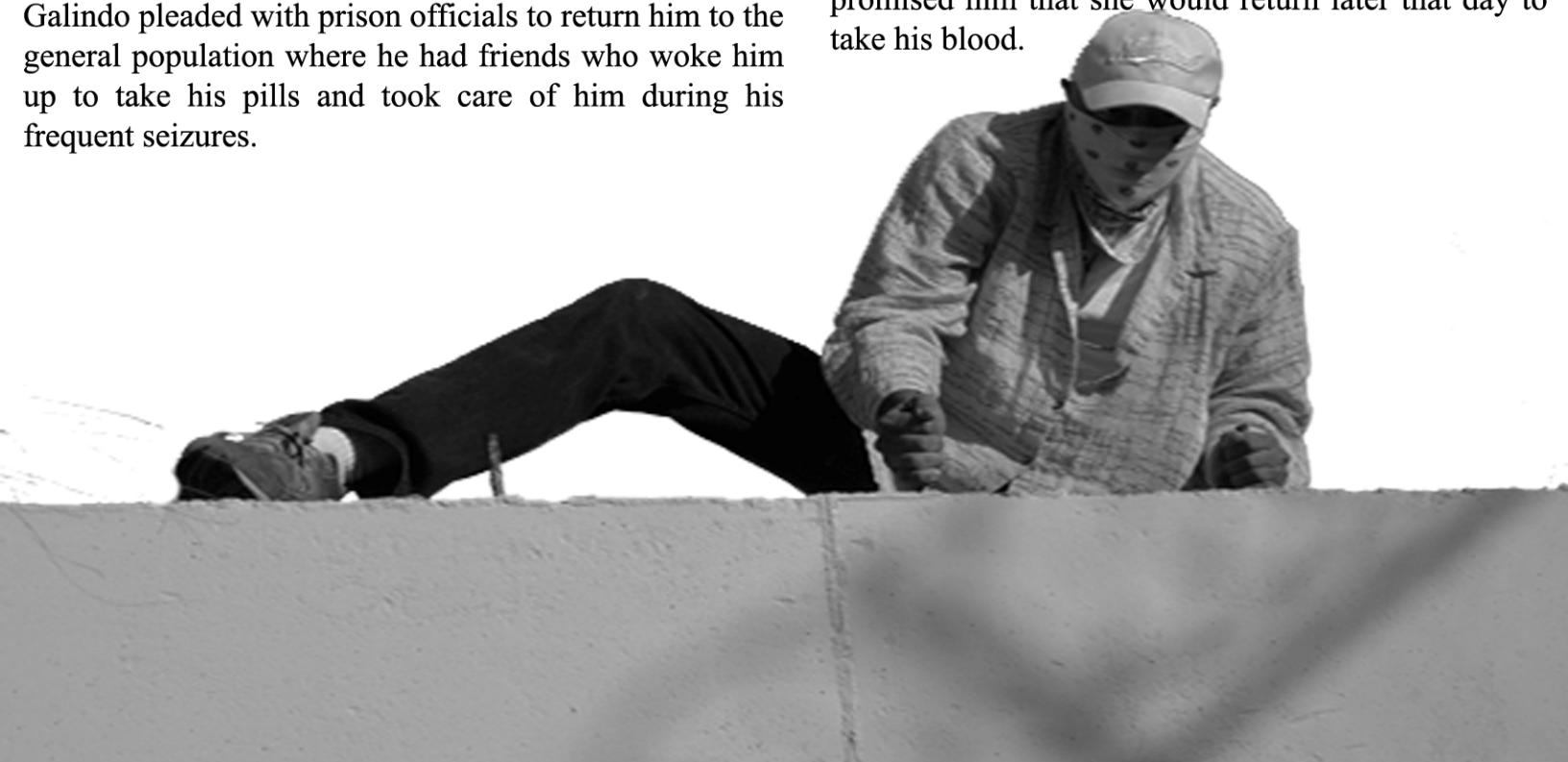
Galindo pleaded with prison officials to return him to the general population where he had friends who woke him up to take his pills and took care of him during his frequent seizures.

"He would say he was really afraid because if he got sick who was going to help him?" says his mother, Graciela Galindo. She begged officials to look after her son. "They told me he was in a high security place; that was what the warden said, and that I should not worry about him. They told me they were taking good care of my son."

Galindo did what he could to reassure his family, singing love songs to his mother over the phone. "He had hope," his brother Jesus Galindo Jr. said. "He was real strong. The only thing that bothered him was his condition. I saw him on his birthday [Nov. 29]. I said, 'Hey, hang in there. Think of us like we think of you.'" Judy Madewell, the public defender in charge of Galindo's criminal case was so worried that she sent an investigator to the prison on Dec. 4. The investigator, Octavio Vasquez, urged the authorities to put Galindo back into the general population.

On Dec. 9, Graciela talked to her son on the phone. "He told me to tell Belinda [his daughter] to do a dance to the Virgin because he's getting out of the SHU on Friday [Dec. 12] ... and that if he wasn't, to contact the jail."

The following day, Dec. 10, Galindo wrote a letter to his family saying that he felt bad and had asked the doctor and warden to do something. The letter begins in the morning, with Galindo noting that a nurse had promised him that she would return later that day to take his blood.



Two days later, on Dec. 12, Graciela called to see if her son had been released from the SHU. “I called and to my surprise he was dead. They kept me on the phone for an hour. They said we have to wait for the doctors. I told them please do something. But my son was already dead.”

“Mama, the day already passed and nothing,” he writes later that same day. “All they did was walk up and down but here, where I am, no one even stopped. We’ll see what happens tomorrow.”

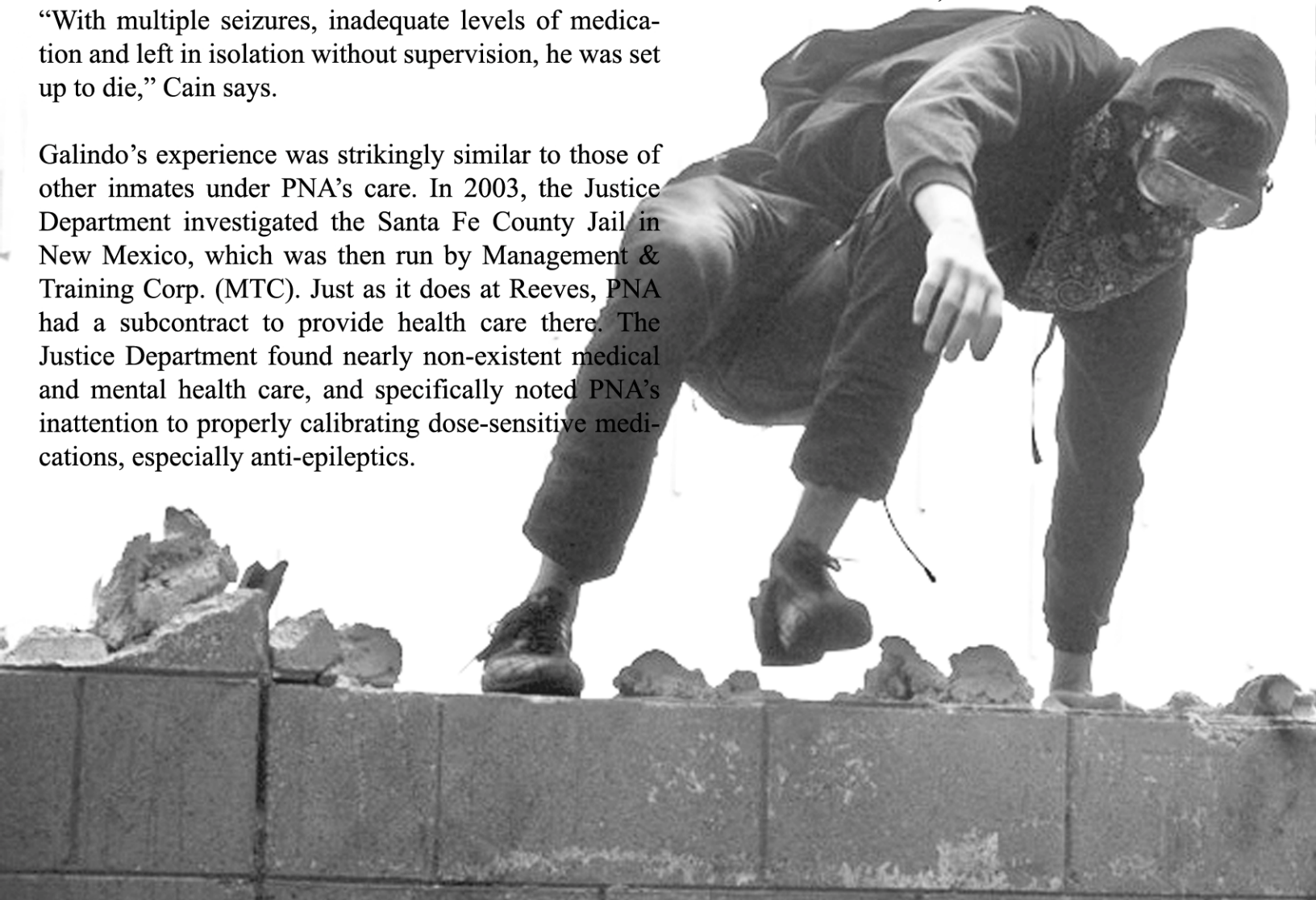
When Galindo was found in his cell, rigor mortis had already set in. His body was purple and stiff. The El Paso County medical examiner ruled the cause of death as epileptiform seizure disorder. A toxicology report found “below-therapeutic levels” of Dilantin, a cheap anti-epileptic drug, in Galindo’s blood and urine. The drug is only effective at certain dosages, and a patient’s blood must be checked regularly to make sure it’s not too high or low, says Robert Cain, an Austin neurologist who reviewed the autopsy.

“With multiple seizures, inadequate levels of medication and left in isolation without supervision, he was set up to die,” Cain says.

Galindo’s experience was strikingly similar to those of other inmates under PNA’s care. In 2003, the Justice Department investigated the Santa Fe County Jail in New Mexico, which was then run by Management & Training Corp. (MTC). Just as it does at Reeves, PNA had a subcontract to provide health care there. The Justice Department found nearly non-existent medical and mental health care, and specifically noted PNA’s inattention to properly calibrating dose-sensitive medications, especially anti-epileptics.

“We found several instances in which PNA failed to monitor inmates on these types of medications, even when inmates reported experiencing side effects,” the report states. In one case, blood testing showed that an inmate with a seizure disorder did not have enough of the anti-seizure drug to be effective. The PNA medical staff did nothing, and seven days later the inmate attempted suicide and then suffered a seizure. “Even with all the attention from medical staff due to his suicide attempt, his seizure medication blood level was not measured until four days” later, the report says.

No such authoritative report has been done for the Pecos prison. But in interviews and correspondence, prisoners, their relatives, attorneys and immigrant rights advocates describe a facility overrun with corruption and dangerous cost-cutting measures. Prisoners writing to the Observer have made allegations ranging from physical abuse to tacit arrangements between guards and prisoners to traffic drugs and other contraband inside the facility. (GEO Group declined to comment.)



A prisoner we'll call Juan, who asked that his real name not be used for fear of retribution, describes an environment of fear where hardened criminals serving long sentences live side by side with men who are there solely for crossing the border illegally. Juan says that prisoners in the jail are divided into groups based on their home state in Mexico with the tacit approval of the guards and the warden.

Prisoners who have money and can buy influence and authority run these groups. These bosses dole out punishments and determine with the guards who gets sent to the punishment cell, Juan says. "We are threatened and beaten if we complain. While [the prison bosses] can have cell phones and other benefits that are forbidden."

Another prisoner, Jose—who also asked that his name be changed—writes that he has hepatitis. "I begged for medicine and they sent me a bottle that was unsealed and only half full," Jose writes. "I haven't received treatment for my hepatitis since December 2008."

"The problem with Reeves is that there are no medical services," says Graciela Arredondo, the mother of a man who served part of After the riots in December and January, the ACLU of Texas called on the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General to investigate the prisoners' charges. This wouldn't be the first time the OIG was asked to look into reports of abuse at the Reeves facility.

In 2006, an investigation resulted in the arrests of five employees at the jail for smuggling drugs into the facility and having sex with inmates. Because it hasn't received an answer from the OIG, the ACLU is starting its own investigation.

"Riots are relatively rare, and are an indicator of serious problems at a facility," says Lisa Graybill, legal director for the ACLU of Texas. "We continue to receive complaints that the Bureau of Prisons and its contractors, GEO and Physicians Network Association, are systematically failing to address life-threatening and chronic medical conditions of detainees."his sentence at Reeves.

"They won't bring a doctor if you are sick. They don't want to spend the money, but these are human beings and they deserve medical services."

None of this is surprising to longtime prison activist Bob Libal, co-coordinator of Grassroots Leadership, an Austin nonprofit that fights private prisons. "Conditions at GEO facilities have been horrendous, and it stretches across every type of facility," says Libal. "It's case after case after case. Whether Coke County, Val Verde, Dickens County, Reeves, Pearsall, it's one horrendous thing after another."

In 2007, the Texas Youth Commission removed 197 youths from GEO Group's Coke County Juvenile Justice Center after inspectors found deplorable conditions including filthy cells that reeked of feces and urine, insects in the food, and inmates only being allowed to shower and brush their teeth every few days.

A year before, the family of 23-year-old LeTisha Tapia sued GEO Group after Tapia killed herself at the Val Verde County Jail, which the company runs. **Tapia had told her family that she was raped, beaten, sexually humiliated and deprived of psychological and medical treatment in retaliation for telling the warden about guards allowing inmates to have sex with each other. The suit was settled out of court.**

In the past two years, the state of Idaho has pulled out of contracts at two GEO-operated jails—the Dickens County Correctional Center, near Spur, and the Bill Clayton Detention Center in Littleton—citing chronic understaffing, a lack of required treatment programs, and suicides linked to squalid conditions.

In a lawsuit set to go to trial in March, two detainees at the GEO-run South Texas Detention Complex in Pearsall claim that the company "intentionally and systematically violates the rights of mentally disabled detainees." Echoing the Reeves County allegations, both of the plaintiffs, Miroslava Rodriguez-Grava and Isaias Vasques Cisneros de Jesus, allege that instead of treating them for their mental disabilities, GEO put them in segregation for extended periods of time.

"I think that any time you insert profit into the equation that care and also the rehabilitative elements of corrections goes out the window," said Libal. "They try to do things as cheap as possible. You get what you're paying for in a lot of ways."

The Pecos prison, a remote, austere correctional campus flanked by farmland and a weirdly out-of-place cemetery, sprawls across several acres a few hundred yards from Interstate 30. To travelers zipping by at 80 mph, the facility is little more than a blur of barbed wire and guard towers. But to the people of Reeves County (population 13,137), it's an engine of progress.

In the mid-1980s, with the regional economy devastated by the Texas oil bust, local business and government leaders decided to move into a recession-proof industry that was exploding in an increasingly criminalized America: prisons. In 1986, the county built a 300-bed prison. The prison filled rapidly with federal inmates, pumping revenue into the county's budget and adding decent-paying jobs to the local work force. By 2002, Reeves had 2,000 beds. In 2003, the county completed construction on a \$39 million, 960-bed unit only to find that the feds had no interest.

"They built a \$39 million prison on speculation," said Jon Fulbright, a reporter for the Pecos Enterprise. While the prison sat empty, payments on the bonds, reduced to junk status, were coming due. On the verge of default, county officials begged the Bush administration to send prisoners and hired Randy DeLay, former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's brother, to lobby in Washington, D.C. That's when Wackenhut Corrections Corp., now GEO Group, rode to the rescue. In November 2003, GEO agreed to take over management of the whole 3,000-bed prison complex and soon struck a deal with the Bureau of Prisons to fill the new unit.

Despite the troubles at the Pecos prison under GEO management, local officials are grateful.

"A lot of people criticize GEO but I don't," says Sheriff Arnulfo "Andy" Gomez. "We had a hard time and they pulled us out. They've got lobbyists and all that." Besides, he says, "You're going to have trouble in every prison."

Some more than others. On Jan. 31, a month and a half after the first uprising, prisoners at the Reeves County Detention Center rose up again. Prison and law enforcement officials have released little information on the disturbance, but inmates, advocates and family members say it began when Ramon Garcia, 25, was forced into solitary confinement after complaining of dizziness and feeling sick.

"We spoke with the warden and we told him to take our countryman out of the punishment cell and take him to the hospital because he needs medical attention," an inmate told Laura Rivas, an advocate with the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. "We told them that if they were not going to do it then we would do it, we would take him out, because we have more strength, and they laughed at us. And that's when it all started."

Lana Williams, a friend of Garcia's family, told KFOX-TV in El Paso that Garcia had been put into solitary confinement whenever he complained of feeling sick. "He's gotten to the point where he can't walk down the hall without holding on to the wall, and this has been going on and getting progressively worse," Williams said. During the five-day takeover, the inmates drafted another list of demands: better medical treatment, adequate food (especially for those who are ill or have diabetes) and no guard retaliation against any person. "To them, we don't matter," the inmate told Rivas. "If we die, it doesn't matter to them. The only thing that interests them is money—nothing more."



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Of Occupations and Escalations//The UC Update

“We heard on the news that the University campuses were occupied, what was that all about?”

Updates are sometimes depressing and sometimes inspiring, this one is both. The UC protests that were organized for November 17th-19th went really, really well.

One thing that we must say is that we don't really support just protesting. The attempt to have a conversation with power is often fruitless. Voices can be heard but rarely ever listened to. We don't see the value in simply asking those in power to give our demands some consideration, we understand that their interests are different than ours.

With that said, these actions did go well. For the first time since the 60's we saw occupations occur. UC Santa Cruz was the first to fall to occupation. Hundreds of students rushed and occupied Kerr Hall, one of the main buildings on campus. They were enraged by the newly instituted 32% fee hike that would make a college education unattainable for many students who already find themselves in complete debt.

Another inspiration for occupation was the disrespectful layoffs that ended in the firing of UC service workers such as custodians and other working class people.

A list of demands surfaced that demanded that, among other things, that the 15% labor cut of custodians be repealed, and that the laying off of employees stop immediately. They also demanded that the UC should not help Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrest or detain any students with or without documentation.

This expression of solidarity is a huge breath of fresh air to the working class movements of California.

The occupation ended on Sunday after 70 riot police gained entry into the hall. After the cops told the over 100 occupiers to leave one by one and be arrested the occupiers told the cops that they weren't going to do that. Instead the occupiers took advantage of a rear door and exited without being detained or arrested, all the while chanting “We'll be back.”

Rather than facing symbolic arrest they chose to keep their would be bail money and current freedom to further the struggle.

We are finally seeing students and workers organizing themselves into a social force.



again and again and again and again and again and

One comrade of ours, Doug G. was arrested at a nearby restaurant for having a weapon on school grounds and inciting a riot. The charges have not been dropped and no weapon was ever produced. Doug was also arrested off of school grounds, so the implication that he did have a weapon is ridiculous.

Students occupied Wheeler Hall, one of the main building, and talked to people outside via a megaphone. After a whole day the riot police gained entry and cited and released all of the occupiers. While the police were attempting to break-down the door it is reported that they were yelling vulgar threats of what they would do to people when they got inside.

The days following saw a storming of the UC headquarters in Oakland and various rallies.

The UCLA occupation saw demonstrators recognizing the role that police play and throwing bottles and rocks at them.

Out of this new movement has come some really good communications from students and workers and all of them can be read at:

<http://occupyca.wordpress.com>

Especially recommended is Communique From An Absent Future which can be found at:

<http://wewanteverything.wordpress.com>



With this tension now about to explode it is important that we express solidarity with those involved. It has been circulating that, especially at UCLA, students who would make themselves career politicians largely thwarted many efforts. At UCLA one group of such people linked arms and stopped a group of people from storming the meeting where the fee hikes were being voted on, making those who stopped them no better than the police.

We are at a wonderful crossroads, workers and students working together in solidarity. As working class people it is important for us to continue to push and support the push of these tensions because from them comes the opportunity for us to combat the social order and to

begin to take back what we will.



"We work and we borrow in order to work and to borrow. And the jobs we work toward are the jobs we already have. Close to three quarters of students work while in school, many full-time; for most, the level of employment we obtain while students is the same that awaits after graduation. Meanwhile, what we acquire isn't education; it's debt. We work to make money we have already spent, and our future labor has already been sold on the worst market around."

Communique From An Absent Future

One Last Transmission: Thanks For Reading

Our positions may seem extreme to some, but we live in an extreme situation. There was once a time when unions weren't just another company trying to take the product of your labor away from you. They used to be strong workers councils, where people had equal say. Nowadays the union will rob you as quickly as the bosses.

We are in a new age, where the working class lies mostly in the service industry. Often times a 19 year old will work a service job along several coworkers who have bachelor degrees, middle aged mothers trying to make enough to pay their families mortgage and other ex professionals who are so distraught that they don't really know how they ended up working there.

Today, the assembly line is the cash register, the steel mill is the dish sink and our exploitation has transformed.

We are made to feel as if our line of semi skilled, minimum wage work dictates whether or not we can complain.

“Why are you complaining? You make coffee all day.”

“You don't have it too bad you just wait tables, plus you get tips.”

We even convince ourselves.

“Hey man, at least we have jobs.”

Because at the end of the day we can still just pull out our iphones, where we can download an application for everything, everything but the ability to create our own lives.

The commonly repeated line of this country is that if you work hard you will succeed. Education is known as the key to success, the escape from the ghetto. Now we must face the reality. The UC system has just raised the cost of tuition by 32%, 160% since 2001, and yet they still want us to work towards degrees that increasingly mean less and less. Those in college put themselves into debt in hopes that their employment afterwards will pay off the loans, but now we face a dismal job market, failing economies and continual crisis.

We are told that this is the Crisis. Since the 1970's every economic improvement has not been by a stable increase in markets, it has merely used the crutch of market bubbles. The dot com bubble that collapsed and turned into the real estate bubble, any recovery from now will likely be only through another bubble.

So this isn't the Crisis, the existence of this whole economy is one crisis that we are forced to live in. A game, where the refusal to play lands you locked up, because the worst thing you could do is to make a scene and have other people realize that they too are being forced to play.

These rigid lines of society are held in place by the power of the state, the police. As we said in our article about the Contra Costa County Sheriffs Shooting (pg. 3), the police cannot be just, simply because the state is not just. They are simply tools of the state, used to enforce their laws.

How many of us really feel marijuana should be illegal? Or that immigrants should be torn from their families and deported.

These aren't OUR laws, they are THEIR laws, THEIR policies.

We all know the need to rid our neighborhoods of crooked cops, but we say go farther. Our communities NEED to be ran by those who live in them.

We must build the ability to question all authority, and if that authority can not justify it's own existence, then it must be abolished. And our position is that no authority can justify it's existence.

This is something we hope that you will explore and recognize as well.

Whether this is your first time picking up our magazine, or if you have seen our stuff before, now is the time to begin to question authority.

Until next time, readers, keep fighting and we hope that each day brings something closer to our own empowerment.

-The Antioch Arrow

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