

# IGNITE!

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## 2011: LOCAL RADICALS FIGHT COPS, OCCUPY, SQUAT, AND BUILD RESISTANCE.

by Ignite! Collective

**I**N 2011, Denver saw a significant rise in activity from a variety of social movements. New groups were born and new campaigns started. People fought heavy losses and celebrated many victories. There hasn't been this many people, both in how often and the volume, in the streets since 2008's Democratic National Convention. Being that this is the last month of the year and that Ignite! has been in publication only since September, it is fitting that we use this time and space to take in the actions and movements that made impacts through radical direct action.

First and foremost is without a doubt the anti-police terror movement building momentum since the summer of 2010. The reason it should be talked about first is not simply chronological, but also because of success and persistence. 2011 in Denver began with a rising of the bar. January saw a demonstration called in succession

of a confrontational and inspiring October 22nd international day of anti-police brutality protest, something that hadn't been seen in Denver for years, if ever. Due to a rash of police misconduct and brutality cases during the year, the march attracted several hundred rowdy, angry demonstrators that took to the streets. Police were attacked outside of the city's detention center and challenged for most of the night, barricades were erected across the city, and the 16th Street Mall was torn up and covered in graffiti during the running skirmishes. Only one arrest was reported, and that person was released the following day without charges.

After and proceeding that demonstration, forums and circles concerning the nature of policing and the role they play in society were organized. Articles were written. Flyers and posters made their way around the city. On May 6th, another demonstration took place. This

time around, the local resistance saw increased repression. Homeless youth, many of whom had made a substantial presence at past actions, were harassed and threatened with arrest in the days leading up to the protest. This led to many staying away from the demo. During the march, which relied heavily on black bloc tactics, riot cops were deployed on stand-by and multiple police helicopters were deployed. Fighters threw things in the street, placed thousands of stickers, engaged in graffiti, and scuffled with police on several occasions. During the dispersal, a firework was allegedly thrown at police and a person at the protest was arrested. Later identified as 20 year old Amelia Nicol, she was charged with a slew of crimes including attempted murder of police officers, inciting a riot, and arson, among others, all amounting to more than 100 years in prison.

The Denver Anarchist Black Cross, <<<cont. on pg. 2

# YEAR IN REVIEW:

*cont. from pg. 1>>>* a staple of the anti-police marches for their providing of legal support for the demonstrators, immediately engaged a campaign to get the charges dropped and to get Nicol out of jail. Rallies, fundraisers, press conferences, and court solidarity were mobilized. Posters were made and put around town. Several banner drops were made in solidarity with Nicol's case by autonomous individuals claiming their actions on the internet. The case made international news in the anarchist media. Eventually by September, Nicol saw all of her charges dropped after a series of deescalating actions on behalf of the prosecution over the course of several months. It is important to note that Nicol refused all plea bargains and other negotiations with the State, and also refused to be bonded out before the attempted murder charges were dropped and bond was lowered tenfold.

By the end of June, a zine, *Denver Fights Back*, was circulating in the area documenting the various actions against police in the metro area. Another protest was called for July 9th, the year anniversary of the murder of jailed homeless street preacher Marvin Booker, a man whose case largely sparked the level of militancy and urgency put on display by the demonstrators. A small black bloc formed within a crowd of 150 protesters during the afternoon, and police made a rough arrest against a demonstrator they accused of putting up stickers with Marvin's portrait on them, a common practice during previous marches. The black bloc locked arms, shoving, screaming and spitting at police. Shortly after the incident, police grabbed another protester who broke away and was embraced by members of the bloc. Several police attacked and after a scuffle seeing wild punches and kicks, two more protesters were in custody and several police walked away with split lips and bruises. All three arrested that day eventually saw their cases dissolve into petty

municipal charges no more serious than jaywalking tickets by October.

It is important not to forget the clandestine side that this movement has sometimes chosen to take. The actions that followed would, by the characteristic of most of the marches, would not be denounced by most who have participated in the mini-riots and rowdy demos taken to avenge the police's victims and challenge a corrupt and brutal police department. At the end of July, to mark a called international day against fascism and racism, autonomous individuals claimed the vandalizing and disabling of more than 150 city parking meters, which by research cited in the communiqué posted to Colorado Indymedia would mean that they did tens of thousands in damages. The action was claimed as retaliation for the death of Alonzo Ashley at the Denver Zoo earlier in the summer at the hands of Denver Cops, and made a reference to how protesters against the cops spent more time in jail than cops who had actually been violent towards other people. A police car was also attacked in early August in solidarity with the anti-police/youth uprisings in London that were smoldering at the time according to another communiqué posted to Indymedia.

By October, the movement was prepared for another round against the police after seeing their open court cases wrapped up and watching the continued violence from the police, this time directed at dissidents holed up at the Occupy Denver encampment. Another O22 demonstration was called for, weeks before Occupy had begun, and it kicked off at the Denver Zoo, where Alonzo Ashley was killed months earlier. Once again, a militant characteristic had permeated a largely non-radical crowd, and police and capitalist property were challenged (again). Bank windows were smashed, cops were threatened and physically challenged, trash cans may have been set on fire, and the black bloc showed improved tactics and better numbers than ever. One was arrested for allegedly putting up stickers. More on the O22 demo in *Ignite! #3*.

Along with the Denver Anarchist

Black Cross's support of the anti-police movement, they were also responsible for several of their own actions this year. Solidarity protests in support of the Georgia Prisoner Strike and the Oscar Grant demos in Oakland were characteristics of ABC's work in 2010, and in 2011 they organized pickets, some of which were very confrontational, in support of women suing the corrections department for sexual harassment and assault. Two protests occurred, and prisoners were reportedly banging on their windows and raising fists to the protesters. Members of ABC also rallied in support of the California Prisoner Hunger Strike, both in July and in the fall. A widely attended 5K run took place in the summer, raising several hundred dollars.



The group also hosted a raucous, well attended 3rd annual Martyr's Ball, a fundraiser that has become a crucial financial marker for the collective. It is likely the collective will publish a report detailing other less publicized accomplishments and campaigns before 2012 is here.

Local radicals didn't stop with their efforts against the police and prisons, however. They kept with efforts maintaining the 27 Social Centre, a radical community center housing a worker-owned and operated print shop, Sentimental Studios (radically-minded art therapy for at-risk youth), the Denver Zine library, Build Up Books, a housing collective and office and meeting space for various groups including the Denver Anarchist Black Cross.

When a satellite protest supporting the Occupy Wall Street protests in New York sprang up, anarchists and other radical groups attended, facilitated and taught how to conduct the first general assembly. Despite hot debates about responses to police violence, rampant patriarchy and other glaring <<<*cont. pg 3*

# REVIEW:

*cont. from pg. 2>>>* of privilege and threats to various members of the local anarchist community, anarchists have maintained a significant presence since the onset of the protest. Radical legal and prisoner support collective the Denver Anarchist Black Cross has maintained and staffed a 24/7 legal line, raised the only bail fund for the group, and coordinated court solidarity and bonding for nearly 100 arrested protesters to date.

The police state came out in full force against Occupy Denver. The encampment has been violently evicted several times, typically due to no force on behalf of the demonstrators. Chemical weapons and other “less-than-lethal” toys no doubt accrued from federal money given to the DPD for DNC protests have been deployed. A squat in Northwest Denver was violently raided the day after the O22 protest, and the occupants, homeless youth including previously arrested Amelia Nicol, had been participating in the Occupy protest. Nicol was hospitalized after the eviction. The four arrested during the raid were all charged with 2nd degree burglary, a class 3 felony. Again,

a clandestine element in town made itself known through retaliation. A group calling itself “The Terry Merrorista Brigade” took credit for attacking a cop shop and a bank during Denver’s first snow in October, claiming that it was revenge and a gesture of solidarity for the squat arrests and repression towards Occupy activists across the country.

During the several confrontations the Occupy Denver encampment has had with the police over the last month and a half, anarchists have been visible, many times rising above the upper middle class pleas for peace as the police crackdown with unparalleled violence; as they defended comrades and challenged the police physically. Many who may have denounced the tactics and arguments of seasoned local activists and militants months ago have found themselves backing those who defend themselves and attack police because of repressive and brutal tactics the cops have deployed against peaceful protesters.

Antifascists, largely seen as allies and members of anarchist movements across the world, made imprints in Denver as well. While one group, Queen City Antifa, issued communiqués from the streets

of the anti-police terror struggle, another, Rocky Mountain Antifa, concentrated on tracking down the information of local neo-Nazis and reporting on actions taken by local antifa in response to fascist incursions to Denver neighborhoods.

Local anarchist collectives have seen a huge spurt of interest by people outside of the usual crowd due to good messaging, frustration with other local efforts, and a record of accomplishments. The anarchist movement in Denver has taken root, established infrastructure and community, and dug into an offensive during 2011. No longer does it bubble beneath the surface, it now boils over to direct confrontation with the State, generalizing the struggle it begins amongst the general populous on a variety of fronts. It might not be safe to say that Denver is any kind of “hotbed” for radical activity, but the roots, support and infrastructure are certainly there. As capitalism and the State continues to wither in front of the American public, it’ll be interesting to observe whether or not the local anarchist movement begins to see more growth, strength, and success through 2012.



# OCCUPY COVERAGE

## (A)NOTHER OCCUPY REFLECTION

by Charlie John

THE “Occupy Movement” has grown quite rapidly across the country, and now part of the world. There is much discussion about tactics for its entirety, but even more so since the General Strike in Oakland. Many of these discussions and writings focus upon certain tactics and situations, involving black bloc, and more of street actions. What is needed is ideas and discussion on a larger scale, organizing. All actions that have occurred by “self proclaimed” as well as our actually (A) team have been the realization of a dream for some demographic not only of our own team, but in United Stateian society. Occupy Movements have helped show anarchists a great deal of our shortcomings in general, but specifically for dealing with this new strange brand of a movement. However they have also illuminated some of our greatest strengths.

Politics are a reality with these occupations as well as in many other social situations, it is not one of our strengths. Unfortunately these spaces and the General Assemblies that are replications of the government and society in general. This ranges from the bad, politics and political maneuvering being crucial for survival, to the worst, upholding patriarchal white supremest heteronormative class system with

a snitch culture in which yeup, ciswhitemen dominate. This has occurred not only here and Denver but elsewhere as well. The spaces are dominated by ciswhitemen from middle to upper middle class background, who silence and even threaten anyone from any other communities. In addition as has been seen nationwide, there are those who are willing to not only work with the police, but to give them information, going so far as to advocate DOXing as well as citizens arrest. Obviously these spaces are unsafe, yet it is someplace in which there should be some presence. This is a example of when those who do have more privilege, should be the ones on the grounds fighting to try to make it a safer space for other comrades. This is not to say that only certain people should go, but only people who are most comfortable should go and the others should stay the fuck away. That presence should do what it can to fight against these evils and do some politricking. Although our experience may lack a bit in politricking, we sure can argue and critique our fucking asses off, and many of us can be quite articulate, which combined with a little strategy, there you have it. We also have strong convictions that we meditate on quite a bit, and damn does that and

confidence look good.

Although further involvement and organizing could eventually lead to some more concrete action, what most of this Occupy is, and politricks in general, is the spectacle. Guess who is fabulous at creating spectacles... that’s right, our team. Through the drivel dravel of repetitive speeches interrupted with marching marching with no general purpose or action on days in which the institutions and targets are closed \*SNORING\* We need to make this shit fun, create liberated spaces whenever and wherever and however we can. Mobile dance parties, guerrilla theater, strange and innovative actions which are fun for participants and everyone else around who doesn’t totally suck, and glitter glitter everywhere. Through these spectacles we get to have a ton of fun as well as do meaningful actions that can make excellent memes. In addition to being excellent memes, these actions themselves help foster a space for our movement to grow while simultaneously combating burnout. Speaking of spectacles that can get people all hot and bothered, yeup property destruction and graffiti does that as well. Different strokes for different folks in different spaces and places of time

and mind. You’re all pretty smart you can figures out the best what, where, when, how, why for where you are at.

Mutual aid is the best strength we have, and that couple with propaganda of the deed can be pretty damn effective. Through playing important support roles, and doing them well, it becomes far harder for the nonviolent fundamentalist collaborators to make the “angry” and “aimless anarchist argument”. There are those that have been attracted to these occupations, that have some idea greater than the slogan of “change” are willing to use different tactics to get there, are drawn to the (A) team for their dedication, hard work, and actions. Though we have talked about politricks earlier, this in itself is not a political game, but an opportunity for our movement to grow. For a long fucking time we have discussed and debated, mass-debated over the world in which we wish to see, and we have made moves in order to get closer to that. Thus when the crisis that is called capitalism further deteriorates, and there are many looking for alternatives, we have some damn good ideas so lets put them into action.

Through all this we must place our <<<cont pg. 5

# OCCUPY COVERAGE

## OCCUPY REFLECTION: FUCK JOHN PIKE & FUCK WHITE SUPREMACIST OUTRAGE

*cont. from pg. 4*>>> our health, both mental and physical, and the safety of ourselves and each other above all else. This is so that we can sustain and always be ready for the fight around the next corner. We must also know strategic times and places to hold on even stronger to our values, not just for purity's sake, but for our collective sanity (for example when it makes way more sense to split off and make something like I dunno, liberate denver).

These are just some ideas, and as we learn from history, every situation has its own context and place, and there are repressive arms of that state that will use any means to discredit and destroy us and our movement if they truly become a threat. But all the more reason to try...we have fought for years for freedom, and continue to do so as the state continues to become more and more Orwellian, and while others just sit there and watch it happen, or worse help it along in its foul and putrid path, we have the means, we have the plans, to plant the seeds for a future more free and bright, one which will no doubt be imperfect, but a huge step in the right direction.

*"I am an anarchist. I don't negotiate with the pigs. Period." -Occupy Toronto demonstrator locked down in their tent during police eviction.*

by Fred Hatfield

**F**IRST off, before we get into the issue at hand, I would like to say two things. 1) Fuck The Police, 2) A.C.A.B. I am in no way a sympathizer or supporter of the police in anyway, however, recent events have helped to shed light upon the white supremacy- not only within the Occupy Movement, but other leftist social movements and the underlying culture of these movements overall. There is no need further evidence of such things for they are abundant, but from my position as a white cis-gendered male anarchist I find it critical to comment on recent events.

The date: 11/18/11; the place: UC Davis. A group of protesters were sitting and refusing to leave when Lieutenant John Pike came up and used pepper spray on those sitting down. These were students from a privileged university, and from all the footage that I have seen, the vast majority are white cis-gendered male youth. Now lets first talk about the actual incident with tactics and later discuss the aftermath.

During the initial



Repulsive pig John Pike peppersprays seated students at an "Occupy" protest at UC Davis.

pepperspraying, it is clear that the handful of protesters getting sprayed is surrounded by many other protesters and only a handful of pigs, not even in full riot gear. As their comrades are being sprayed again and again, does anyone do anything to try to stop the assault? Does anyone actually act? Well, there is one person dressed in all black who attempts to advance a couple of times and is pushed back by one cop. Other than that one person, all the others, in keeping in line with the new "nonviolence", (which is completely infested with the pathology of pacifism), just say non-confrontational

things, chanting the despicable "the whole world is watching" and "shame". Do those chants ever do anything? Have those chants ever stopped police brutality, chemical weapons, or arrests? No. It is simply a way that people who do not have the courage to actually stand up against levels of state oppression, feel like they at least tried to do something to resist the violent arm of the 1%.

There is nothing wrong with trying and failing, and there is never anything wrong with being scared, but there is something wrong with using masturbatory feel-good tactics that <<<cont. pg 6

# FUCK JOHN PIKE:

*cont. from pg. 5>>>* that are proven to fail time and time again. There are not examples of long term changes ever coming from trying to play on law enforcement agent's consciences. This is not a chiding of those involved in the protests at UC Davis, but rather an example of what is seen time and time again across the occupied land known as the United States. Until there is an evolution of tactics, protests here will continue to stay completely ineffective and without actual defense or offense (with the exception of some awesome shit anti-authoritarians as well as People of Color [POCs] have been doing for years).

Now more importantly, the aftermath of the UC Davis incident. Lt John Pike has become a meme that has gone global with dozens of photoshopped images, as well as Anonymous releasing his personal information, which has gone viral. Here is where the true issue at hand lays. This white university pig, who don't get me wrong definitely is a pig, pepper sprays a bunch of privileged kids who are taking part in "nonviolent civil disobedience", and because of his actions his face, picture, and info goes viral. On a daily basis in every hood in this country; youth, queers, and POCs get beat up and murdered because of who they are and/or the color of their skin, and nothing more. Let me repeat myself: EVERYDAY, for do-

ing NOTHING MORE THAN BEING THEMSELVES get BEAT and MURDERED. Is there nationwide outrage? Do murderous pigs personal info go viral? This happens very rarely, if ever. Why is this? The answer is white supremacy. It easy to see these innocent, privileged kids as just that, innocent. But for United Stateians, any person of color, as well as "sexual deviants", (those whose desires and love are out of line of the heteronormative protestant ideal) have been embedded in our psyche as guilty until proven innocent, as well as a threat to the core values and narratives of the status quo. The murder of Oscar Grant did make headlines and went around the internet, however, it did not go nearly as viral as the UC Davis incident. Nor did I ever see the personal information of those murderous pigs that killed Oscar Grant posted all over the internet and facebook by tons of people. Why? Cause its that little white power voice in the back of the white amerikan head; "well he is a black youth", "he coulda been in a gang", "probably had a weapon", "maybe had some drugs on him probably crack". That voice keeps playing and playing, louder in some heads than others.

Now the last thing I want is to cause more guilt, many white folks even remotely conscious of their privilege already have too damn much and that guilt does not aid in actual change. White guilt does not help one progress down the long evolution of anti-oppression work. It many times does nothing but hinder important steps. White guilt has a tendency

to manifest during discussions of white privilege, in which it becomes a depressing guilt party, instead of challenging white supremacy on deeper as well as wider levels. These challenges can help develop not only oneself, but new methods in fighting oppression, as opposed to feeling guilt and giving lip service. What we do need is recognize that white supremacy is inherent in the dominant culture, which seeps into all other sub and counter-cultures. Thus many of the movements, even well intentioned, foster modes of oppression they wish to destroy. We also must recognize the ways in which we contribute, even if unintentionally, to whitesupremacy, and find new exciting ways to challenge and break that shit down.

Am I saying that John Pike's info shouldn't be all over the internet? HELL NO! Put that shit up, and people can do whatever their armed desires wish. I am saying that he is not the most effective target, and that he is in this position because of white supremacy, and that there are many others whom are even more deserving of this sort of treatment. As white allies we must work in many different ways, so that we give the police terror and occupation occurring on this stolen land over the last five plus centuries, a higher level of attention and outrage than we give an incident wherein some kids at a fancy university get pepper sprayed. We will only accomplish this by calling out white supremacy in our history, movements, political actions, comrades and most importantly, in ourselves.

## RIDE FREE: DODGE LIGHTRAIL FARES

by Ignite! Contributor

**B**Y now, anyone who knows their history/reads Ignite/has been fucked over by local authorities/has a functioning soul knows that the city of Denver is run by a bunch of poor-hating, police state loving, corporate scumbags and always has been. Because of this, giving them any more money than you absolutely have to adds

up to a form of self (and community) abuse. They drain our money in the here and now, and then use that money to further harm us in the future. Boycotts aren't the most effective form of attack, but when refusing to pay your enemies results in getting their services for free, it's definitely worth your time. Yep, we're talking about riding the Light Rail for free.

### Basics

For those that never ride it, the basics. The Light Rail is run on an enforced honor system... that is, you are "expected" to buy a ticket on the machines but you don't have to get past anyone to get onboard (rumor has it that sweetened coffee down the coin slot can make them inoperable, but that's unconfirmed). <<<cont. pg. 7



Denver's LightRail: Significantly more comfortable when free to ride.

## Don't Pay!

# FARE DODGING:

*cont. from pg. 6>>>* The enforcement comes in three forms: uniformed, armed(!) security officers, uniformed DPD officers, and undercover cops. Since DPD has its hands full with other forms of oppression all over town, the RTD security guards are by far the most common, and the most identifiable. Most of the cops wear badges around their necks, however there is no surefire defense against fully undercover cops. If you are riding the Light Rail and undercovers come on board, do your best to get a picture and send it our way and we'll do our best to spread it in the future.

## Location

The number one trick to riding free is location. The best place to be sitting/standing on each car is at the front of the car, facing the rear so as to give you a good view of all people in the station as it pulls in. The best car to be in is the front car, for the same reason. If the front few seats are not available, the next best seats are the seats in the back end of the car (so that you can watch every new passenger as they get onboard). If you must sit in the center of the car, it helps to either have a buddy sitting in the seat opposite from you, each of you watching in the direction you're facing, or otherwise stand up and face in the direction of the doors. Seeing transit cops is not a guarantee that they'll board any car, let alone yours but be aware that they often board at the last moment before the train takes off. If they

can get on, you can still get off, and you probably should. It's always better to wait a few minutes for another train than to get ticketed. The most popular stops for security are the first and last stops of every line and the three stops that every train goes to (10th and Osage, Alameda, and Broadway). Nowhere is entirely safe but there are a number of stops I have never seen security at in years of riding for free. Always be alert, however.

## Time

There are a few surefire safe times to ride the rail: when it is most packed. Security will not board when the trains are most full of people. The best times for this are the morning rush INTO the city (around 7:30 to 9), the evening rush OUT of the city (around 4 to 6:30), and after and before sports games, parades and other huge events that bring lots of people in and out of downtown. The time is not the key as much as the number of people you see onboard but these hours tend to be the most prime periods of safety. The ticket-writers are most active during times when few people are on the train but the advantage to these times is that it's much easier to tell if cops are at a station, since only a few people will be there and you can look at everyone.

## Caught!

Though there are a lot of things you can do to help your odds of never being asked for fare, getting caught happens. The first time they catch you, they take your name and info and give you a warning, the second time they fine you \$50 dollars, and the third time they fine you a hundred and ban you from RTD property for a month

(totally unenforceable). There is one benefit though. They don't know you, or who you are. Have a fake name and address memorized and a nonexistent person will be ticketed instead of you. The security guards have no authority to search you for ID so what you tell them is all they have to go on. Real cops are another story, and lying to them is more serious so use your best judgement on whether that's something you're comfortable with. However, since fare evasion is rarely an arrestable offense (unless they've caught you several times) if you don't carry ID or stash it in your sock your true identity is unlikely to be discovered. Appealing to their sympathy is not likely to work (writing tickets is their career, after all, and they have quotas to meet) but there are many tricks that may help get you out of the situation otherwise. A popular technique is pretending to be an ignorant, out of town tourist, but use your imagination.

## Conclusion

Unreasonable transit charges are one of the most obvious taxes on the poor in our society. As a result, fare evasion has a long history in social struggle. The last century has seen mass refusals of passengers to pay, sabotage of ticket machine, strikes where drivers work, but let passengers on for free, and fare dodgers unions, where people pool low monthly dues which goes towards paying future tickets of those caught. These are all brilliant ideas but on a more here and now level, strategic transit theft is a great way to deny money to a terrible government AND get you where you want to go on its dime. Happy freeloading.

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# THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN!

by Chef Nightwalker

## **A reclaimed space! Why Should We Reclaim Public Space?**

Since the beginning of this country, domestic policy has been to take whatever we want. Native land, farms, national forest (for timber sales), and now even our homes. The bureau of land management

and the US forest service have declared themselves the owners and overseers of our public space. They have declared that it is their right to decide the appropriate use of our land. They deny us the right to have a say in the use and misuse of the land that they are managing. Even in our cities and neighborhoods the government de-

cides how unclaimed spaces are to be used and what vegetation, if any, can be grown. They grow useless plants like maple trees, grass, and shrubs that are not native to the environment, (waste a great deal of our resources are) inedible, and destroy the ground for future use for gardening.

## **Why Would They Do This?**

In a system of power and control, the most essential tool of oppression is to control the food supply. As far back to Egypt, the pharaoh's government collected all the food and then rationed out accordingly. In 1936 the Soviet Union, led by Stalin, instituted the black famine, where they stole the vegetables <<<<*cont. pg 8*

# ANTI-CAPITALIST CHRISTMAS: THE ELVES REVOLT!

## 12/17

Posted Anonymously to Colorado Indymedia

**H**ELLO all our dear elf friends! Tired of Santa getting all the profit from our handiwork?

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and some of us elves couldn't help but think that with all this Occupy business happening across the U.S., maybe it was high time we occupy something ourselves! Santa has commodified and profited from our jolly nature and nimble hands long enough. So, we invite all of you to join your elven friends and comrades on December 17th, 2011 at 3PM in Hungarian Freedom Park (Speer & Downing) where will we gather and then proceed to march directly to where Santa resides next to the beating heart of capitalism and consumerism.

We're elves right? So bring your holiday spirit, magic, and mischievous nature!

Our demands are simple: Elves desire everything for everyone. We desire liberation. We will stop at nothing to gain it.

Occupy Wall Street has captured the imagination of the humans for the last two months. There have been moments of inspiring victory, like the General Strike in Oakland, and then moments of gut wrenching repression, like the lethally armed eviction of the Occupy squat in

Chapel Hill. Victories and losses. Steps forwards and steps back. This is the nature of the social war for humans and elves alike. Our collective capacity to dream outside of our own alienation and commodification is awakening from a long slumber!

Capitalism is taking its dying breaths. These are the death rattles our fallen comrades dreamt of years ago.

There are some who refuse to awaken their humanity and instead choose to continue their participation in systems of oppression and state funded violence. Some of those people might be just a moment away from opening their eyes and waking from the nightmare that is the American dream. Others may be all too blinded by their addiction to the crisis and that which they can gain from it.

Elves and humans are not so different from one another, though those who hold us in subjugation would have us believe otherwise. Our differences are our strength! Regardless of whether you're a self-proclaimed anarchist elf or a human who voted for Obama and is feeling regretful, you are welcome here! Elves from the North Pole refuse to believe that elves from the South Pole are illegal and stand in solidarity with their migrant elven comrades! Those in power wish to divide

# GARDEN:

cont. from pg. 7>>> out of the Ukraine's gardens and told them that there was not enough food to go around. In 1840 England imposed a famine in Ireland. Now our own government, controlled by corporate interest, have once again cut off our food supplies, or our ability to grow our own. Unless you have some money and have your own private land, your little back yard garden (if you're lucky to have a backyard) will not support your family of four. At most you could provide no more than maybe two salads, and a couple of side dishes.

They do not want you to be self-sufficient; they want you to be dependent on them.

Here is how:

A majority of all food supply companies (Monsanto, Conag, United Fruit, etc), have had US military support to create their stronghold in the countries that they exploit, and additionally are subsidized by the US government.

Those companies mono crop the farms that they take over to produce a cash crop, leaving the soil stripped and useless. So once they leave, those farms are barren and the farmers are left with nothing.

Most areas are saturated with Multinational corporate chains that follow a US standard "fair" market price according to the profit margins of the

food supply companies (again the US government has a direct interest in the profit of those companies with no concern for the farmer)

Many poorer communities have no access to any form of a grocery store. Because of this, these communities are forced by lack of choice to eat food that leads to the health problems that burden poorer communities.

The only solution that they have offered is to join their Welfare program where you are allotted a certain amount of "food stamp money" in which the store will give you an "equal" amount of food for the amount of credit the government has given them in your name. Their Welfare program keeps communities complacent as it gives you just enough to survive but not enough to thrive and can be taken away from you at a moments notice.

As you can see the entire system is set up for you to have to struggle to receive from them, that what is rightfully yours.

The Solution?

**TAKE IT BACK!!** This is our city, our neighborhood, our lives! Imagine vacant lots turned into community gardens, useless trees replaced with fruit trees, free food. This dream is not long off. We don't need to be given permission to use public space to grow food and for that matter unused private land to grow food. It is time to take back our right to healthy food. Join YOUR local Reclaimed community garden.

us and segregate us from one another. They use false divisions like species, race, sexuality, gender, and others to dismantle our collective power. No more! We will break our own chains by dismantling the lies we've been fed our whole

lives. We will create a liberated world of equality. Join others in solidarity against capitalism. December 17th, 2011 at 3PM. Hungarian Freedom Park. Downing and Speer. Bring noise makers, jingle bells, banners, etc! Liberation is shared!



# GENTRIFICATION WITH A CLEAN CONSCIENCE

by Ignite! Contributor

**I**N cities like Denver, gentrification is one of the most blatant forms of class warfare waged by those with money and social standing against those with none. Through the orchestrated efforts of city governments, developers, bourgie businesses and police, once-affordable neighborhoods are bought up, prices are gradually racked up and sold to upper class urbanites wanting a hip hood and those originally living in them are forced out by the increase in the cost of survival. It's an old, old story and since this isn't *Slingshot* (ed. note: **much love**) we don't feel like wasting paper paraphrasing old news. What interests us is this. Gentrification may be a powerful weapon in any city, but it's still a bad word to most people. It may be the truly wealthy developers that make the most money off of gentrification but it requires the voluntary participation of thousands of people in order to actually happen. These are mainly people who either come from the middle class or have their sights set on joining it that are usually uncomfortable with the idea of breaking up the communities that already exist here.

They are usually the people who are actually comfortable in living in a neighborhood with a bad reputation, tend to be liberal and are often artists or bohemians or hipsters or whatever. Though they'll usually be afraid of crime and hostile to the culture of their new neighborhood, they still feel guilty (of course, they're liberals!) about being pawns in a moneymaking scheme of ethnic/class cleansing for some very square businessmen. Because of this they will all answer charges of gentrification with some kind of silly excuse: *this is just a natural process, places become cheaper and*

*more expensive and all over again. Before we came, this place had no art galleries or culture. When property values rise, it helps out homeowners and local businesses. I don't want anyone kicked out, but it's a complicated issue, etc.*

Of course the takeover of an area will happen no matter how guilty the liberal yuppie-wannabes feel about it, but more and more the most effective way to gentrify a neighborhood is to shield the process with "good intentions" and excuses.

The best example I can think of in Denver is the destruction of the housing projects on 10th and Osage. The city is spending millions (\$22 million at last counting) to demolish the buildings and then build new housing, galleries and businesses on the rubble. This move would be damn near impossible to justify to anyone if only excuse offered was that of profit and "renewal". But Denver is chock full of rationalizations. First of all, they say that it will be mixed income housing. The promise is that nobody will be pushed out and there will still be public housing units in what gets built. These promises are almost never kept, but even if they are, it's no justification for spending millions of dollars just to get more well off people into a neighborhood, and anyways as the neighborhood becomes more of a "funky" hotspot for middle and upper class people that already had homes to begin with, other prices of living become ramped up for the original population.

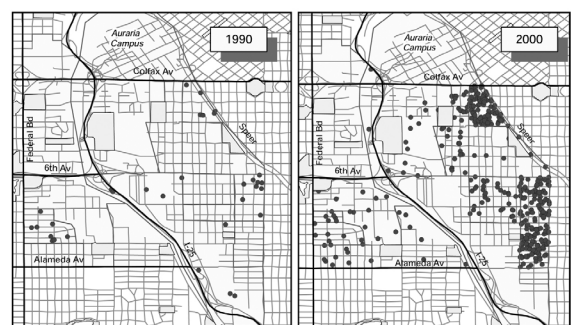
Second tactic is requiring that a certain amount of the new structures be green, feel good projects... for example a huge retirement home, offices for non profit organizations and charities, an open air

farmers market, and other things that aren't very PC to attack. The elderly, environmentalists, charities and activist organizations and art are all being used as a shield for a racist, classist and straight up jerky process, and except for the people bound for the retirement home (who don't have much of a choice), they don't seem to mind a bit. And finally, the whole situation is wrapped up in a giant, meaningless sham of an expression that the rulers of Denver are pushing very hard... *transit based housing*.

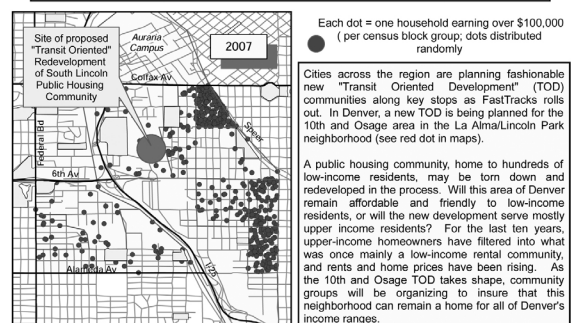
The idea doesn't make any sense, and there's no real explanation of what it means. The housing projects have been right next to the Light Rail all along, so there's nothing new about having houses along the tracks. What it seems to mean is that now people who

"actually matter" will live next to rapid transit, in a neighborhood that fits their tastes, instead of those dirty lazy fucks that used to. The total slap in the face to the original residents of Lincoln Park/La Alma is blatant as hell. The ironic thing is that the people currently living in the projects are much less likely to have and drive cars than the new arrivals, who may hop on the Rail to go to a Broncos game or go to a gala in the Tech Center but will drive everywhere else that the Light Rail doesn't serve rather than set foot on an RTD bus. The way the local government's been pushing transit based housing also shows their priorities for the future. As the Light Rail expands into the West Side and western suburbs, expect it to be used as a weapon of class <<<<*cont. pg 10*

Gentrification Pressures In Denver's La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood



"Developers, the city and nonprofits are all ogling Lincoln Park's prime location and vacant land near downtown." -- The Denver Post, 12/25/2006



Source: US Census. For complete sources, see online Atlas at www.fresc.org

# GENTRIFICATION

from pg. 9>>> war there as well

Gentrification may cloak itself in “good causes”, art, the environment, culture, local businesses, charity, safety, public transit or denial of the process altogether. It don’t mean a thing. The process is rooted in one idea and one idea only... that those who can afford to live anywhere deserve a certain spot of land more than those who live there out of necessity and have built communities and lives there across decades. It is an act of government backed and subsidized dehumanization and no cover can hide its true form for those it forces into migration.

The good effects of these new, planned projects are completely canceled out by the elitist force that makes it possible, and every aspect of the development must taken as part of the same whole and regarded as a tool of inequality and class oppression. The mayor and the developers don’t care if the volunteers of a non profit regard themselves as socialists, if an artist whose work is displayed in a gallery is an anarchist, or if some of the people they rent condos to come from poor backgrounds or would like to see the neighborhood keep its character. To them, every bit of their development is nothing but a tool for profit and power, for egalitarians and anti-authoritarians, it is nothing but another target.



The Penny Flats condo complex in Ft. Collins burns well into the next morning.

We don’t care who burned down the Penny Flats condos, even if Ben Gilmore is innocent. We’re glad someone, or nature, did it. Why? Because condos are seriously *the fucking worst*.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Penny Flats Condos Burn to Ground in \$10 Million Suspected Arson

A Ft. Collins “Occupy” activist was taken into custody November 4th after being accused of setting a fire that completely destroyed a condo complex on October 24th. Benjamin David Gilmore, 29, maintains his innocence and is being held on \$250,000 bond for felony arson and burglary charges. We used an image of the burning complex in our masthead this month.

## Occupy Denver Tanks More Arrests

November 13th saw a statement from the Denver Anarchist Black Cross circulate concerning arrests on the 12th. Many arrested folks are facing felonies:

“Last night, 21 more folks from Occupy Denver were arrested. Crowds were pepper sprayed, shot with pepper balls and rubber “less-lethal” rounds, and beaten with batons and fists. Street medics treated many injuries (yet again) and our legal observers reported many gross attacks on individuals, some not even affiliated with the demonstrations.”

An update on the “occupation” was unavailable at press time, but there are plans to attempt to shut down or protest a WalMart distribution center in Loveland, CO in coordination with the West Coast port shut down actions taking place on December 12th.

November 13th saw several felony arrests, when a police attack and trumped up arrest of police magnet Corey Donahughe (we’ve lost track of how many times he has been arrested in two months) initiated an admirable brawl between police and protesters.

## Arrested Squatter Updates

3 of the 4 arrested squatters from October’s suspiciously timed raid (more in Ignite! #3) have seen their felony 2nd degree burglary charges dropped to misdemeanor trespassing charges. Victor, recently freed from a later-filed concealed weapons charge, is back in the streets as is Sam. Jonathon Shepard, held since the raid, is still in jail due to a complicated legal history that has made it very hard for supporters to bail him out.

Amelia Nicol, arrested earlier this year for attempted murder of police officers, did not show up for court despite being bonded out by the Denver Anarchist Black Cross several weeks earlier. She presumably has a felony warrant out for her arrest.

## Denver Pigs Deny CO Street Medics Access to Protester Knocked Unconscious

A protester knocked unconscious by police during a raid on the local Occupy encampment on November 12th was denied medical treatment from the Colora-

do Street Medics by SWAT officers who refused to identify themselves. This person, who was lying unresponsive in the middle of median surrounded by heavy traffic, had unknown and potentially life threatening injuries. DPD should, as usual, all shoot themselves in their fucking heads.

## Former National Top Cop Arrested Trading Meth for Sex to Undercover, Locked in Jail Named After Him

Former Arapahoe County sheriff Pat Sullivan spent a number of days in the jail named after him after being caught attempting to trade meth to an undercover cop he believed was a prostitute. Delighting cop-haters all over the nation, Sullivan, 68, was being held on several felony charges and may be under investigation for the suspicious death of a man he bailed out of jail months ago. Initially booked on \$250,000 bond, it rose to \$500,000 and was eventually lowered to \$50,000, which was paid for Tuesday, December 6th.

## Denver Police Shoot Hammer Wielding “Attacker”

A man police say smashed a police cruiser window the afternoon of Sunday, December 4th was shot and hospitalized critically. James Bradley, 32, was characterized as “possibly suicidal” by police, and had a machete in a rental truck.

# NATION & WORLD

## **Two Incidents of Railway Sabotage in NW US Claimed by Anarchists**

Anarchists in Northern Washington and Southern Oregon claimed to actions of sabotage towards train lines. An excerpt from the communique from Oregon:

“On the night of November 28th, 2011, we sabotaged a rail line in Southern Oregon as part of a coordinated effort to disrupt the flow of commerce on the West Coast. We got tired of watching trains pass through our towns loaded with lumber, ore, cheap commodities, and other resources pillaged from the earth without consequence. We didn’t do this out of a desire to create a more green, sustainable or humane civilization—we want nothing less than to see the total failure of this sick and rotten society.”

Both communiqués expressed solidarity to various prisoners. Both incidents happened November 28th.

## **UK: Class Terror/FAI Torches Mayor and Councillor’s Cars**

Communique courtesy of Social Rupture:

“Geoff Gollop, Lord mayor of Bristol and Kevin Quartley, a Tory councillor had their cars torched outside their homes on November 7th.

This is the fire of the ghetto

delivered to their door and a taste of what the right wing filth deserve. When the people lose their fear, the capitalists panic.

Get your hands off the students and workers demonstrations.

We can strike you any time we wish.

Class Terror/FAI

FAI”

## **Accused Toronto G20 Conspirators Wrap Up Case, Some See Jail**

Guelph ABC reports:

“On November 22, 2011, six of our friends pled guilty to counselling charges for organizing to disrupt the Toronto G20 summit in June, 2010. Erik Lankin, Adam Lewis and Peter Hopperton began serving jail sentences of 3-5.5 months on November 28, 2011. Leah Henderson expects to be sentenced to 10 months on December 20, 2011. Mandy Hiscocks expects to be sentenced to 16 months on January 13. Alex Hundert expects to be sentenced to 13.5 months, date to begin TBA.”

## **Update on the Health of Chilean Comrade Luciano Tortuga**

Tortuga is an anarchist in Chile that was wounded in action on June 1st of this year when a bomb he was planting near a bank exploded prematurely. He is now recovering in a hospital and waiting to face State prosecutors for the attempted bombing. A health

update thanks to the translation efforts of War on Society:

“Tortuga’s state of health, within the irreversible consequences, is rather good. The treatment for his burns continues, consisting of using a special garment on much of his body to avoid the formation of scars on his skin, in addition to applying rosehip oil on his burns to help with the regeneration of his epidermis.

His vision has recovered considerably after a surgical intervention in which intraocular lenses were inserted in both eyes achieving the recovery of 60% visibility in one, being comparable to the vision of a 45-year-old person. The recovery of this sense was increasing, since he could read and within the next days began to use eyeglasses.

In his upper limbs, in replacement of his right hand he frequently uses a hook that allows him to perform daily functions. On Tuesday November 8, he was submitted to a surgery for one of the fingers of his left hand on which was placed a small piece of metal to replace one of his bones and thus gain more mobility.

Police custody of Luciano is continual, a civil cop follows him on foot the whole day wherever he goes, accompanied by other custodians in a car, as well as stationed outside his house 24 hours a day.”

## **Finland: Police Station Firebombed by Northern Chapter of the FAI**

Communique courtesy of 325: “We attacked the Kerava police station with fire on Sunday the 6th of November at 5 in the morning.

We threw six molotovs at the main entrance and at a separate entrance to the police parking garage.

However, we did not throw molotovs into the building because we did not want our action to bring harm to those possibly imprisoned at the station, knowing this course of action could have very well placed these people in mortal danger.

We want to take a stand against the oppression of nature, animals and life, the oppression that the police as the vanguards of the state enforce and maintain.

Organize, form affinity groups and take action!

Solidarity to all fighting for total liberation!

Solidarity to all who have been robbed of their freedom by the state!

Death to the state!

FAI – Informal Anarchist Federation – Northern chapter

FUCK THE POLICE!

# IGNITE! OP/EDS

Contribute by emailing us at [ignitedenver@riseup.net](mailto:ignitedenver@riseup.net). You can remain anonymous. We reserve the right to edit for space, grammar and content.

## With Dudes Like These, Who Needs The Patriarchy?

### *Why I Left Occupy Denver*

Posted Anonymously to Colorado Indymedia

I have been a part of Occupy Denver in some capacity since the week of the first GA. I am making this statement as an individual woman and participant, though I am a collective member of DABC. I want to be clear about the distinction there so there is no misinformation about what I have to say. I speak for myself and no one else.

***“I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else’s whim or to someone else’s ignorance.” bell hooks***

I have been the target of oppressive and patriarchal behaviors since I first entered the space of Occupy Denver. I have been pointed out and labeled as violent, though I have never even been involved in a physical confrontation with a participant or the police. I spoke out against the oppressive and aggressive behavior of one security guard/marshall and recommended that he be removed from those roles of power until he complete some kind of an accountability process. I was shut down as was anyone else who spoke against that individual, but more specifically the women who spoke out against him. This is only one example of the type of oppressive patriarchal behavior within #OD.

Yesterday I participated in the #OD march once again. I was a part of a crew of folks who utilized an american flag as a dance floor. We had music, confetti, and a whole lot of sassy energy to direct towards our celebration of the beginning of the end of capitalism. I was approached countless times by people who were very angry about this flag dancing. One individual approached me in an aggressive manner and was met with some sassy remarks from myself. I was told I was ruining the movement, a common phrase used against myself and others who participate in more radical ways. After telling him to scoot along he continued to come back and harass me as well as others. I was told I was a bitch. That oppressive language has been used to shut down women long enough. I will not play the “nice

girl,” and bow down to that type of behavior or language. He then continued to front on many different people. He pushed a woman and pulled on her backpack. Yes, he was glittered by a magical radical queer fairy. Glitter is NOT assault and NO WHERE NEAR the level of calling women a bitch, pushing women, harassing them, or attempting to grab them.

Patriarchy is rampant in this space. It is primarily perpetuated by white men within OD. This space is dominated by white cis identified males. When I asked weeks ago for men of that description to step back in GA so that others could gain space to step up the first person to speak was, wait for it, a white dude. This is not okay.

How can any of us expect to build a better world, a better future when the very same oppressions that aided in the creation of our current system and social structure are replicated and manifested within this movement? We can’t.

Either Occupy Denver adopts a critical analysis of power and oppression or it will die. Either Occupy Denver develops a practice around anti-oppression or a new movement needs to develop out of OD that does. Tonight is the night to draw that line in the sand y’all. I said it weeks ago at a GA, but either we figure out how to live, and thrive, together or we die alone. The world I wish to leave to my two children is one where people have un-learned the horrors of the past and have forged a world of equality and liberation. The world I wish to leave specifically to my daughter is one without patriarchy and those who wish to harm her, silence her, or shut her out based off of what lies beneath her clothing. I will do everything within my power to create such a legacy for them. I hope that others are willing to do the hard work to create that legacy in solidarity not just with me, but with humans in general.

As for my role in Occupy Denver, as an individual person I will no longer come to this space. At all. Ever. As a collective member of DABC, I will continue to do the legal line, jail solidarity, and court support for all current accused and any future accused. I will not be on the ground as myself or as DABC from this point forward.