



Direct Action Monterey Network

Issue #4 - Winter 2015



Direct Action Monterey Network (DAMN)

DAMN is a forum for anarchists, feminists, socialists, and other anti-authoritarian revolutionaries in the Monterey/Salinas area to find each other, discuss idea and news, and take action! Fellow travelers, sympathizers, and supporters are welcome!

We are committed to creating a world without hierarchy or coercive authority. We fight against all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We desire a free, egalitarian society. We embrace autonomy and horizontalidad (horizontalism) both in the way we organize ourselves, and in the world we are trying to build.

We believe that creating such a world requires a fundamental transformation of society. In a word, revolution.

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This zine is an introduction to our group, but more importantly, it's a self-published outlet for artistic and political expression. It features art, poetry, musings, and advice from members of DAMN and our friends. We hope to inspire more DIY publishing projects, and to stir up trouble! If you would like to get involved with DAMN, or have a contribution for the next zine, feel free to come to our meetings or send us an email:

centralcoastdirectaction@gmail.com

DAMN Calendar

DAMN meets every Sunday from 7pm-8pm at Old Capitol Books, 559 Tyler Street, Monterey.

Upcoming DAMN events at Old Capitol Books:

-Anarchist Black Cross: 3rd Sunday each month at 8pm (Feb. 15th, Mar. 15th, etc):
Prisoner Letter Writing

-Thinking Critically About Society - Discussion Series: Every Friday in Feb. at 6pm

Feb 6: Anarchism

Feb 13: Polyamory

Feb 20: Animal Liberation

Feb 27: Postcolonial Theory

-Philosophy and Theory Reading Group: 3rd Wednesday each month (except February) at 6pm:

Mar. 18: "Discourse on Colonialism" by Aimé Césaire

readings available for free at
www.oldcapitolbooks.com

Upcoming events/actions/demonstrations:

-Demonstration Against Sit/Lie Ban:

Fri. Feb. 6th at 4pm in front of Walgreens on Alvarado in downtown Monterey

-Food Not Bombs and Creative Direct Action:

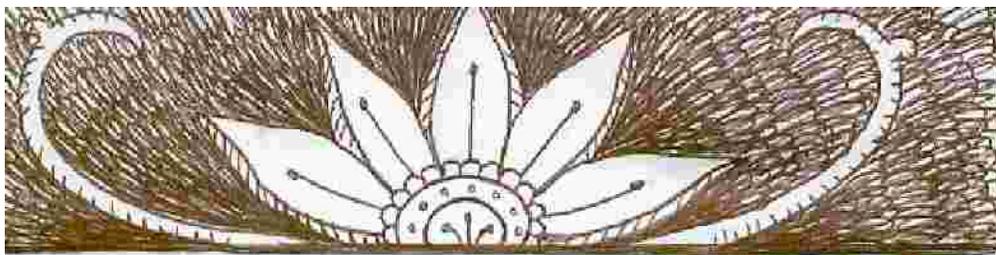
Thur. Feb 12th 7pm at the Peace Resource Center, 1364 Fremont Blvd. in Seaside

-Beaf Beat: #SWAG - Music, Poetry, Spoken Word:

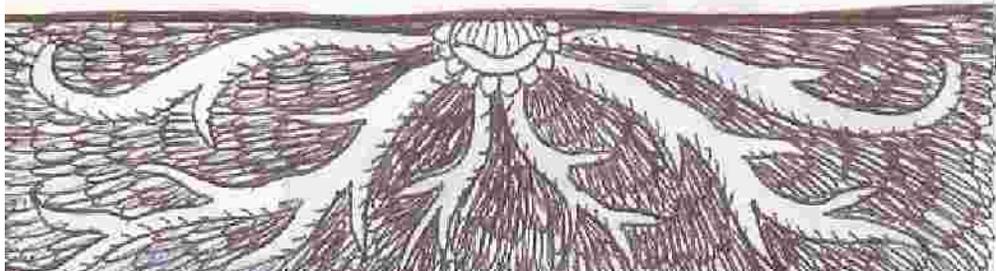
Fri. Feb 13th 6pm-11pm at the Peace Resource Center, 1364 Fremont Blvd. in Seaside

<http://www.facebook.com/DirectActionMontereyNetwork>

<http://solidaritymonterey.wordpress.com>



Listen to nothing that I have to say
Struggling to find calm in an unfamiliar
nervous quiet
with cigarettes spilling from every pore
I am always missing some ingredient or other
fire places & friendly pit bull feeling fine
the upstairs is empty
And the bladed scapula trembles through the
skin
but please speak to me
Remembering to stay with the moon and breath
and let go of the sun
As the state's foundations fell to the
revolution's flame.



This letter written by a DAMN member was posted by the Monterey herald on 11/14/14!

Advocates of prison reform are celebrating the passing of Proposition 47. Already in Monterey County people are being released or are receiving shorter sentences (Herald, Nov. 10). That is certainly beneficial for those who are affected by Prop. 47, and a step toward reversing the trends of the past few decades that have caused such a massive growth in the prison system in the United States.

However, incremental changes are not adequate. If this system of mass incarceration really is the New Jim Crow, as it is often referred to now, and the original Jim Crow era of legalized segregation was a response to the abolition of slavery, then the only decent position toward the Prison-Industrial-Complex is total abolition. After all, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in all cases except as punishment for a crime. So if the system of slavery simply morphed over a century and a half into the modern prison system, then why would any position other than abolition even be considered?



Poem about tourists not yet revised

there are no tourists on Del Monte Blvd
there are no tourists on Fremont Street
heading past Del Rey Oaks toward Seaside and
Sand City
no tourists on Noche Buena where the streets
look more like urban l.a. than the
manufactured images of historic and sunny
Monterey
none on San Pablo, Palo Verde, Montecito
There are no tourists walking down Yosemite
where one way streets stretch out like
straight arms,
reaching for white peeling picket fences and a
stripped down '67 firebird waiting on
cinder blocks in the middle of an oil
soaked driveway
there are no tourists drinking at the Shadow
Box,
inhaling the fumes of second-hand smoke and
spilled spirits
there are no tourists sitting at the Sand City
transit station in front of Costco
Smoking cigarettes and chatting it up to Reggie
with the dreadlocks
Who is still scratching the underside of his
left arm and mentions off hand, like a
suggestion
that \$10 can last him all week.
no tourists walking drunk down Coe Ave at 3am
contemplating poetry and coarse lips
or a vast, empty sky, dead of stars, bleak and
vacant
stretching itself over the deep ocean of the
firmament that is endless and means
nothing
there are no tourists high in front of Cibo's,

posted down against the outside wall like
plaster,
handing out acid to business suits with rigid
legs saluting the patriotic earth
there are no tourists here because they are on
Alvarado and Cannery Row
they are taking pictures of California's first
theatre on Pacific Street
dreaming of yellow tinted silent films in black
face glorifying the birth of a nation
they are too busy recolonizing and gentrifying
coffee shops that smell like Columbia
listening to the tranquil soundtrack of the
bay, happy in its lost memories
watching the faint glow of galaxies hanging
above the loud crash of Lover's Point
they're spending nine dollars to drive through
Pebble Beach
imagining Tiger Woods, Jackie Gleason, Gerald
Ford, Clint Eastwood
And then take the Pacific Grove Gate, turning
around on hwy 68 to head towards Carmel
where Spanish is never casually spoken on their
cobble streets
where no signs are made out of cardboard and
are held by nails in the walls instead of
calloused hands

My friends,
there are no tourists in Marina because they've
all found the highlands
flanked like a soldier by walls of green and
the infinite void of blue
there are no tourists in east Salinas, working
in China Town
or speaking at Fremont Elementary where
children, while eager to learn
are quickly taught that the thought of future

must be forgotten,
replaced by manual labor and minimum wage and
the droning complaints
of wealth who claim that brown flesh only
flushes away money through welfare and
government assistant programs
these tourists tourists tourists tourists
tourists tourists tourists tourists
flesh tourists, sex and drugs tourists, blood
tourists, money from pain tourists, no love and
a forgotten god tourists, tourists of the book,
tourists of the check, tourists of the credit
card wrung around the neck, choking the brain
tourists, I saw Monterey and know the
experience tourists, too many homeless people
here tourists, "I wish there weren't so many
goddamned Mexicans" tourists, I loved john
Steinbeck and wanted to visit what he wrote but
it's just so cloudy today tourists, tourists in
love, tourists in marriage, tourists fighting
in the streets, I watched a couple of tourists
break up outside of café Trieste and laughed
when I thought about what their flight home was
going to be like, and it's not that it's bad to
be a tourist because at one point I was a
tourist, tourist economy, tourist economy,
tourist economy, tourist economy.

La Louve

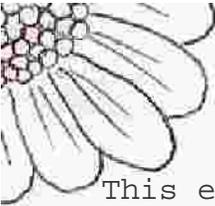
If one cuts ever/quick, the
Pain sets in a bit late,
Like the hesitant blood;
birthed in the wet air;
Just a hint: the sleeves of a shirt
Make the best bandages. Got to be
Stauched.

The glass like a splintered lake,
A quarry filled with iridescent intoxication;
Its profundities inchoate.

The liquid fire brimming out,
The scent of fumes, and tears, and
Dance. You won't know if
She's crying; the cans, and tin, and
Blanks, the throttling they bring
Isn't like the sphinx. No
Questions for the orphans here
But masks, well,

We have our mascara too.





This essay written by a DAMN member was posted by the monterey herald as a guest commentary on 11/7/14!

On July 1, I sat for four hours at a Monterey City Council meeting, waiting my turn to express my disgust at the ordinance being pushed by members of the Old Monterey Business Association that was targeting the homeless population who live in downtown Monterey. I was joined by lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union, residents and employees in the downtown area, and advocates for the homeless, all who spoke out against the proposed law, noting that it does nothing to address the underlying causes of homelessness and violates their basic human rights.

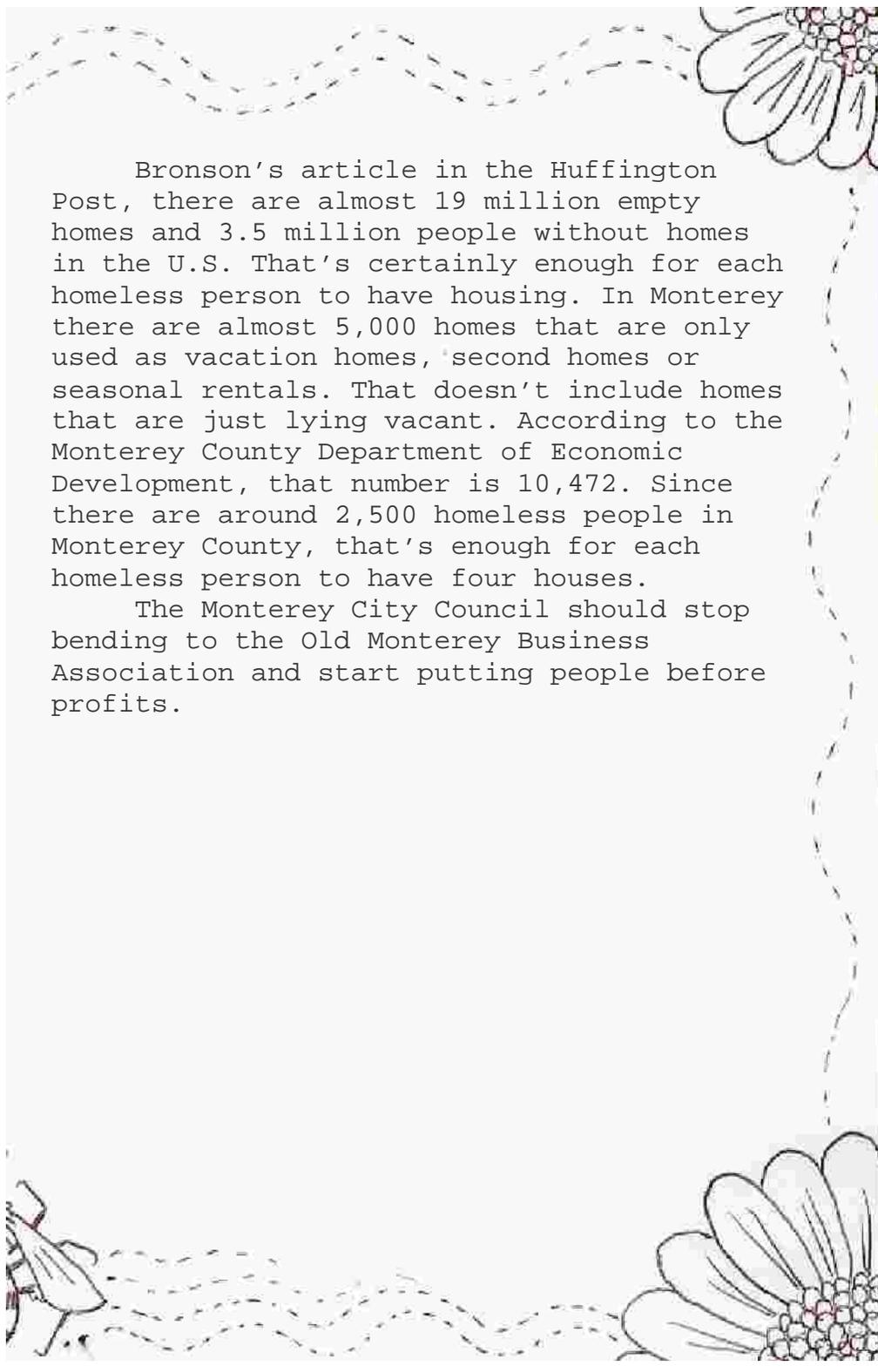
Even though the city has been removing benches across town, under this new legislation, it is illegal to sit down or lie down on sidewalks in commercial areas, and at the City Council meeting they were clear that this law was going to be applied with discrimination against traveling youth; it wouldn't be a problem for young, middle class students at Monterey Institute of International Studies or hip tourists to sit on the steps at the transit plaza, but if you're homeless you can expect a warning, followed by a \$100 fine, and if you can't come up with the money to pay the courts, you can expect to be thrown in jail - costing the taxpayer hundreds of

dollars each night. For that money, we could easily provide safe, stable housing, rehabilitation programs and fund increased access to mental health programs.

Many of the people who are homeless in Monterey have lived here for 20 or 30 years, perhaps having been homeless for most of their adult lives, or becoming homeless recently. Others have traveled to California for various reasons, perhaps to find work or escape unsympathetic communities. Many of America's homeless youth have lost access to family support after coming out as LGBT. It isn't uncommon for the children of religious or conservative parents to have to leave home and drop out of college because their parents have found out that they were gay. At least a few of the people who are homeless in downtown Monterey are LGBT youth from rural, conservative communities, and while I haven't pried into their stories, it isn't a stretch to imagine that they were forced out of their homes and communities by homophobic relatives and made the journey to coastal California in the hopes that they would find a more tolerant and sympathetic environment. It is sad that a city which prides itself on being progressive and liberal has taken such a callous approach to what has been called the "homeless problem," especially since there is plenty to go around for everyone.

The perception of scarcity in America is a myth. There are more than enough resources to provide for everyone and have enough left over, and the wide gap in social and economic inequality is largely fueled by capitalism which places abstract notions of private property over the physical and emotional well-being of human beings. According to Richard





Bronson's article in the Huffington Post, there are almost 19 million empty homes and 3.5 million people without homes in the U.S. That's certainly enough for each homeless person to have housing. In Monterey there are almost 5,000 homes that are only used as vacation homes, second homes or seasonal rentals. That doesn't include homes that are just lying vacant. According to the Monterey County Department of Economic Development, that number is 10,472. Since there are around 2,500 homeless people in Monterey County, that's enough for each homeless person to have four houses.

The Monterey City Council should stop bending to the Old Monterey Business Association and start putting people before profits.

Gira hacia el sol
Girasol,
Bebes del sol todo poderoso
Y en ti llevas su fuerza
Elemental.
Consumes la luz del día
Con tanta hambre.
Nútrete.
Sigue bebiendo
Sigue luciendo
En esplendor
Amarillo, rojo, y
Toques de amapola.
Tu eres libre girasol
Y a la misma vez cautiva
A tu centro.
Tus semillas crecen
Geométricamente
En un orden muy particular
A ti.
Tus pétalos me encantan
Parecen plumaje de quetzal.
Tu tallo es fuerte
Como las mujeres de mi familia.
Abre girasol
Abre y da bienvenida
A otro día.
Abre y hazte parte de este mundo.
A fuerza si es necesario.
Tu no marchitaras.
Abre
Confía en el amor de la tierra,
Ella nunca te lastimara
Su suelo fertilizado es tuyo
Todo tuyo.

-xinachtli

#nothingisshokinganymore [kraig bellows]

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because apparently you can get fired after 20 years of police service for not tasing a kid who wanted to cut himself / to bash himself / to burn himself / alive.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because me and a bunch of my friends are burning ourselves in the street.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because the tapastroy of malcolm and martin is gunshot swiss cheese bloodstained.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because he can't breath / i can't breath / we can't breath.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because the ballad of the Koch brothers screams destruction till they fly to space with their billions.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because 1 in 3 women / 1 in 11 men / have been / will be / sexually assaulted.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because there just seems to be a white man shooting up the public once a week and the pigs think it's open season on people of color.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because the US military calls the casualties of drone strikes "bug splats" and a vet with PTSD and severe brain trauma told me that the veteran affairs shrink gave him seroquel / thorozone / prozac / klonopin / xanax to shut him up as we drank Pabst Blue Ribbon and smoked bowls in the

grants pass oregon walmart parking lot he lived in.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because because mumia should be marching in the streets of ferguson with dr. cornel west.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because nothing is going to stop the american dystopia.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because the move massacre because the emergency response to george bush doesn't care about black people katrina because matthew shepard because emmett till / oh god, please remember emmett till.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because i don't fucking care if one was buying skittlez or if one was stealing skittlez, they should still be alive.

and i don't think that #alllivesmatter because "he can't breath," because "i can't breath," because "we can't breath."

Fire All Cops

On February 22nd, 2014 a CSU Monterey Bay police officer arrived at a student's apartment because the student was supposedly trying to commit suicide. Now that cop is likely going to be fired for not using excessive force; specifically, for not tasing the student. The details vary according to who recounts the story, and the whole thing has been complicated by a legal shitstorm between the CSUMB cop and their union on one side, and the city of Marina police department on the other. The CSUMB cop claims that the student had calmed down and posed no threat to anyone by the time the Marina cops showed up. The Marina cops claim that they had to restrain the student and that the CSUMB cop refused to help them. But what is generally agreed upon by everyone involved is that this CSUMB cop is being fired for NOT using more force against the student.

Now, this author has noticed a strange position taken by some people, including some who otherwise oppose oppression and illegitimate authority: that this cop should not be fired. The argument seems to be that firing this cop will encourage more aggressive actions by police, that it reinforces the violence of this already incredibly violent institution. But the inherent violence of the police should point to an opposing position on this issue. **Yes, fire this cop! Fire all cops!**

The police won't be more or less likely to react aggressively if this cop is fired because the very purpose of the police is to maintain order with the threat or use of violence. It's built into the fabric of police institutions and has been since the beginning. Police as we know them today formed to stop strikes and

riots (primarily in the Northern U.S.) and to control slaves and capture any who escaped (in the South). So police forces were essentially formed to prevent rebellions of the poor, workers, and slaves. This class-based and racist orientation of policing is still the functioning logic of police today, as shown by the regular police killings of unarmed people of color from Ferguson to Salinas, as well as the daily intimidation and harassment by police of poor and working class communities in general.

The fact that this particular cop works at a university and seems to be "less violent" than typical cops does not excuse them in any way. Having worked at CSUMB for the past 8 years, this cop has undoubtedly helped kick students out of the dorms (and thus essentially kicked them out of school) for simply drinking and smoking pot on campus, considering that this seems to be the main function of the police at CSUMB. That this cop has never before been disciplined, as claimed by the cop's union, means nothing. There is no such thing as a "good" or "bad" cop, anyway. If a cop is "good" then they are undoubtedly going to ruin people's lives by arresting them and getting them caught up in the system of courts, jails, and prisons. If a cop is "bad" and uses their own judgment or reacts more harshly, then why would anyone want to entrust them with a badge and gun, even if you're into that kind of thing? But this is all irrelevant because the actions of any specific cop don't erase their complicity in the violence and control that is perpetuated by the police as a whole.

By controlling certain populations and maintaining the structures of exploitation and oppression in our society, the police are

directly and indirectly responsible for much of the harmful behavior that some believe cops are supposed to protect us from. Most crimes that police actually enforce, such as drug and property-related crimes, don't actually harm anyone, while many truly violent acts, such as sexual violence and queerbashing, are usually ignored by the police and courts, or worse. It is not uncommon for womyn, queer, and trans people to be arrested and imprisoned for daring to defend themselves against this violence. It is also not uncommon for cops to attack and even murder people who are distressed, suicidal, or otherwise acting erratically due to drug use or mental health issues, such as this student who the Marina cops ended up attacking.

But it is important to point out that this has not always been the case. Police as we know them have only existed for about 200 years, and even in the early history of the U.S. and other industrialized, capitalist societies they were not widespread. For most of human history police did not even exist. Of course, there have often been various types of town watch, militias, soldiers, etc. who perform some of the tasks that are now conducted by the police. But there have also been societies who developed entirely different methods to deal with social conflict other than using authoritarian violence, control, or punishment. What's more, during certain periods of revolt throughout the world, existing police forces often disappear and people are able to keep each other safe and resolve internal conflicts without restoring any institution that resembles the police. Even in the United States today, there are many people experimenting with alternative methods such as restorative justice

and accountability processes for people who have harmed others.

So it is entirely possible for human societies to exist without police. And if it is both possible and desirable, then why shouldn't it be our starting point when considering our response and relationship to the police? Of course it is ridiculous to actually suggest that we "fire all cops," because who would even fire them? The local, state, or federal governments who fund them and supply them with military gear and who rely on them to fulfill their functions? Obviously not. The institution of the police can only be abolished by destroying the society that needs police, courts, and prisons. And that is precisely what we intend to do.

Still, the appropriate response to this cop being fired for not tasing an already distressed student should not be "Don't fire this cop", but instead, **"Fire all cops!"**





In Theory

All the best thinkers created something new, so I live in theory while watching my feet shuffle forward, unsure of their destination, except in theory; I can't afford to stay in my head, there's nothing to eat in there.

The Skin Horse and I are well loved and real. My aching back, made real by your weight; my rough kiss by your messy, blonde head. But tonight, only theory sustains me. Alone, I'm made real by words on the page, rearranged and glossed over to reveal the heart of the poem, only the poem, I can't stop thinking about the poem.

Tonight I saw a shooting star and then I watched two white petals fall from my orchid and glide to the carpeted floor of my living room; all this while typing some words that are real in theory; somewhere they exist as strings of code embedded in clouds and accessed by practice of wizardry.

But the cloud is a dystopian nightmare replete with the most foul of body and mind, and now, even tonight, they are watching us spiral through the dense and which waits for us, unforgiving. They are



watching us flog ourselves, confusing the pain with affection: our pitiful, flailing attempt at self-love.

Oh, you dilated pupils, bouncing off chemical walls. Silly construction of pharmaceuticals and flesh like robotics. Oh, to swim with you in the ocean of mind and sleep the sleep of those who know they are dead, for a change. We are dead, writing love poems, in theory. Admit it.

I traded the meaning of this poem for bread: there's still nothing to eat in theory, but at least my belly is full.

-Tyler Gidney



Mer Gidney, Staff Reporter
FGIDNEY@CSUMB.EDU

What do poetry readings, discussions about radical political texts, prisoner correspondence groups, a literary zine, Palestinian solidarity and the Monterey County Cop Watch have in common? They are all projects of the activist collective called the Direct Action Monterey Network, or D.A.M.N. for short.

In the back of Old Capitol Books in historic downtown Monterey, surrounded by the musty smell of millions of pages of

knowledge on ten-foot-high shelves, the D.A.M.N. group discusses topics that range from political and social theory to matters of local homelessness and police violence. D.A.M.N. is described by its members as "a forum for anarchists, feminists, socialists, and other anti-authoritarian revolutionaries in the Monterey and Salinas area to find each other, discuss ideas and news and take action!"

The group, which consists of several former and current CSUMB students and faculty, has held events on campus in the past, including its Thinking Critically About Society series here at the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OCC3). Past events have covered topics such as Psychedelics in Society, What is Gender and Reading Marx. Like

GIVE A D.A.M.N.

LOCAL ACTIVIST GROUP
HELPS STUDENTS THINK
CRITICALLY ABOUT SOCIETY

all of D.A.M.N.'s events, these talks are free and open to members of the general public.

According to Stephanie Spoto, manager of Old Capitol Books and adjunct professor at CSUMB, since the group's inception in 2012, one of the major goals of D.A.M.N. has been to get people "working within our community to create radical spaces and encourage honest dialogue about what kind of society we truly want to live in."

Part of that work is confronting the things in society that they see as problematic such as homelessness, educational equity in prisons and jails, systemic class inequality and police violence. Recently, D.A.M.N. members have been active in supporting victims and speaking out against police violence in regard to several

recent police-related murders in Salinas.

The members of D.A.M.N. are committed to a mission statement that reads, in part: "We desire a free, egalitarian society. We embrace autonomy and horizontalism (horizontalism) both in the way we organize ourselves and in the world we are trying to build. We believe that creating such a world requires a fundamental transformation of society. In a word - revolution."

This revolution is one of thought and of action. It is not enough to hope for change in solitary silence. This type of work has to be done together-- as a community.

A complete list of events can be found on their website, solidaritymonterey.wordpress.com

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IF THE POLICE STOP ANYONE...

- Stop and watch.
- Write down officers' names, badge numbers, and car numbers (they are required to tell you upon request).
- Write down the time, date, and place of the incident and all details as soon as possible.
- Ask if the person is being arrested, and if so, on what charge.
- Get witnesses' names and contact info.
- Try to get the arrestee's name, but only if they already gave it to the police.
- Document any injuries as soon as possible. Photograph them and have a medical report describing details of the injuries.

IF THE POLICE STOP YOU...

- Ask, "AM I FREE TO GO?" If not, you are being detained. If yes, walk away.
- Ask, "WHY ARE YOU DETAINING ME?" To stop you, the officer must have a "reasonable suspicion" to suspect your involvement in a specific crime (not just a guess or a stereotype).
- It is not a crime to be without ID. If you are being detained or issued a ticket, you may want to show ID to the cop because they can take you to the station to verify your identity.
- If a cop tries to search your car, your house, or your person say repeatedly that you DO NOT CONSENT TO THE SEARCH. If in a car, do not open your trunk or door - by doing so you consent to a search of your property and of yourself. If at home, step outside and lock your door behind you so cops have no reason to enter your house. Ask to see the warrant and check for proper address, judge's signature, and what the warrant says the cops are searching for. Everything must be correct in a legal warrant. Otherwise, send the police away.

• The cops can do a "pat search" (search the exterior of one's clothing for weapons) during a detention for "officer safety reasons". They can't go into your pockets or bags without your consent. If you are arrested, they can search you and your possessions in great detail.

• DO NOT RESIST PHYSICALLY. Use your words and keep your cool. If an officer violates your rights, don't let them provoke you into striking back.

IF THE POLICE ARREST YOU...

- You may be handcuffed, searched, photographed and fingerprinted.
- Say repeatedly, "I DON'T WANT TO TALK until my lawyer is present" Even if your rights aren't read, refuse to talk until your lawyer/public defender arrives.
- Do not talk to inmates in jail about your case.
- If you're on probation/parole, tell your P.O. you've been arrested, but nothing else.
- Police can arrest someone they believe is "interfering" with their actions. Maintain a reasonable distance, and if cops threaten to arrest you, EXPLAIN THAT YOU DON'T INTEND TO INTERFERE, BUT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBSERVE THEIR ACTIONS.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT... to be in a public place and to observe police activity.

This article was brought to you courtesy of Copwatch Berkeley.

Carpe

