

# R.A.A.N. NETWORK NEWS

## UPDATES FROM THE RED & ANARCHIST ACTION NETWORK

WWW.REDANARCHIST.ORG

RAAN-NN

Issue No. 5 // October 2005

### -----First Report from RAAN in New Orleans-----

*Don is a RAAN organizer from Cincinnati who, along with three other unaffiliated volunteers, drove to New Orleans on Oct. 2nd with a car full of supplies to assist in the mutual aid relief efforts underway after Hurricane Katrina. The following report is a composite of several e-mails and phone conversations, and will hopefully be the first in a series.*

Don is reporting from the Common Ground community relief center in the Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans that the situation on the ground seems to have improved, at least to the point where residents are filtering back into the city, though many will remain homeless for some time.

The sheer incompetence of FEMA, Red Cross, and the other "institutional" relief agencies remains the most frustrating aspect. Apparently Red Cross "volunteers" are receiving \$900 for 7 days work, and Salvation Army cooks are being made to prepare food for paid contractors instead of hurricane survivors. It is therefore unsurprising that many seem to have expressed that they intend to start working with the Common Ground teams once their time in those organizations is up. One of the most inspiring stories of resistance to this bureaucracy has come from a team of NY firefighters who said they have to "sneak out" of FEMA jurisdiction if they want to actually do anything in the neighborhood. One of these firefighters has offered to help Common Ground by scamming photocopies from the agency.

There is of course a massive armed presence of the state forces, though apparently the National Guard hasn't been bothering the volunteers very much. The police unsurprisingly seem to be causing the biggest problems with harassment and intimidation, and a curfew is still in place from sundown to sunrise every night.

By all accounts, the Common Ground clinic and collective have been doing amazing work, and the official aid agencies are still asking them for medical supplies and other assistance. At this point the effort is divided into two locations: the original health clinic located in a mosque, and the collective's base of operations at the house of former Black Panther Malik Rahim. It is here that Don and other non-medical volunteers are staying to distribute food, supplies, and coordinate help with efforts at fixing roofs and other immediate tasks. A couple folks from the surrounding neighborhood have also gotten involved in the collective.

There is also now a campaign underway to make the health clinic a permanent institution in New Orleans, which is probably one of the most important things that could come out of this. We are seeing efforts at building new community schooling projects, and it will be necessary to defend these developments as well. RAAN has pointed out the immense danger faced by the Common Ground and all mutual-aid volunteers as the capitalist class slowly re-imposes its control over the city, but now it seems so many positive alliances have come out of these efforts, that a full or dramatic shutdown by the state would be impossible. Under no circumstances must this be taken as a sign that the danger has passed, but rather it should be seen as an immense opportunity to push forward with the creation of self-managed community, using all the resources and triumphs of the past several months to firmly cement these processes into the neighborhood and our support networks.

Nowhere else do we see such a stark contrast between the effectiveness of horizontal mutual aid as opposed to the stagnation of the electoral Left, who are split between ineffective liberal charity and "radical" sermons - opportunistic rants that have nothing to do with the material conditions in New Orleans or any honest attempts at improving them. The grassroots rebuilding efforts in New Orleans are serving as an incredible beacon of hope not only to the effected communities, but indeed to us all.

Don is asking that those who can donate money or supplies to Common Ground, and especially anyone who can come to New Orleans to volunteer, do so immediately. In his words, "this project is in a lot of ways a kind of proletarian self-defense from gentrification... this was the only relief in this neighborhood for a while and is the only one not surrounded by M-16 wielding soldiers..."

RAAN is forwarding all inquiries about grassroots hurricane relief to the efforts already underway through the Common Ground collective. Monetary donations can be made directly to anti-authoritarian activists through [infoshop.org](http://infoshop.org) Information about the Common Ground project and how you can get involved is available at their website at [www.commongroundrelief.org](http://www.commongroundrelief.org)

## -----RAAN Vandalizes Maoist Bookstore-----

On September 3rd the staff of "Revolution Books" in Cambridge, MA made a post to Boston IMC reporting that their storefront, a propaganda outlet for Bob Avakian's authoritarian RCP, had been "vandalized and 'Maoism Kills Millions' was spray painted on the store's doors with the acronym RAAN with a star over it."

As in all such situations, it is the duty of Network News to explain that RAAN functions as a tendency of autonomous cells united by a set of libertarian principles, and as such its decentralized activity and membership is neither mandated nor tracked, unlike in the RCP.

RAAN-NN #2 reported a similar incident at an NYC Maoist bookstore in 2003.

## -----Aut/Pub Initiative Launched-----

In the hopes of widening distribution of our current literature and encouraging more regional affiliates to start independent RAAN periodicals in their area, the network has begun promoting an "autonomous publication" (Aut/Pub) initiative by putting out the first issue of *Emotional Poverty*, a new zine that picks up where the *Herbln'Guerrilla* project left off and provides individual perspectives on the development of a communist street culture. Also included in the Aut/Pub umbrella will be the Cincinnati-based theoretical journal *Impassioned Insurrection!*, soon to be printing a second issue.

RAAN believes it is important for our regional cells to publish a wide variety of material within the tendency, and for these projects to then be supported by the tendency as a whole. Aut/Pub has also distributed over 100 copies of RAAN's *Principles & Direction* to Infoshops across the country, and hopes to be continuing with this project in the coming months.

## -----Updates from DAAA in Modesto, CA-----

Since the last report, winter found the DAAA Collective supporting the Stockton IWW truckers, and in January 2005 we lead a group of about 90 people into the streets of Modesto in an unpermitted march against the Bush inauguration. DAAA has continued to work and organize with the Galvan family, as they struggle against the Modesto Police shooting death of their son in 2004, and we've also been working with people in Ceres in response to the racist police crackdown against the latino population through gang sweeps.

We have continued doing heavy outreach and general organizing, with ongoing projects being an extensive distribution of free literature, Copwatch, and Food Not Bombs/Free Clothing distribution. July found us doing the third annual Reclaim the Parks, with about 40 or so anarchists and anti-authoritarians taking to the streets to reclaim Modesto against police brutality, urban sprawl, and environmental racism on a city-wide level. We are currently working on several ongoing projects, notably a campaign alongside various working-class based community groups to shut down the toxic Modesto Tallow Plant.

More info on Direct Action Anti-Authoritarians is at: [www.modanarcho.tk](http://www.modanarcho.tk)

## -----Poisoned Candy Records to do RAAN Distro-----

Poisoned Candy Records, a DIY punk label based out of Missoula, MT will be assisting the Red & Anarchist Action Network by helping to print and distribute our patches, t-shirts, and flags. Preparations are underway to try and organize a RAAN collective in Missoula, and this project will be launched over the next several months through a series of benefit shows featuring local artists.

Poisoned Candy is well known for having given birth to bands such as Ass-End Offend, the Anti-Difrancos, and Venal IV. Check them out online at [www.poisonedcandy.com](http://www.poisonedcandy.com)



**RAAN is a loose organization of autonomous collectives and cells subscribing to revolutionary communist and anarchist principles. Network News is a decentralized, volunteer publication put together by affiliates of the network's Internet Hub.**

[www.redanarchist.org](http://www.redanarchist.org)