

Humboldt Free Foodbox

DIRECT ACTION

There are many ways to try to change things and get what you want but direct action is the only sure way to get results. Direct action is when you take action to get what you want without asking for permission or waiting for requests through the established channels. In this article we'll be covering different examples of direct action from current events. So check it out!

In order to feed hungry people you wouldn't give money to a charity but get the food together and eat. A great example of this is Food Not Bombs and Peoples Project Community breakfast. They are voluntary organizations who get the food cook it up and feed it without asking. By doing this not only are hungry people being fed but it builds community bonds, something which the bureaucratic charities fail to do. As a result the authorities are not to fond of these organizations and have attempted to make them stop.

Cop watch is an organization where people volunteer their time to document police activity and abuse. Instead of asking politicians and the police to stop police brutality. They take action to stop the violence, mediate disputes without police for people in the community education on your rights and legal help they do this all without asking. One great example of Cop Watch getting things done is when some one called Cop Watch because their roommate was manic, playing loud music and recking stuff and he was becoming worried. But Cop Watch and the roommate didn't want him to get the Eureka police involved because they have a history of using excessive force and killing(remember Moore and Martin Cotton etc.).

ANARCHISM: WHAT IT IS!

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"Freedom without socialism is privileged and unjust.

Socialism without freedom is slavery and brutality"—Michael Bakunin

Picking up Humboldt Grassroots for the first time, some people noted, "Cool paper—except for the anarchism part." Maybe they thought anarchism was impossible, unrealistic, idealistic, or just plain bad. Talking with readers, some thought an anarchist political group was an oxymoron. After hearing all this, we realized that we didn't address this topic adequately in the first issue. Though we reported on some things anarchists were involved in and concerned about, we didn't really give you all a clear explanation of what Anarchism is besides the general definition of "a free egalitarian alternative to capitalism and the state."

As a collective, Humboldt Grassroots told the North Coast Journal what Anarchism was, why it is relevant, and more importantly, why it's worth fighting for right now.

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THE PERILS AND PROMISES OF WORKING IN HUMBOLDT

By: Emily Maxwell

My first two jobs were working in the Baysshore Mall at a Chinese MSG vendor and at Anchor Blue. Working conditions were unsatisfactory but bearable, after school I worked in Eugene, Oregon for a year and at this point I began to toy with the idea, "What it would be like to work in a place where all the employees were on the same page?". My thoughts weren't put to action until after I moved back to Humboldt, and got a job at the beloved Los Bagels. Sadly enough, I'd never known anyone with organizing experience, so I've personally had a hard time adjusting myself to actively changing worker's minds. This is a business that is expanding, achieving "sales goals" beyond what they made last year every month, and yet they're a little spacey when it comes to raises, health benefits, and overtime. One of the employees suggested one afternoon that we get as many people together and show up in person to request a raise for the month of March. A big sale was going on, and we'd all be exhausted by the end of the month so I took the liberty of attempting to convince employees to show up the next morning to fight for our rights. A total of 4 people arrived, and we had a calm and same conversation with the regional manager about getting raises or extra bonuses for our valuable work. She said she'd work on getting an employee leg for the Los Bagels community party, but we couldn't get her to say anything positive about monetary compensation for working our little asses off for the company. The end of the month came, and indeed, no leg was assigned or bonus granted. After this happened, people are a little more receptive to the idea of organizing the workplace. Reminding worker's that they can't get fired for organizing or asking for a raise is a helpful tool in trying to build solidarity.