

Charles Gerth is best known for being the owner of the property known as Yee Hwei, an intentional community existing in Fiddled, California for over 25 years. Yee Hwei has a communal food garden and there are living spaces where things run fine without the county or the cops.

As you may remember, Yee Hwei was terrorized by the Code Enforcement Unit (CEU) back on July 25, 2007. Sheriff's were sticking guns in mother's faces, searching for pot, and pepper-spraying pots. Though no pot was found, that exact same group of code enforcement and back-up left Yee Hwei and made a 1200 plant bust at the next "code inspection." (The Piazoid 8/10 - 8/17) That's right the existence of Yee Hwei quietly undermines and ignores these hierarchies. The cops will try if they are able and allowed to disrupt, terrorize, and interfere with any community that doesn't actively recognize and depend on their authority. But of course not all cops are bad I have friends that are cops. Maybe your dad is a cop and he is a fine person! Lets say that's true! Williams doesn't lay the blame on individuals. In fact, he says the institution is better served if as few officers as possible realize what they're doing. (Remember the old saying "I was only following orders")

As an institution, the police force is the agent of those with the power, Williams said, and as such serves their interests. Williams also said police, like most organizations, are predisposed to seek out rewards and avoid trouble.

"If the police go about scrutinizing, harassing, and bullying people who are relatively powerless, than the possibility of reward is high and the possibility of trouble is very low," Williams said, using the example of police measures to arrest and curb parkhanders. If they tried to hold privileged people to the same standards as poor people than the possibility of rewards would be very low and the possibility of trouble would be very high.

So our job as community members is to make it really costly for the police to kill or bully people. We need to cause them trouble or this same tragic scenario will play out time and again. They will continue to beat and kill with impunity until we tell them loud and clear NO MORE Cause them trouble like Cop Watch causes trouble, like protest causes trouble, like not allowing a disgraced. Let's not let this pass without an outcry. Not without a fight! Understandably, many people are afraid of change, especially a change so radical as doing away with the institution of the police. Like anything you can't get off cold turkey, without a ready replacement and what better fuel for our fight against this public menace (the cops) than to create our own self-organized institutions (the cops) than to create our own self-organized institutions to take on the responsibility for public safety where we live, that are directly and democratically answerable, controlled by the people they serve.

In Our Enemies In Blue: Police and Power in America, Williams offers up example after example of different approaches to public safety drawing on the work of the Black Panthers to organize survival programs for the elderly, and the street committees created by the anti-apartheid movement to protect black citizens in South Africa. Another example is the Labor Guards of the Seattle

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General Strike. One striking model comes from the Community Restorative Justice program of Northern Ireland after the evacuation of British police units.

"They went to criminologists and conflict resolution professors and asked them to design a system that would help them out of this trap. It really was a trap. The British knew that was going to be the result when they withdrew. At the outset, the academics met with people in the communities, had meetings, block by block, building by building, talking about what their concerns were and what they wanted out of resolutions. And they then came up with specific aims, among them were nonviolence, respect for human rights, opportunity for due process, restorative focus and, interestingly, working within the law. There were selected bodies that took on a restorative perspective. They operated in very small areas and relied on public cooperation to sanction people who were behaving antisocially." The plots caught on and are still at work today, a decade later, Williams said. He goes on to say, "But with any policing system,

ARCAITA-Tree sitters Lives

were threatened Tuesday morning, when they awoke to the sound of Green Diamond Resource Company (Simpson Timber) chainsaws roaring, while trees were felled directly adjacent to the non-violent protesters' tree-top demonstration. The ongoing protest intends to highlight widespread, destructive logging practices of the company by showcasing recent clear-cut logging in the Jacoby Creek Watershed, just outside of Arcata, California.

Earlier this week, August 23, the four activists ascended trees within a cutting unit to make a last stand for the threatened forest. This skilled platform installation about 100 feet up came after the Redwood Forest Defenders blocked a logging road. During that action, a woman dangled 80 feet above the road in a small platform secured only by a rope connected to a closed gate. When timber fellers arrived at the scene that day, the Green Diamond employees began to cut through rope that provided the sole lifeline for the woman.

"These two incidents are the most company-caused danger forest activists have encountered since the days of struggle against Maxxam's Pacific Lumber," said Shewna of the Redwood Forest Defenders. "We don't want to hurt anyone, we just want them start listening to the people and stop destroying our watersheds by clear cutting redwoods. Maybe the timber wars aren't over, after all."

The two logging plans Green Diamond is operating on in the Jacoby Creek Watershed provide a small example of the systematic clear cutting Green Diamond is engaged in, across their entire 420,000 acre ownership in northern California. In 2004, the century old logging company changed its name from Simpson Timber to Green Diamond, in a strategic "greenwashing" move. Kamisha Group, a Washington-state based conglomerate and parent company to both Simpson and Green Diamond, also owns California Redwood Company.

"Green Diamond's insistence on short-rotation, clear cut logging degrades the forests for the future, and contributes to the climate crisis," said Shewna for <http://forestdefenderspot.com/>. For <http://forestdefenderspot.com/>. "The company needs to get out of the dark ages of liquidation logging, to provide for more sustainable jobs and a better future for everyone. We cannot stop our campaign targeting their practices, until they do."

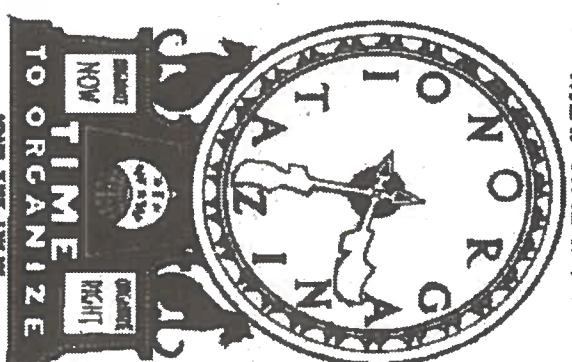
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checks and balances are key."

"We shouldn't exempt these kinds of organizations from the skepticism we would bring to any other authority," Williams said. "They can only be trusted to the degree that they are actually controlled by the communities they are serving and to the degree that they are genuinely committed to humane and democratic values." Lets keep that in mind, as we as a community create our own organizations to make the police obsolete. We can do this together, with Cop Watch, other community-controlled organizations that exist and others yet to be formed. We are already doing it, many more of us need to do it a lot more! We do not have to stand for this assault on our community. This is your problem! This is not something you can vote for or passively agree with. You have to organize and problem-solve to create these alternatives. Nobody can do it for you! We can build something better and defend each other from this archaic and brutal police institution.

There is Safety in Solidarity.

WHAT TIME IS IT?



Angelo's Workers with Pizzazz

It all started with a disagreement with my manager Russell arguing with me over being able to stay "on the clock" as I was forced to stay at Angelo's

Pizza to close without being payed, or at the very least compensated with a free complimentary beer. After several verbal battles in which co-workers were hesitant to back me up, I organized a resistance. The closer and I were able to corner Russell with arguments and back up, I never conversed with the bossman, however, I knew that eventually, Russell would see that it was unreasonable to make us stay.

It was understandable that Management wanted us to stay even though we were done with our closing duties, at the time there were robberies occurring around Eureka and Arcata areas. Regrettably, if workers are meant to act as security/restaurant people, we should be paid.